

Meeting of the Central Corridor Business Advisory Committee

Monday, June 15, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kathy Bjerke, David Jones, Jeannine Kessler, Peter Latuff, Jim Roth, Jim Segal, Brian Thoenke, Christine Wiegert,

Others Present: Joey Browner, Robin Cauffman, Gary Erickson, Linda Jungwirth, Karri Plowman, Rita Rodriguez.

1. WELCOME

Jim Roth opened the meetings at 4:09 PM and asked if anyone had comments on the April and May 2009 meeting minutes. There were no proposed changes.

2. PROJECT UPDATES

Gary Erickson provided a quick update on the project schedule. We anticipate publishing the FEIS on June 26. Following a 30 day public review period the FTA will prepare a Record of Decision, currently anticipated at the end of August.

3. ACCESS DURING CONSTRUCTION

Gary Erickson introduced the discussion of maintaining pedestrian and vehicle access during construction, by reviewing slides 4-22 of the presentation.

Peter Latuff asked who is responsible for paying for safety fencing. Construction barriers are part of the project cost.

Mr. Latuff asked how long of a segment will be under construction at any given time and how long. We are looking at several methods of construction and talking to contractors that have worked on these types of projects to get their advice so we do not have enough detail to answer these questions.

Mr. Erickson talked about how pedestrian access can be maintained across the street using protected walkways and barriers to separate a temporary walkway from traffic or construction zone.

Mr. Latuff asked if construction will be done 24 hours a day. No because the city has regulations that restrict hours of construction.

Jim Segal asked if the project costs provide temporary parking during construction. Mr. Erickson noted that Dan Soler, CCPO traffic engineer, has been working with the City of St. Paul to develop a parking management plan. Mr. Plowman noted that the City of St. Paul is also

in the process of seeking funding sources. We've also been talking internally about how to manage parking for construction workers.

Mr. Erickson talked about the different access issues in downtown access issues and University Avenue including ramps, bus service, deliveries and refuse collection.

Jim Roth asked who makes the decision about what phasing strategy is used. The CCPO is working closely with the Cities to decide on the strategy, which is necessary to prepare the bid documents so that the potential contractors can estimate the costs.

Peter Latuff asked if there is an incentive budget for the contractors, similar to I-35W. The CCPO is looking at it. The construction is being broken into smaller packages.

Christine Wiegert asked if 7th Street will be maintained open when Cedar Street is under construction. Yes.

4. CONSTRUCTION COMMUNICATION

Robin Cauffman introduced the plans for communicating with the public during construction, by reviewing slides 23-29 of the presentation. This presentation is based on the 4th Street Advanced Utility Relocation Communication Plan, which was distributed to BAC members at the meeting.

Karri Plowman recalled suggestion from David Jones to look at ways to communicate with employees. Mr. Plowman reported that they've talked to the coordinators for the RNC on how they informed employees of important information. They found that the most effective way to communicate with employees was formatting the letter to put information of interest to them, such as road closures, at the top.

Jim Roth asked how frequent the Construction Communication Coordinating Committee will meet. The CCCC, a 5-6 person team made up of the outreach coordinator, CCPO resident engineer, contractor designated engineers and public works staff from the city and county, will meet at least monthly to coordinate regular public meetings and communicate about upcoming construction activities.

Mr. Roth asked if there will be weekly meetings with the individual property owners as construction is in front of their business.

Peter Latuff asked if there will be more hand holding with the small businesses. There was a discussion of the outreach activities to date. Jeannine Kessler noted that it is unrealistic for the outreach coordinators to take on all of the outreach and suggested that they develop a plan to work with other and identify ways to maximize contact with businesses. Ms. Cauffman noted one example of this is the outreach staff working with property owners and managers to send information to their tenants.

David Jones noted that in the process so far, some people were concerned about station location etc...as we move towards construction everyone is going to need to know. So he asked if we've thought about how we are going to intensify outreach. Jeannine noted that the corridor is not a one

size fits all approach to communication. She asked what is being done to stratify the businesses into categories.

Mr. Latuff gave the example that he needs as much heads notice for construction so that he can find parking for his 23 employees that currently park on the street.

Mr. Jones noted that we need to provide assurances to businesses that they will have timeline. Suggested we let people know what they can expect from construction communication such as 30 day notice.

Jim Segal noted that we met about his parking concerns over one year ago. Karri acknowledged that it took some time to work with the City. Gary Erickson responded that we've made significant progress over the past year to develop a plan with proposed solutions and identified some funding to make improvements. Jim Roth noted that the critical workshops have gone well and developed doable solutions to resolving the parking issues.

Ms. Kessler suggested that the community outreach coordinators should be at all of the BAC meetings.

Jim Segal suggested identifying the list of outstanding questions for business feedback such as landscaping and tree placement.

David Jones suggested having the City or County include information in the semi-annual tax bills. Another person suggested including information in the monthly utility bill.

Jim Roth asked that we follow up with some of these questions at the next meeting.

Gary Erickson responded on the question about trees that we know we are replacing the existing trees.

David Jones asked if we have a critical path for decisions. Robin noted that we had the initial list of 37 issues, most of which have been resolved except for a few outstanding issues such as parking and streetscape.

Ms. Kessler suggested that we review the minutes to identify the concerns and provide follow up at following meetings.

5. BUSINESS MITIGATION

The BAC did not get to this item. It will be first on July's agenda.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2009