

Court International Building, Ground Floor-RM #150 2550 University Avenue West St. Paul

Meeting of the Central Corridor Business Advisory Committee

Monday, Nov. 16, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Lori Fritts, Jeannine Kessler, Brenda Kyle, Jim Roth, Jim Segal, Brian Thoenke, Christine Weigert, Lu Hang, Denise Currie.

Others Present: Robin Caufman, Joey Browner, Karri Plowman, Kevin Ryan, Shoua Lee, Rita Rodriguez, Mary Richardson, Hue Pham, Michael McLaughlin.

1. WELCOME

Lori Fritts opened the meetings at 4:11 PM. The BAC reviewed the minutes; there were no changes.

2. CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

Robin Caufman reviewed [PowerPoint presentation](#) which included an outline of the draft bid specifications related to public involvement, signage and community concerns during construction. Several comments and questions were made during the presentation.

Karrie commented on how issues came up during downtown construction and how they were handled and resolved.

Brian Thoenke asked how businesses are going to have input on construction, continued consistent information.

Jeanine Kessler stated that business owners would like to know that they will have input in these meetings and that contractors are aware that this will be how it they are handled. She suggested that when signs go up there needs to be consistency so people are used to messages during construction.

Following the presentation, Lori Fritts opened it up to discussion and feedback on the proposed specifications. She specifically asked if there are suggestions for additions or clarifications.

Jim Segal asked if the current down town construction work is on schedule. Kevin Ryan stated that it is.

Lori Fritts asked if the CCPO is looking at adding an incentives program. Jeannine Kessler asked what kind of incentives. Incentives to work with the community and resolve concerns are being researched by team of CCPO staff. No decisions have been made.

Ms. Kessler also noted that we need to make sure that any criteria used to determine incentive pay is within the contractor's control.

Jim Segal suggested an incentive program for completing work in a shorter timeframe. There are two options, (1) pay for performance and (2) incentives for completing work faster. He suggests that if they aren't doing what they are suppose to do in the contract; the Met Council can use the stick. He favors using incentives program to finish work faster.

Lori Fritts noted that the residential and business communities may have different criteria for what constitutes resolution of an issue.

Kevin Ryan, CCPO Construction Manager, noted the conflict of completing faster often means the contract cares less about community impacts.

Christine Wiegert asked who pays for the contractor liaison. It is paid for out of the project costs.

Karrie Plowman suggested signage that shows how the project is progressing, similar to the thermometer organizations use when raising funds to show how close they are to the goal. In this case, the goal would be completion of construction and reopening of 4 lanes of traffic.

Jim Segal asked if it is an option to have the sidewalk on cross streets redone to match University Avenue. Karri noted that City of St. Paul is doing a sidewalk replacement pilot project down by Raymond. We'll forward the comment to the City. Report back to the BAC how far sidewalks are being replaced and whether it is possible to add on.

Jim Segal commented on the impacts to parking. He asked if signage can direct people to temporary parking. He also suggested including temporary parking in the project budget. For example, can Spruce Tree parking ramp be used for temporary parking during construction at reduced rate or with vouchers.

Lori Fritts asked if bus barn site could be used for temporary customer or employee parking that people can be shuttled to and from work. She also noted that the Spruce Tree parking ramp is vacant on weekends and in the evening. Perhaps the ramp could be used for the restaurants and stores for after hours parking of retail businesses.

Jim Roth noted that the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Development found temporary parking for businesses at local churches etc... for the lake Street reconstruction project.

Karri Plowman noted that the City of St. Paul is reducing its parking requirements, similar to the City of Minneapolis.

Jeannine Kessler suggested that it be clear that the contractor will be expected to resolve problems, not just attend meetings.

Lu Hang asked who the liaison reports to? Contractor project manager who reports to the CCPO Construction Manager.

Karri Plowman asked that Chambers and Business Assoc. be included in the list of organizations that the contractor will be expected to meet with.

Lori Fritts suggesting making the communication plan part of the contract

Lori Fritts suggested adding notifications standards and offered the Salt Lake City guidelines for maintaining access as a model.

Denise Currie suggested that the reader board is a good idea, especially to alert people of traffic and suggested designated detours to keep people from going through the neighborhoods.

Jeannine Kessler noted that the number of signs could be overwhelming and asked if there will be times or places where will use people to direct traffic, for example during morning peak traffic at the intersection of Snelling and University.

Lori Fritts noted that coordinating other construction projects is important and that it may require Met Council as well as contractors. Kevin noted that we are working with project partners on developing list of project and phasing them to minimize impacts.

Following is a summary of the suggestions given during the discussion:

- Incentives (Contractors) – Sufficient funds, work on time, performance
- Project Add-ons – Sidewalk (around corner)
- Parking – Temporary (employees, customer, contractor equipment). Signage, free/shared, access. Commercial parking policies, parking spaces regulations. Contractor community relations leader (attend meetings and provide information) Add chambers/Bus Association. Communications (Included Communication Plans). Maintain access always during business hours.
- Signage – Leader board, updated weekly, business, vehicles
- Person directing Traffic, traffic flow, temporary lights

3. ADJOURNMENT

Lori Fritts adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM

Next Meeting: December 21, 2010