

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Community Advisory Committee

July 19, 2007



*Improving
mobility*

*Easing
congestion*

*Strengthening
our communities*

Community Advisory Committee

- **Purpose**
 - Advise Corridor Management Committee (CCMC)
 - Provide input and feedback to staff
 - Issues related to planning, design & construction
- **Responsibilities**
 - Advise CCMC on issues such as station design, parking, accessibility and construction mitigation
 - Facilitate greater citizen participation
 - Provide feedback on structure and effectiveness of communication and public involvement efforts

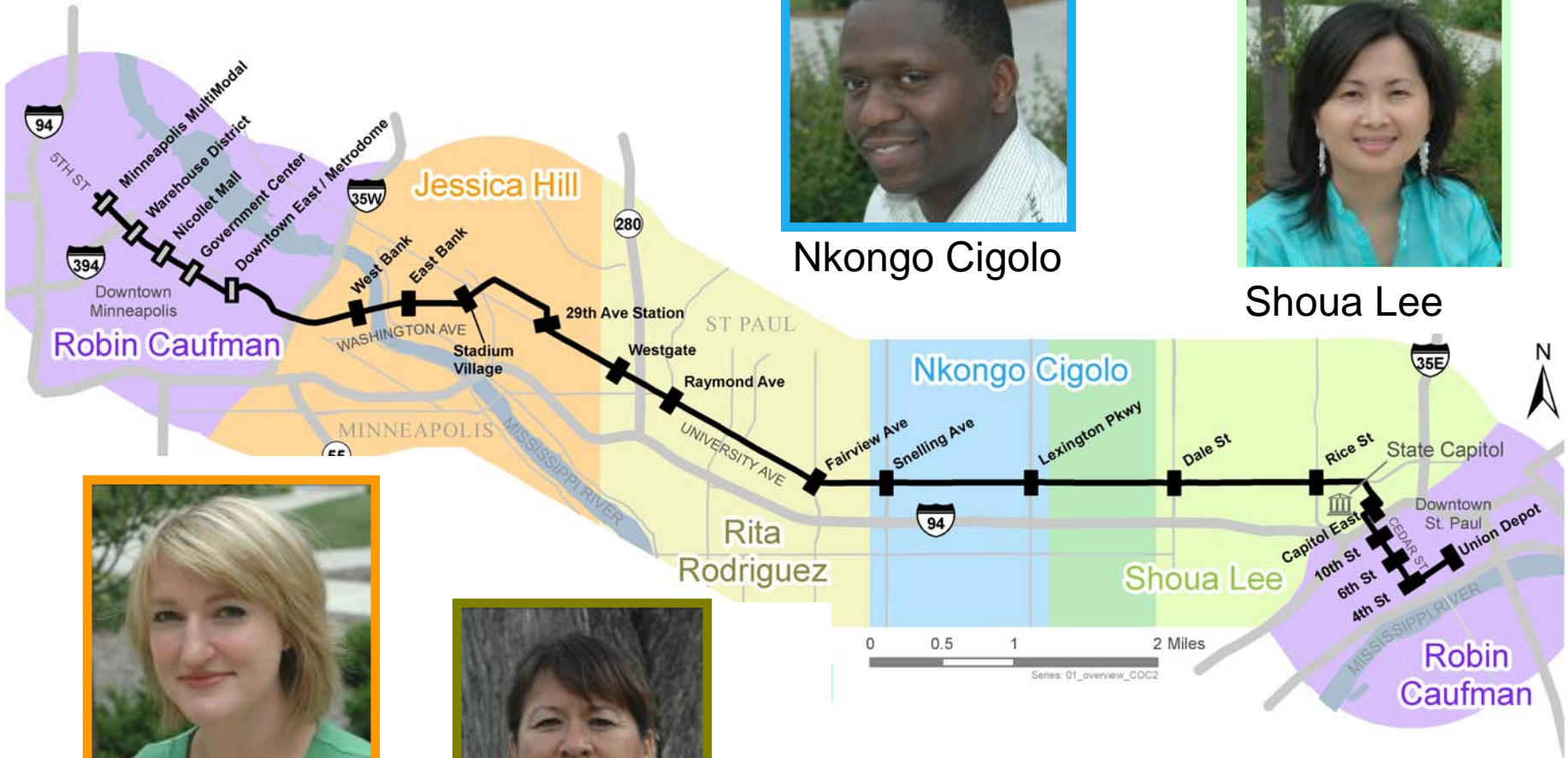
Today's Agenda



- Introduce Community Outreach Coordinators
- Reports
- Overview of the DEIS and FEIS process

Community Outreach Coordinators

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit



Nkongo Cigolo



Shoua Lee



Jessica Hill



Rita Rodriguez

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit



Reports

Mark Fuhrmann
Project Director

Robin Caufman
Manager of Public Involvement

Public Meetings



- Recent meetings
 - Model Cities Community Fair
 - District Council Collaborative
 - Camphor UMC/St. Paul Council of Churches
 - Center for Hmong Arts and Talent
 - St. Anthony Park
- Staff compiling summary of comments & questions

7/19/07

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit



Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement

Kathryn O'Brien
Principal Contract Administrator, FEIS

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

In The Beginning...



- Foundation for all environmental review processes is NEPA

NEPA – The Definition

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Signed on Jan. 1, 1970
- Establishes national framework
- Mandates environmental issues be part of decision-making process

NEPA – The Vision

- Encourage “*Productive and Enjoyable Harmony*” between people and environment
- Consider effects of federal actions on the human and natural environment
- Disclose environmental information
- Foster intergovernmental coordination and cooperation
- Enhance public participation in government

NEPA – The Interpretation

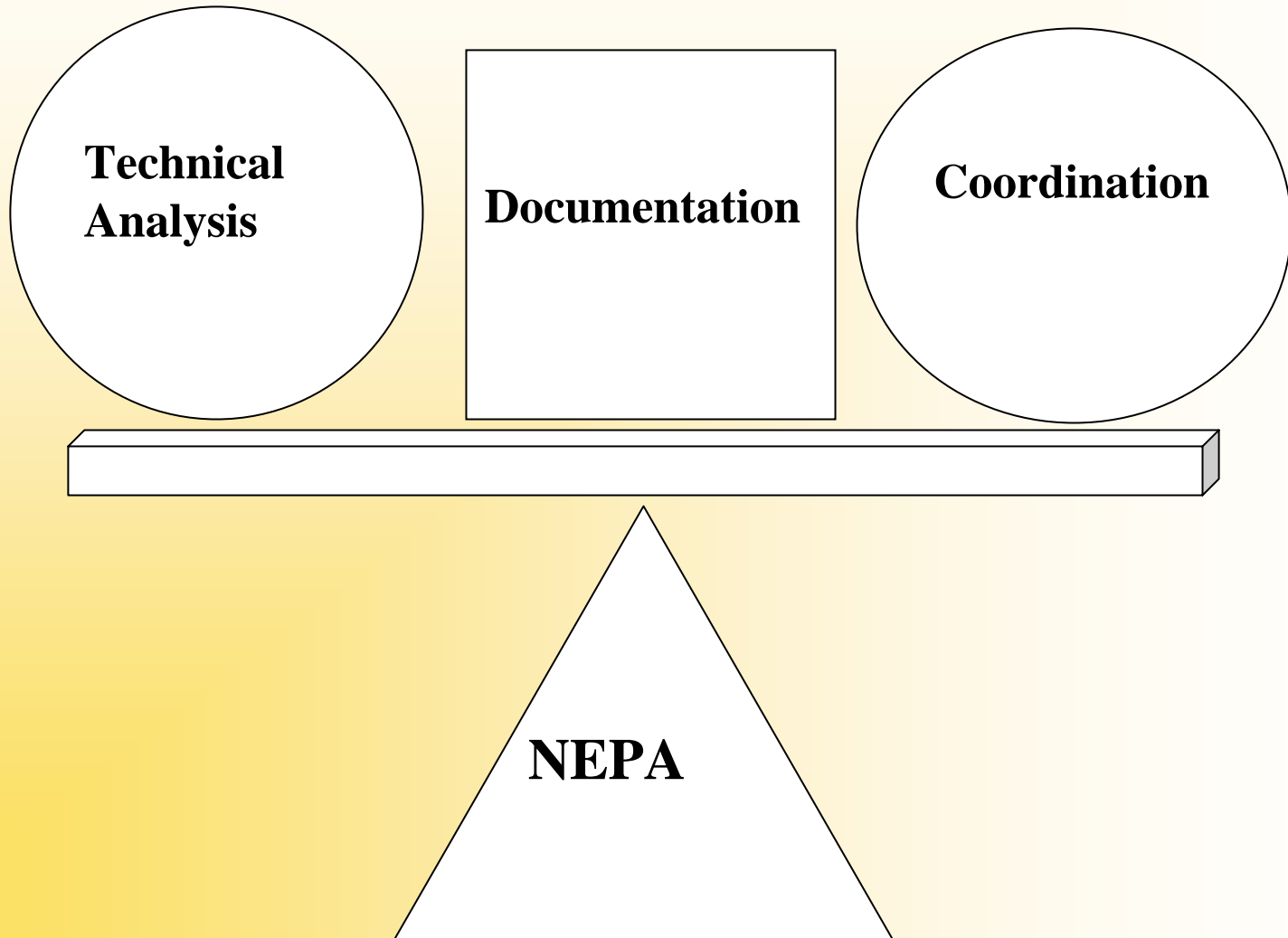


- Interpreted through a regulatory framework
- Includes federal and state statutes and guidance

NEPA – The Interpretation

- Different classes of actions result in different types of documentation
 - Categorical Exclusions (Class II)
 - Environmental Assessments / Environmental Assessment Worksheets (Class III)
 - Environmental Impact Statements (Class I)

NEPA – The Goal



The Role of the Public in NEPA



- NEPA's success depends on public disclosure and review
- NEPA requires invitation of public review and comment
 - Public meetings and hearings

Tell Me More About the EIS

- An EIS must be prepared for any project with the “potential for significant environmental effects.”
- Three major steps
 - Scoping
 - Draft EIS
 - Final EIS
- End result is a “Record of Decision.”

How to Begin a DEIS

- Issue a Notice of Intent (For publication in Federal Register)
- Begin a formal project scoping process
 - Range of actions
 - Alternatives (always consider No Build)
 - Impacts to be considered
 - Solicit agency/public responses



- Physical and Natural (Environmental) Factors
 - Water Resources
 - Protected Species
 - Protected Natural Areas
 - Air Quality

Draft EIS Elements

- Social Factors
 - Land Use
 - Displacements
 - Neighborhood & Community Disruption
 - Environmental Justice



Draft EIS Elements

- **Economic Factors**
 - Costs
 - Employment
 - Effects on Business Community



Draft EIS Elements



- **Transportation Factors**
 - Ridership
 - Traffic
 - Access
 - Circulation
 - Intermodal Considerations

- Evaluate *All Reasonable* Alternatives
- Conduct Environmental Analysis
 - Affected environment
 - Human and natural environment
 - Environmental consequences
 - Impacts resulting from proposed action
 - Mitigation options

DEIS Activities



- **Involve and Engage**
 - The public
 - Stakeholder agencies
 - Affected jurisdictions

DEIS Activities



- Public and agencies involved through:
 - Committees (ad hoc and formal)
 - Public meetings
 - Formal meetings (city / county / regional)
 - Public H=hearing (mandated)

DEIS Circulation

- Circulate DEIS for Public and Agency Review
 - All parties interested or that have jurisdiction by law over the proposed action
- Publish Federal Register Notice
 - Identify where comments should be sent
 - Establish comment period
 - Minimum 45-day comment period from Federal Register notice

DEIS Public Hearings

- Provide Notice of Opportunity for a Public Hearing
 - 4 public hearings held for Central Corridor
 - Radisson Metrodome (6:30 p.m. on May 22)
 - Lao Family Community (5:00 p.m. on May 23)
 - Minnesota History Center (8:00 a.m. on May 24)
 - Central High School (6:30 p.m. on May 24)

DEIS Public Comments

- More than 570 people attended 4 public hearings
- Written, e-mail and voicemail comments also received:
 - E-mail = 500
 - Phone = 18
 - Mail = 218
 - Public Hearing Testimony = 180

What is the Purpose of an FEIS?



- Identify the preferred alternative
- Disclose resultant impacts that may not have been known / disclosed in the DEIS

What is the Purpose of an FEIS?



- Describe mitigation measures
- Document statutory determinations & specific environmental findings

What is the Purpose of an FEIS?



- Document and respond to substantive comments received
- Summarize public involvement

Documenting the Preferred Alternative

- Preferred Alternative has been identified as LRT
- Changes since publication of DEIS include:
 - U of M alignment
 - Stations (total number and location)
 - Downtown St. Paul alignment
 - 2- or 3-car operations

Documenting the Preferred Alternative



- Resolution of Preferred Alternative issues will be documented through environmental process
- Type of documentation needed will be resolved through coordination with FTA

Responding to Public Comments

- FEIS Actions That Can Respond to Comments
 - Influence on selection of Preferred Alternative (684 of 916 comments favored LRT)
 - Refine preferred alternative design (station location, etc.)
 - Conduct additional analyses/coordination (vibration impacts)
 - More thoroughly explain or clarify decision-making

Design / Mitigation Commitments

- FEIS Provides Legal Foundation for Findings and Determinations
- Mitigation Commitments Should Be Specific and Measurable, and Included in Project Costs
- Design Commitments Should Be Clearly Articulated
- Programmatic Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding, etc. Must Be Signed

FEIS Processing

- **Distribution**
 - Primary purpose is notification & resolving outstanding issues
 - FEIS distribution list includes DEIS commentors
- **Notification**
 - Federal Register Notice of Availability
 - FEIS Distribution Prior to Notice of Availability
 - Local newspaper advertisement
 - No public hearing
- **Waiting Period to ROD is 30 Days from EPA *Federal Register Notice***

- Issuance of Record of Decision
 - Decision
 - Public & Agency Coordination
 - Alternatives Considered
 - Basis for Decision
 - Major Social, Economic, Environmental & Transportation Impacts
 - Environmental Findings
 - Measures to Minimize Harm & Enhancement
 - Mitigation Commitments

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

More Information

Check out our website:

- www.metrocouncil.org

Contact the Data Center:

- Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101
- Phone: 651-602-1140
- Email: data.center@metc.state.mn.us

