

Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 No. Robert St., St. Paul, Mn. 55101

Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee
December 8, 2010

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| Members Present | Peter Bell, Chair | Kathleen O'Brien | Reynaldo Aligada |
| | Tom Hanson (Keith Bogut – alt) | Rafael Ortega | Khani Sahebjam |
| | Peter McLaughlin | Robert McFarlin | Jim Westerhaus |
| Members Absent | Toni Carter | Chris Coleman | R.T. Rybak (Peter Wagenius–alt.) |
| | | Paul Krause | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Peter Bell called the December 8, 2010 meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:10 pm at the Metropolitan Council offices at 340 North Robert St., St. Paul.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Aligada, seconded by Bogut to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2010 CCMC meeting. Motion passed.

Mark Fuhrmann spoke to the committee about the last four years' accomplishments under the guidance and leadership of Peter Bell. He presented gifts to Bell, including the Spirit of Regional Governance -"Reggie"- award.

3. 2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

Mark Fuhrman, Program Director, gave a recap the achievements on the project during 2010, including approval of three infill stations, final design approval, U of M design & construction agreement, many contract procurements, advanced construction utility work.

Kathleen O'Brien suggested a future report about how many jobs have been created and people put to work in 2010, particularly from Minnesota, resulting from this project. Fuhrmann gave a quick answer, it is anticipated that in the spring of 2011 over 800 construction staff will be on the ground working, not including subcontractors; he agreed to report in more detail at a future meeting.

Peter Bell shared his understanding of "earmarks" as it relates to recent discussions that have taken place. Bell's understanding is that there are different types of earmarks. The public's perception is that an earmark is an action initiated by a member of congress that circumvents the appropriations process, allowing a project to jump ahead of other projects to secure funding. Although CCLRT is technically an earmark, the CCLRT project is the highest rated New Starts project in the country. CCLRT has been through a process of review within the department of

administration and the FTA. The CCLRT project is not being singled out for preferential treatment or taking away from other meritorious projects. The \$45M being requested in calendar year 2011 is within the president's budget.

4. FULL FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT SCHEDULE

Mark Fuhrmann reported on the full funding grant agreement schedule including: Funding Status, Q1 2011 Letter of No Prejudice (LONP), and 2011 Construction Look Ahead.

McLaughlin asked how much money has been committed and/or spent to date. Fuhrmann answered that through September 2010, \$119M total in engineering and construction. McLaughlin brought to the attention of the committee that with the next LONP, the agency partners will be \$160-\$170M into the project. As an item of information for the CCMC, McFarlin stated that the expenditure of funds through LONPs come before the Transportation Committee and the full Council for approval. There have been extensive discussions at the Metropolitan Council level about the amount of money being committed.

Responding to McFarlin's question, McLaughlin gave an update on the Minneapolis Interchange project, which is integral to the CCLRT operation. This project is at the confluence of Northstar, Hiawatha, Central, and eventually Southwest and Bottineau. PB America is performing commuter and passenger rail capacity studies and integrated plans for future. There is an immediate need for additional platform capacity for the opening of CCLRT in 2014.

Khani Sahebjam asked Fuhrmann to clarify the procedure for communication to construction contractors by parties other than Central Corridor authorized staff. Fuhrmann stated there is no formal process. Metro Council is the contracting entity with the all of the contractors. Project partners have been reminded that any and all direction is to come from the Metro Council.

Fuhrmann answered questions from Aligada clarifying the "big picture" schedule and what items might be eligible for contingency funds.

5. LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE ASSEMBLY

Rich Rovang, Project Director, gave an overview on the Light Rail Vehicle assembly and delivery. The vehicles are being assembled at Siemens Production Facility in Sacramento, CA. When in full production, it is expected that there will be 350 people working on the vehicles at the plant, and with subs – close to 1,000 people working on the vehicles.

6. INFILL STATION PUBLIC ART

Alicia Vap gave an overview of the artists that are being recommended for the public art at the three infill stations. The solicitation process was handled much the same as the process used for the original station art solicitation. A recommendation to accept these choices will be before the Metro Council later today (12/08).

7. NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2011 AT 1:00 pm

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, McLaughlin presented Bell with a gift from the Central Corridor community, specifically mentioning Mayors R.T. Rybak and Chris Coleman, as well as Commissioner Toni Carter, all who could not be present at this meeting.

Bell stated that this is his last CCMC meeting as a council member. He thanked the members and stated that there is no other project that he has been more proud of, and that will have lasting significance and make a lasting difference in people's lives.

Peter Bell adjourned the December 8, 2010 CCMC meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major