

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee  
February 9, 2011**

Members Present	Susan Haigh, Chair	Kathleen O'Brien	R.T. Rybak (Peter Wagenius-alt.)
	Chris Coleman (Nancy Homans-alt)	Rafael Ortega	Scott McBride
	Peter McLaughlin	Robert McFarlin	Jim Westerhaus
		Toni Carter (Jackie Cooper-alt)	
Members Absent	Paul Krause	Keith Bogut	Reynaldo Aligada

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Haigh called the February 9, 2011 meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:40 pm at the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Wagenius to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2011 CCMC meeting. Motion passed.

**3. SCHEDULE UPDATE**

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy GM, presented the schedule update. The FTA submitted the FFGA package to Congress, beginning the 60-day review by congress. No action is necessary by Congress. A recent court ruling denied the plaintiff's request to stop the project with an injunction; however, the judge found that the potential impacts to businesses were not fully studied. Two town hall meetings are scheduled to take place on 2/17 at the Model Cities Building – 849 University Ave W. CCPO is working with the FTA on a supplemental Business Impacts Environmental Assessment to help address potential disruption & loss of revenue to businesses due to CCLRT construction work. In answer to McFarlin, Fuhrmann stated that there has been no resolution as yet through a mediator regarding the MPR litigation; some court time has been scheduled on 2/17 with Judge Osbey. In answer to Ortega regarding communications between the contractor and businesses on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Fuhrmann reported that a session was held last Friday with 20 +/- businesses on 4<sup>th</sup> Street to present the construction sequencing to begin after St. Patrick's Day. Future lines of communication between the contractor (Walsh), businesses and the CCPO must go through the CCPO who will notify the resident engineers in the field, who will then communicate with the businesses and the contractor. Fuhrmann stated that senior staff of counties, cities, U of M, have been asked to assemble a list of project elements eligible for contingency funds. CCPO will assemble a list from the respective agencies for review by the CCMC. Fuhrmann also reviewed the schedule for LONP and NTP activities

**4. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE INCLUDING MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC**

Dan Soler, CCPO Traffic Engineer, presented the construction and traffic maintenance update.

2011 will be a very busy construction season with construction occurring in both the Civil East and Civil West projects. Half of University Ave. will remain open to traffic during construction. In St. Paul, Fourth Street construction will be staged according to plans worked on by the contractor/City St. Paul/CCPO and coordinating with the Union Depot project. Cedar St. will be closed as a through street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> on 6/01/11; access will be maintained to parking facilities. Near the State Capitol, Robert Street will be closed to through traffic and 12<sup>th</sup> Street will be restricted to one lane of westbound traffic. Near the West Bank, one lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction on Washington Avenue. On the Washington Avenue Bridge, one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained on the north side of the bridge, as well as pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the north side of the upper pedestrian deck. Washington Ave. between Pleasant and Oak will close on 5/16 for Oak street intersection reconstruction. The U of M transitway will close on 5/16. These details do not include impacts due to private utility relocation.

McFarlin questioned what the hours/days of construction may be and Soler stated he thought that the contractor(s) would probably work 6-day weeks and take advantage of daylight to the extent possible, following existing ordinances (i.e. noise) and the special construction plan with the U of M. Soler emphasized the importance of coordinating with other entities that might also have construction projects in the area, and the importance of signage, flyers and notices to the public and students at the U of M.

## **5. INFILL STATIONS LAND USE PLANNING**

Jess Rosenfeld of the City of St. Paul, reported on the infill stations land use planning. The plans focus on areas approx. ¼ mile around the proposed infill stations and address issues of: building scale, public realm and open space, public art and bicycle/pedestrian/ transit/auto movement. The outreach process used was similar to the previous process for original planned stations, with an emphasis on multi-lingual communications. Workshops will be held in March. Some of the important topics raised by the community have been the stations themselves, use of the alleys, parking, public art, safety and defining the area of change. Rosenfeld presented the next steps which include public hearing at Planning Commission and recommendation to City Council, City Council adoption.

## **6. TRANSITWAYS IDENTITY AND BRANDING**

Bruce Howard, MT Director of Marketing, presented on this topic. Howard reviewed the types of services being considered, proposals, timelines and the process. Wagenius said he would be interested in seeing total quantifications of the amount of rides for BRT vs LRT. Minneapolis Public Works has sent a letter stating the concern with Highway BRT and LRT being branded the same when there are gaps in the level of service. The same applies to a brand promise. This could be setting up for disappointments to the public expecting the same level of service from all modes and would do no service to BRT if the public level of expectation is the same as LRT. Discussion followed regarding the expectations vs reality and the need for good communication between the two. Wagenius stated that he and other will be attending a BRT workshop next and would like to be involved in the process.

## **7. ADJOURN – Next meeting scheduled for March 9, 2011 AT 1:00 pm**

Chair Haigh adjourned the February 9, 2011 CCMC meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major