

Metropolitan Council

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

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Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee

**April 13, 2011**

Members Present	Susan Haigh, Chair	Kathleen O'Brien	R.T. Rybak (Peter Wagenius–alt.)
	Keith Bogut	Rafael Ortega	Scott McBride
	Peter McLaughlin	Toni Carter	Matt Kramer
	Reynaldo Aligada		
Members Absent	Paul Krause	Metro Council Rep. (to be named)	Chris Coleman

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Haigh called the April 13, 2011 meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:05 pm at the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Ortega, seconded Bogut to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2011 CCMC meeting. Motion passed.

**3. FULL FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT SCHEDULE UPDATE**

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy GM, provided an update regarding the FTA Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA). Fuhrmann began by stating that the CCMC has been in place since 2007, and has been helpful in reaching some of the milestones in the CCLRT project thus far. The Central Corridor Light Rail Project is the highest rated “New Starts” project in the country that is pending FFGA approval, and will be the first in line to receive that new starts funding. It will also be the first project to be approved under the Obama Administration. The FFGA is expected to be received from the FTA within the next few weeks.

**4. EA UPDATE**

Kathryn O'Brien, Principal Contract Administrator FEIS, gave an update on the EA. As background, O'Brien stated that the EA began on 3/01 in response to a NEPA lawsuit. One claim in the lawsuit was upheld and that was to direct the Metropolitan Council to look at the potential impacts to businesses. The CCPO held public meetings, at which approximately 65 people attended and 33 of them testified. There were approximately 40 additional comments received during the public period, outside of the public meetings. Comments reflected concern about adequacy of the business mitigation fund, questions about methodology used to arrive at estimates of business revenue impacts, concerns about lost parking/access/and other nuisance impacts, and anxiety about the character of University Avenue after construction. Staff is preparing responses to the comments received.

Chair Haigh stated that Metro Council and other partners held many meetings in February to identify other sources of support to businesses in order to respond to comments. Fuhrmann presented the list of additional commitments from various partners in various categories. Members Aligada and Carter questioned the structure of the loans/grants, qualifications/application procedure, terms and limitations.

Haigh asked Nancy Homans from the City of St. Paul to address member questions. The City of St. Paul has issued an RFP for loan administrators to administer the loans. The loan administrators should be selected in the next 1-2 months and the City of St. Paul hopes to have the vendors in place by June 1. A possible proposal is to issue the loans for 5-years from the time of closing, with the stipulation that the business remain on University Avenue for 5 years. Each year the business remains, the forgiven portion of the loan would be 20%. Homans stated that the city has been advising businesses of the type of information that will be needed and the city is helping businesses get that information in order to be ready to make applications. Kramer commented that because the RFP and loan application and administration process takes time, there needs to be a good communication strategy to keep the businesses informed of the timelines.

## **5 MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC**

And

## **6. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Dan Soler and Kevin Ryan gave a combined update on the maintenance of traffic and construction activities. The presentation included Downtown St. Paul, Capital Area, University Avenue, East Bank, Washington Avenue, Washington Avenue Bridge and West Bank and detailed explanations and sample photos of the traffic and constructions activities in those areas. Ortega asked if information and maps could be provided on building lobbies and to building management, since the street and sidewalk accesses change often. Caufman stated that 3'x2' laminated posters with sleeves holding maps have been placed in various skyways and locations in the downtown area. She will discuss this with the downtown area communications representative Dana Happel to make sure the information is being distributed.

## **7. ANIMATIONS**

Robin Caufman introduced the three animations of the completed CCLRT line for viewing; the animations are available on the CCLRT website.

## **8. ADJOURN – Next meeting scheduled for May11, 2011 AT 1:00 pm**

Chair Haigh adjourned the April 13, 2011 CCMC meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major