

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee  
August 10, 2011**

Members Present	Susan Haigh, Chair	Kathleen O'Brien	Reynaldo Aligada
	Keith Bogut	Peter McLaughlin	Matt Kramer
	Toni Carter	Jon Commers	
Members Absent	Paul Krause	Jon Commers	Chris Coleman
	Scott McBride	R. T. Rybak	Rafael Ortega

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Haigh called the August 10, 2011 meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:10 pm at the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Matt Kramer, seconded by Keith Bogut to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2011 CCMC meetings. Motion passed.

Mark Fuhrmann gave a brief project status. Currently, CCLRT has reached its 20% construction milestone. Also, the project has now surpassed 1,000 construction jobs. Fuhrmann thanked the funding partners for helping reach this goal.

**3. 4<sup>th</sup> STREET/I-35W INTERCHANGE UPDATE – Hennepin County**

Jim Grube and Nick Peterson from Hennepin County presented an update of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street/I-35W Interchange Project. Jim went over the project's background, and explained the purpose of the project is to relieve congestion on Washington Avenue by diverting traffic to University/4<sup>th</sup> Street interchange. This will also improve the transit access to northbound I-35W. The estimated cost is approximately \$13MM, which will be \$9.3MM state bonds and \$4MM local match. The project team includes Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis and MnDOT.

Nick Peterson gave an overview of the project scope and schedule. The project schedule is to have substantial construction complete by November of 2012. There will be a public open house in September. Drawings were shown of the I-35W Interchange project with the additional lanes and how it will look. Hennepin County is working closely with MnDOT and Met Council on the coordination of construction.

**4. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE / MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC – CCPO**

Kevin Ryan, Manager of Construction, reported on the following areas of CCLRT construction progress.

Operations and Maintenance Facility

Construction currently includes working on the maintenance pit, drilling helical piles and removing slab. Testing the helical piles is being done as a substantial amount of them will be able to be reused. Photos were shown of the OMF demolition work.

### Civil East

- In downtown St. Paul, the crews are currently installing track on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. On Cedar, the pavement has been removed from 7<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> to work on utility relocations. Photos of track installation were shown.
- The utility work in front of the Union Depot will continue through November. Work is also being done on the subgrade in preparation for the guideway.
- The Bremer Bank Building is now completely demolished. Crews are working two shifts to complete the skyway work by November. Photos were shown of the demolition and skyway work.
- Utility work continues in the Capitol area on the District Energy hot water work. The north side of 12<sup>th</sup> St. is being used for a track welding area. Photos of the utility work were shown.

### University Avenue

The first traffic switch was made in early July, which was from Emerald to Hampden. The next switch will be from Hampden to Aldine. Photos of the Fairview, Raymond, and Westgate station work were shown. The Snelling Station work has also begun, and consists of pouring the SW quadrant and pedestrian crosswalk. After this work, Snelling will be completely open until after the fair, when the work will start up again. Robin stated we are working closely with State Fair on this communication.

### Civil West

- The Transitway is currently closed for the retaining wall and utility work. This will be opened on 8/24, prior to the State Fair.
- The East Bank work now includes relocating utilities. Sanitary sewers under the pedestrian tunnel are being installed.
- The Washington Avenue Bridge work currently consists of column repair. The peer cap work was shown for the chloride extraction.
- The West Bank traffic configuration remains the same. Photos of the west bank work were shown.

### Systems

At this time, designs are still being submitted and reviewed. The goal is to start foundations for TPSS sites later this year. Photo of TPSS site 5 was shown.

## **5. PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE ACCESS - CCPO**

Robin Caufman, Manager of CCLRT Public Involvement, reported on the pedestrian and vehicle access. CCPO outreach employees routinely going out to monitor the access of pedestrian and vehicles. Photos were shown of issues that needed resolving, such as path width of pedestrian crossing not maintained, vehicles blocking temp sidewalk, no accessible ramp to bus stop, hazards with barriers on sidewalks, no markings or channelization, poor or confusing signage.

Mike Pretel, Manager of Construction explained how CCPO is addressing and resolving these issues. Complaints are compiled and discussed with the contractor. Most of the issues are resolved within a week's time. Once resolved, staff review the progress with the contractor at weekly traffic meetings. There are quarterly incentives that go out to the contractors, which are scored by a committee of area businesses and residents. There are also disincentives if the problems are not corrected.

Examples of vehicle accesses were shown. The downtown access plan is distributed to the businesses and the public on a regular basis. Access is shared with businesses when appropriate, which could include alley access and side streets. Photos of good pedestrian access and signage were shown. These items need to be checked and monitored daily. The new temporary bus stops were shown. Pretel also mentioned night work is done when possible.

Chair Haigh reported that she would like this type of report regularly at CCMC meetings.

## **6. BUSINESS MITIGATION REPORTING - CCPO**

Robin Caufman reported on the monthly business mitigation report, which is submitted monthly to the FTA. The reporting consists of: construction related complaints and responses; public outreach and communication activities; funds spent to assist businesses during construction; requests for business assistance and response; and the number of business opening/closing / relocations along the corridor.

There were fewer calls on the hotline in July. The calls are mainly related to traffic, vehicle and pedestrian access concerns. Outreach staff continues to publish the weekly construction updates and transit rider alerts on Metro Transit web page. In July, CCLRT has had 13,000 hits on its webpage.

There are others that help to promote the businesses, such as Midway Chamber sponsoring a 'Lunch on the Avenue; Saint Paul Saints promoted businesses at a Saints Baseball game; Metro Transit has bus side ads promoting businesses. The outreach staff continue to talk with the businesses and develop access plans with them. Where needed, special signage is put up.

Funds are being allocated through the business loan fund. To date, \$40,000 was disbursed in June. The total amount available is \$4MM, with a \$20,000 maximum for each loan.

Outreach keeps track of the new, closed and relocated businesses along the corridor. 1,400 businesses have been identified. In July, four opened, four closed and two moved within the corridor and one moved off the corridor.

## **7. ADJOURN – Next meeting scheduled for September 14, 2011 at 1:00 pm**

Chair Haigh adjourned the August 10, 2011 CCMC meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Hoffner