

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee
September 14, 2011**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Peter McLaughlin called the September 14, 2011 meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:10 pm at the Metropolitan Council Chambers at 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 10 AND AUGUST 24, CCMC MEETINGS.

Motion by Carter, seconded by Kramer, to approve the minutes from the August 10 and August 24 CCMC meetings. Motion passed.

3. CCLRT CONTINGENCY

Chris Beckwith presented this item. She explained the various categories for the contingency, accessible and underrun contingency amounts (total \$63.4M) and the demand for the contingency. Beckwith presented a proposal for distributing the contingency money (shown on slide 10 of the September 14 CCMC presentation). The distribution of the Enhancement category (\$2.3M) was further explained (slide 11 of presentation).

The proposal is to distribute the contingency as follows:

- \$53.7M for sixteen light rail vehicles for which the base price option to purchase needs to be exercised by Sept. 29, to avoid an aggregate increase of \$3.4M.
- \$2.3M for Enhancements.
- \$2.1M for Start-Up (this includes inspection, testing and certifying vehicles in 2012).
- \$5.3M project contingency available – to be returned to the project for use at the next FTA hold point.

Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Carter that the CCMC concur with the contingency plan as presented, and recommend that the Metropolitan Council approve this plan. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC UPDATES

Dan Soler and Kevin Ryan presented an update on the OMF and line construction, and maintenance of traffic. Rich Rovang stepped forward to answer McLaughlin's question on the size and capacity comparison between the CCLRT OMF and the HLRT OMF.

Soler and Ryan briefed the committee on the street, utility, station, streetscape, U of M transitway, and bridge work along the project. Committee members asked questions about construction timing and what the conditions will be when the construction season is concluded and winter advances. Specifically, Coleman questioned the tight schedule for the work on

University Civil East contract to be complete to two-way traffic by 11/30/11, because the south side of the street took much more time to complete. Coleman questioned how the project office is assessing the contractor's schedule and at what point there will be confidence that the contractor can complete by 11/30/11. Ryan replied that the contractor has made some staffing changes and are making good progress. The CCPO has asked to see recovery schedules and is asking the contractor what they need to do the work. There are dates specified in the contract for which the contractor will be assessed damages for not meeting those dates. The project office is watching the contractor closely and in contact daily. If necessary, a decision may be made not to open up a construction area if the work cannot be complete in time. McLaughlin asked if there has been any reaction to the streetscaping as it has been completed. Caufman stated that about five compliments have been received; a "kudos" section has been added to the comment report prepared by her staff. Carter commented that communication is important regarding the storage and staging areas and the impacts to businesses and the neighborhood and asked that these plans be reviewed for 2012 construction on University. .

5. DOWNTOWN CENTRAL STATION SKYWAY PROGRESS

Soler stated that the Downtown Central Station Skyway is a critical skyway link. The skyway was closed April 1, 2011 and is scheduled to be accessible to pedestrians in November 1, although the finish work will not be complete.

6. I-35W FLYOVER BRIDGE PROGRESS

Jim Alexander presented an update on the I-35W Flyover Bridge. It is anticipated that the bridge construction will be complete in October and there are discussions with the contractor about the possibility of installing rail this year.

7. BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

Nancy Homans, City of St. Paul, gave a report on the Central Corridor Small Business Forgivable Loan Program. She reported on the sources of funding for the program, the process by which applicants apply and are awarded the loans, and the 10-15 day quick turn-around on applications. She also reported on the number of loans granted and the average amount, as well as the distribution, by segment of the project. It is a learning process, as it is not standard across the country to support small businesses financially during the construction of a project such as this. Some of the observations and lessons learned are: that it has been a community effort to allocate the money as needed, because it is a scarce resource; the City has had more than expected responsibility and has operated without the benefit of the administration fees – a strain on city staff and resources; applicants can come back for additional money if they haven't used \$20,000; it remains to be seen if the businesses will recover quickly after the streets are back open or if it will take months.

8. ADJOURNMENT

McLaughlin requested an update regarding the naming of LRT stations at an upcoming CCMC meeting.

Acting Chair McLaughlin adjourned the September 14, 2011 CCMC meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting – October 12, 2011 @ 1:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major