



## Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

**Date:** May 6, 2008

**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Subject:** **2007 activities of Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization (TMO)**

**Recommendation:**

Receive and file

**Prepared by:** Jon Wertjes, P.E., PTOE, Director, Traffic and Parking Services

**Approved by:**

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Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenters:** Jon Wertjes, P.E., PTOE, Director, Traffic and Parking Services  
Dick Allendorf, Chair, Downtown Minneapolis TMO  
Teresa Wernecke, Executive Director, Downtown Minneapolis TMO

**Reviews**

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval	NA	Date
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Business Plan:  Action is within the plan.  Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

## **Background/Supporting Information**

Mr. Dick Allendorf, Chair, and Ms. Teresa Wernecke, Executive Director, of the Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization (TMO) will be giving a presentation and summary of the TMO's 2007 activities.

The TMO, a public-private partnership, was established in 1991 in response to increasing concerns about meeting air quality standards due to growing congestion levels. Its mission is to promote congestion mitigation strategies and advocate for environmentally sound transportation policies to assure the continuous and orderly growth of downtown Minneapolis and the region.

The TMO Executive Committee, lead by Mr. Allendorf, is comprised of various business sector representatives, downtown residents, and Minneapolis citizens as well as a City Council representative (currently Betsy Hodges) and a Mayor's representative. The TMO Executive Committee members are approved by the City Council and serve renewable three year terms.

The organization's mission is achieved through:

1. Commuter Connection, a transportation information resource store, provides trip-planning, ride matching, carpool registration, transit pass sales, bicycle information and maps, and regional incentives such as Guaranteed Ride Home.
2. Employer Outreach engages employers and building management as partners in reducing congestion. This involves assisting employers/management with implementing commuting benefit packages and programs for employees and taking advantage of regional incentive programs and state and federal tax breaks.
3. Education focused on the downtown community includes sponsoring informational and/or training sessions for downtown community representatives and others on topics of special interest, and communicating electronically via emails, newsletters and website ([www.mplstmo.org](http://www.mplstmo.org)).
4. Advocacy for innovative transportation and transit initiatives and adequate funding. Executive Committee members and/or staff serve on a variety of standing committees and also special focus committees.

The TMO is 80% funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program under the federal SAFETEA-LU Transportation Act. The 20% local match is mostly derived from fee-for-service operations (such as transit pass sales and carpool registrations) plus the limited support from in-kind services from the City of Minneapolis and business community.

The TMO has a staff of four full time employees plus a part-time person.

## **Past TMO recognition**

Over the years the Downtown Minneapolis TMO has earned recognition for its efforts:

- Gold Level achievement (highest possible) in the Race to Excellence with EPA's "Best Workplaces for Commuters" challenge (2005)
- "Best Workplaces for Commuters" employer designated by EPA (2005)
- Minnesota Governor's Award for Excellent in Waste and Pollution Prevention (2002)
- MnGreat Award (2002)
- Regional Commuter Choice Travel Demand Management Advocate award (1996, 2000)
- Minnesota Governor's Office, Certificate of Commendation (1996)
- Certificate of Recognition, EPA and its Transportation Partners (1996)
- Regional Transit Board's Certificate of Appreciation (1992)

**2007 Commuter Choice Awards**

On Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. before the City Council meeting, there will be a reception for 2007 Commuter Choice Award winners from Minneapolis.

## Attachments:

- April 11, 2008 TMO letter
- 2007 Accomplishments presentation PowerPoint
- 2007 Accomplishments Summary Report

Cc: Dick Allendorf, TMO Chair  
Teresa Wernecke, TMO Executive Director