



November 5, 2009

Chuck Ballentine, Senior Administrative Manager
Hennepin County Housing, Transit, and Community Works
417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401

**Community Planning &
Economic Development**

Planning Division

250 South 4th Street – Room 110
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612 673-2597

Fax 612 673-2728

TTY 612 673-2157

Re: Designation of Minneapolis Warehouse District

Dear Mr. Ballentine:

As follow-up to our conversation earlier this week and in response to the request you received from the chair of the Hennepin County Board, I am writing to you on the matter of the local designation of the Minneapolis Warehouse District. As you know, the proposed local district would be expanded to encompass the properties within the boundaries of the existing National Register of Historic Places historic district. This designation will include lands for which Hennepin County is pursuing development of an intermodal passenger rail station that will be known as Interchange Station.

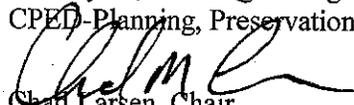
The Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) and the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) recognize the public purpose of this project and the objectives of the policies adopted by the Minneapolis City Council that support the development of a passenger rail facility and associated air rights development on this site.

We appreciate Hennepin County's recognition that enlarging the local designation to coincide with the boundaries of the National Register District will be useful toward developing a consistent framework through which federal, state, and local historic reviews can be undertaken for this very important project. Furthermore, both CPED and the HPC look forward to continued cooperation and collaboration in working with our colleagues at Hennepin County in developing design guidelines that will recognize the flexibility needed in working through practical, logistical considerations for the station while also ensuring the final building project is respectful of the historic fabric on, and adjacent to, this site. To that end, we invite you and your colleagues to attend and participate in the upcoming working session with the HPC on developing guidelines for adoption.

Sincerely,



Jack Byers, Planning Manager
CPED-Planning, Preservation and Design Section



Chad Larsen, Chair
Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission

cc. Commissioner Michael Opat, Chair, Hennepin County Board
Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County Board
Barbara Johnson, President, Minneapolis City Council
Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council
Mike Christensen, CPED, Executive Director
Barbara Sporlein, CPED, Planning Director
Brian Schaffer, CPED, Senior Planner

