



October 29, 2012

David Rubedor, Director
Neighborhood and Community Relations
City of Minneapolis
331 2nd Avenue South, Suite 220
Minneapolis, MN 55401

2012-13 Neighborhood Priority Plan

Dear Mr. Rubedor:

At its meeting on October 10, 2012, the Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) board approved a request to allocate \$10,000 reserved for our 2012-13 Neighborhood Priority Plan in the following manner:

Distribute \$10,000 of 2012-13 Community Participation Program funds in tandem with the following NRP Phase II plan strategy:

1.1.4.1, *Mitigate Adverse Impacts of Southwest LRT*

Objective 4: "Maintain stability of the neighborhood housing stock by minimizing any negative impacts on Cedar Isles Dean neighborhood housing from the SW LRT line in the Kenilworth corridor."

Strategy: "Use of neighborhood NRP funds to mitigate adverse impacts of the location of the SW LRT line through Cedar Isles Dean – the specific actions to be determined."

These funds will be used to address the following priority:

CIDNA Transportation Committee coordination of neighborhood response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for SW LRT and other future SW LRT efforts to mitigate adverse impacts of the location of the SW LRT line through Cedar Isles Dean

Background

The Southwest Light Rail route, running from Eden Prairie to downtown Mpls, has been in discussion since the 1980's. Several routes were under consideration including Route (3E), which was researched, developed and presented by CIDNA Board member Art Higinbotham in 2003. In 2009, the Metropolitan Council determined the Kenilworth trail as the preferred route.

Finally, after many months of delay, the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) was released on Friday, October 12. CIDNA, as well as other affected constituencies, have 60 days to respond. This is an important opportunity for the neighborhood to submit a concise and coordinated response communicating concerns regarding impacts to the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Support

It is simple to demonstrate the fact that the LRT and its affects on housing, the environment, traffic, etc. is a neighborhood priority. In spring of 1993, while beginning to put together the NRP Phase I Action Plan, a postcard survey was done. Light rail transit came up in the responses. Another survey was conducted in August, 2004. Light rail transportation was again included in responses.

In fall of 2009 and spring, 2010, in preparation of the NRP Phase II Action Plan, both a hard copy survey (at Fall Festival) and an online survey were conducted. The following responses were reported:

- Use funds to help mitigate impacts of SW LRT on housing stock – 65% support
- Complete a Small Area Study to provide local input regarding design of SW LRT – 75% support
- Implement initiatives to mitigate traffic issues related to SW LRT – 77% support
- Establish landscaping for visual/noise mitigation – 83% support

Yet another survey was conducted at the 2012 Fall Festival that reconfirmed this priority and ascertained specific expectations and concerns in regard to the SW LRT.

Thank you for your review and approval of this important neighborhood priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Westgate", is written over a large, stylized scribble. To the right of the signature, the date "10/30/12" is written in a similar cursive style.

Craig Westgate, Chair
Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association

Cc: Monica Smith
Jack Whitehurst, NCR