



PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING Meeting Minutes

Date: August 16, 2007
Time: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Location: Room 319, City Hall
Attendees: See attached roster

Agenda

1. Housekeeping
 - a. Minutes from last meeting
 - b. Meetings and presentations
2. Streetcar Feasibility Study – revised draft Final Report
3. Fall Public meetings
4. Status of Other Activities/Next Steps

Summary of Items Discussed

Housekeeping

There were no comments on the July meeting notes.

Streetcar Feasibility Study

Charleen Zimmer reviewed the changes in the revised final report for the Streetcar Feasibility Study.

John DeWitt expressed concern that the Midtown Greenway Coalition has not had sufficient input into the streetcar study and suggested that some members of the PSC submit a minority report. DeWitt explained that the Coalition's primary concern is that the technical information included in previous studies of transit in the Greenway corridor differs from that in the draft final Streetcar Feasibility Study. He also stated that the Coalition believes that the Greenway corridor is not presented as an integral part of the long-term streetcar system.

Charleen Zimmer responded that the Greenway corridor is part of the recommended long-range streetcar system, but that the study concluded that it is not an ideal corridor for growing a streetcar system from a single corridor or portion of a corridor. She suggested that the Coalition submit written comments as part of the public comment process. As with the Downtown Action Plan public comments, all written comments will be published in a summary of the public meetings and public comment. Because the Coalition does not have an official seat on the PSC, their input should be integrated with other public comments.

John VanHeel asked what the process for initiating work on a starter corridor will be. Charleen Zimmer said that the study does not recommend a particular starter corridor and that a few options for proceeding are under consideration: (1) holding a developers forum to better assess development potential and interest by corridor, (2) holding corridor-specific forums, and (3) designating a city staff person to work with individual developers in determining interest and potential for building the first streetcar segment. The City will also likely hire a consultant under a new contract to do an analysis of financing options and a contract for streetcar street design guidelines to guide street reconstruction projects, such as the planned reconstruction of Chicago Avenue. Charleen noted that further discussions with CPED staff about zoning in streetcar corridors should be included in the next steps.

Pat Scott asked how city staff will allocate resources to the streetcar study, given the demands of the 35W bridge reconstruction and of the Urban Partnership Agreement funding to reconstruct 2nd and Marquette. Charleen Zimmer stated that staff has not specifically discussed that issue yet.

Bruce Lambrecht asked if streetcar across the 35W bridge is being considered, should it be a less expensive option. Charleen Zimmer noted that none of the recommended streetcar routes travel along the 35W bridge corridor so an alignment would need to be modified to utilize the bridge.

Kit Richardson commented that the Portland streetcar was mostly started with private sector initiative and that Schafer Richardson is very interested in working with the public sector in moving streetcars forward in Minneapolis. Charleen Zimmer responded that the city needs to determine on a corridor-by-corridor basis where there is adequate developer interest to develop a public-private partnership and whether the necessary financial tools are in place.

John VanHeel asked when a decision on the Southwest LRT alignment through Minneapolis will be made. Katie Walker explained that the draft EIS will be underway by the end of the year and the evaluation of the two Minneapolis routes will be completed in the June-December 2008 timeframe.

Bruce Lambrecht asked how the Hennepin County Board feels about streetcars. Katie Walker stated that the County supports all types of transit and supports the construction of transit facilities in Hennepin County. The County has some concerns with the funding of streetcars and with who leads the process of implementing streetcars on county roads.

John DeWitt asked whether there might be competition for streetcar funding if the Midtown Greenway and another corridor move forward in a parallel timeframe. Charleen Zimmer stated that, similar to early LRT discussion, there may be concerns about competition for resources as corridors move forward.

Fall Public Meetings

Charleen Zimmer stated that staff will go to the Transportation and Public Works Committee to receive and file the Citywide Action Plan and Streetcar Feasibility Study prior to the public

meetings in October. At the next PSC meeting, the revised draft Citywide Action Plan will be presented. PSC members should provide any comments on the Citywide Action Plan as soon as possible to be included in the draft plan presented in September. Charleen will email the PSC information on the public meetings and encouraged PSC members to share it with their contacts.

Status of Other Activities/Next Steps

Charleen Zimmer updated the committee on the Urban Partnership Agreement application, which included funding for reconstructing 2nd and Marquette Avenues in downtown. The UPA application was approved, which moves the most expensive and difficult recommendation of the Downtown Action Plan forward. The two streets must be reconstructed by the end of 2009.

Don Elwood explained that city staff has been strategizing on how to complete this major project in such a short timeframe and have a team of staff working on it.

Kit Richardson suggested that the City look carefully at the issue of utility placement as it relates to tree planting on 2nd and Marquette. This is an issue on which the Tree Advisory Commission has been working.

Darrell Gerber asked whether the implementation of bike lanes on other streets will be accelerated, given the acceleration of the 2nd/Marquette project and subsequent loss of designated bike lanes on those streets. Charleen Zimmer said that the city needs to work with Metro Transit to determine whether and how bikes will be allowed to use the bus lanes on 2nd and Marquette. City staff also needs to review streets in downtown to determine where other bike lanes might be provided. She noted also that bikes will be permitted to use Nicollet Mall 24 hours per day once the transit lanes are constructed on 2nd and Marquette and the bike lanes are removed.

Pat Scott suggested that the December PSC meeting be held on December 13, instead of December 20. Charleen Zimmer stated that the PSC's work will hopefully be completed by December, and no meeting will be necessary. We will revisit the need for a December meeting at the PSC meeting in October after the public meetings.

**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Meeting Date/Time: August 16, 2007, 4:00-6:00 pm

Location: Room 319, City Hall

OFFICIAL MEMBER	NAME	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT
Alternate/PMT	Abegg, Michael	Suburban Transit Representative	
X	Akre, John	Northeast Sub-Area	X
X	Anderson, Richard	Mpls Bicycle Advisory Committee	X
X	Brown, Tim	Mpls Parks	
Alternate/PMT	Byers, Bob	Hennepin County Transportation	
X	Davis, Douglas	Mpls Senior Citizens Adv Commission	
X	Dewar, Caren	Southwest Sub-Area	
X	DeWitt, John	East Sub-Area	X
Staff	Diaz, Nacho	Consultant to CPED	
Consultant	Dock, Fred	Meyer Mohaddes	X
Alternate/PMT	Elliott, Beth	Minneapolis CPED	
PMT	Elwood, Don	Minneapolis Public Works	X
Staff	Flintoft, Anna	Minneapolis Public Works	X
X	Gerber, Darrell	Southwest Sub-Area	X
Alternate/PMT	Gieseke, Mark	Mn/DOT – Metro State Aid	
X	Greenberg, Bob	Downtown Sub-Area Business Rep	
Alternate/PMT	Griffith, John	Mn/DOT Metro	
X	Grube, Jim	Hennepin County	
X	Harrington, Adam	Metro Transit – Service Development	
X	Hay, Steven	Minneapolis CPED	
X	Indieke Cross, Margot	Mpls Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	
Alternate/PMT	Johnson, Tom	Hennepin County Transportation	
X	Johnson, William	Transit Rider Representative	
X	Keysser, Janet	Transit Rider Representative	
X	Kjonaas, Rick	Mn/DOT – SALT	
X	Kotke, Steve	Minneapolis Public Works	
X	Kozlak, Connie	Metropolitan Council	
Consultant	Lutey, Paul	Nelson Nygaard	
Alternate/PMT	Mahowald, Steve	Metro Transit – Service Development	X
X	McLaughlin, Mike	Downtown Council	X
Consultant	Messner, Gina	Meyer Mohaddes	
X	Moe, Susan	FHWA	
X	Morlock, Jan	University of Minnesota	
Consultant	Nelson, Bonnie	Nelson Nygaard	
X	O’Keefe, Tom	Mn/DOT – Metro	

