

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Members Present: Peter Bell, Chair; Tony Pistilli, , Polly Bowles, Peggy Leppik, Lynette Wittsack, Natalie Steffen, Georgeanne Hilker, Sherry Broecker, Rick Aguilar, Kirstin Sersland Beach, Daniel Wolter, Wendy Wulff

Members Absent: Roger Scherer, Robert McFarlin, Craig Peterson, Annette Meeks, Kris Sanda,

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Bell called the Committee of the Whole to order at 4:14 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Leppik, seconded by Hilker to approve the agenda.

INFORMATION / POLICY DISCUSSION

[Southwest Transitway Locally Preferred Alternative](#)

Arlene McCarthy, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services introduced Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman and Katie Walker, Hennepin County Project Manager, who provided background on the Southwest Transitway selection process. Southwest Technical Policy and Advisory Committees conducted feasibility studies, acquired right of way, identified and evaluated many alignments with extensive stakeholder and public involvement and determined a locally preferred alternative (LPA). The LPA3A has the support of all communities served by the route, now known as LRT 3A Kenilworth-Opus-Golden Triangle, serving Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie.

The Governor 2010 Bonding Bill includes \$7Million for Southwest Transitway in addition to the \$5 Million the project received in 2009.

The Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority has been leading development of the Southwest Transitway since the early 1980s. In November 2009, the HCRRA sent a recommendation on the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) to the Council. In order for

the project to progress into Preliminary Engineering, the Council will need to accept the HCRRA recommendation, officially select the LPA and amend it into the region's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). This action will allow the Met Council to become the project sponsor and submit a Federal New Starts application for permission to enter Preliminary Engineering

Presentation topics include (a) all transitway alignments and modes considered, (b) rationale supporting alignment and mode decisions, and (c) key assumptions associated with the LPA recommendation.

The Metropolitan Council is scheduled, on February 24, to adopt the LPA 3A and set a date for a public hearing on a TPP Amendment.

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Update

Mark Fuhrmann, Project Manager, provided a University of Minnesota update and the 2010 schedule. Discussions continue with University of Minnesota staff on the electromagnetic interference (EMI) performance standard limits and the vibration mitigation for impacted buildings.

The US Department of Transportation proposed new funding guidelines for transit projects, based on "livability issues such as economic development opportunities and environmental benefits", in addition to congestion relief, cost and time saved. The change allows full build out of three infill stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western Avenues, funded by City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, CTIB and Central Corridor Funders Collaborative.

Central Corridor Project Office 2010 schedule assumptions include FTA issuing a Letter of No Prejudice for Advanced Traffic Improvement (ATI), and awarding major construction contracts in late summer, with the FTA Full Funding Grant Agreement award coming in late summer or early fall.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Curtiss, Secretary