



## Metropolitan Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Robert Street Council Chambers

4:00 P.M.

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4:00 P.M.

### Part I - Narrative

#### Attendance:

Peter Bell, Chair; Roger Scherer, Tony Pistilli, Mary Hill Smith, Craig Peterson, Russ Susag, Peggy Leppik, Annette Meeks, Lynette Wittsack, Natalie Steffen, Kris Sanda, Georgeanne Hilker, Sherry Broecker, Rick Aguilar, Kirstin Sersland Beach, Daniel Wolter, Brian McDaniel

#### Members absent:

None

#### Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

A quorum being present, the Chair called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:09 p.m. It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Wittsack to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

#### Minutes

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Broecker, to approve the minutes of the Metropolitan Council Meeting of February 13, 2008. Motion carried.

#### Public Invitation

No one asked to address the Council regarding matters not on today's agenda.

### Part II - Exhibits

#### Business

##### *Committee Consent List*

[2007-352](#) - Request for Acquisition Opportunity Grant to Partially Finance Acquisition of Lakeside Ballroom as Part of Lake Waconia Regional Park and Request for Reimbursement Consideration in Future Regional Parks CIP for Local Match, Carver County

It was moved by Susag and seconded by Steffen

"That the Metropolitan Council:

1. authorize a grant of \$1,000,000 to Carver County comprised of \$600,000 from the 2007 State Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation and \$400,000 of Metropolitan Council bonds in the State Acquisition Grant Account of the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund. The grant will partially finance the lakeshore land associated with the Lakeside Ballroom Parcel in Lake Waconia Regional Park as shown on Attachment 2;
2. allow up to \$1,530,000 of costs incurred and financed by Carver County for acquiring the Lakeside Ballroom Parcel minus the lease revenue the County receives from the seller to be eligible for reimbursement consideration in a future regional park CIP. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement;

3. request that Carver County submit a copy of the lease agreement on the Lakeside Ballroom and report the lease revenue referenced in Recommendation 2 to the Metropolitan Council.”

Motion carried.

[2008-01](#) - Central Anoka County Regional Trail-East Alignment Master Plan and Request for Reimbursement Consideration in 2008-09 CIP, Anoka County (Referral No. 20140-1)

It was moved by Susag and seconded by Steffen

“That the Metropolitan Council:

1. approve the Central Anoka County Regional Trail—East Alignment Master Plan (Referral No. 20140-1);
2. approve the request to consider reimbursing Anoka County up to \$125,000 in the 2008-09 regional parks capital improvement program for the construction of a portion of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail-East Alignment. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Motion carried.

[2008-06](#) - Rush Creek Regional Trail Master Plan, Three Rivers Park District (Referral No. 20144-1)

It was moved by Susag and seconded by Steffen

“That the Metropolitan Council:

1. approve the Rush Creek Regional Trail Master Plan (Referral No. 20144-1);
2. require that prior to development of new trail segments, final plans be sent to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review and comment to ensure the integrity of the interceptor system.”

Motion carried.

[2008-37](#) - Request for Acquisition Opportunity Grant to Partially Finance the Acquisition of 350 Water Street in Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Park, City of St. Paul

It was moved by Susag and seconded by Steffen

“That the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of \$122,726 comprised of Metropolitan Council bonds in the Land Acquisition Opportunity Account portion of the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to the City of St. Paul. The grant will partially finance the land and structure associated with the 350 Water Street Parcel in Harriet Island-Lilydale Regional Park as shown on Attachment 2.”

Motion carried.

[2008-41](#) - Amendment to Minnetonka Beach’s Park and Open Space Element Adding Regional Trail

It was moved by Susag and seconded by Steffen

“That the Metropolitan Council:

1. allow the City of Minnetonka Beach to put the comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2. advise the City to:
  - include a description of its I/I program in the 2008 comprehensive plan update.
  - review their local surface water management plan against the policies and required elements of the Council's *Water Resources Management Policy Plan*."

Motion carried.

#### *Report of the Environment Committee*

There was no report this week.

#### *Report of the Management Committee*

There was no report this week.

#### *Report of the Transportation Committee*

##### 2008-50 SW - 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment: UPA Funding (TAB Action 2008-06)

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Pistilli

"That the Metropolitan Council:

concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the remaining \$45.8 million in federal UPA funds (VPP, IMD, TCSP and RITA) contingent upon receipt of state enabling legislation and the local funding match and that:

Federal funding sources can be changed without amending the TIP; MnDOT holds the TIP approval letter from the Metropolitan Council until the enabling legislation and local match are approved.

Motion carried.

#### *Report of the Community Development Management Committee*

All items are on the Consent List

#### **Other Business**

##### Central Corridor LRT Scope Scenarios

Mark Fuhrmann introduced the presentations. Robin Kaufman reviewed the public involvement activities. Council Member Sersland Beach, Co-Chair of the Central Corridor Community Advisory Committee (CAC), summarized the Committee work, noting they reached a consensus on Scenario B.

Mark Fuhrmann and Dan Soler presented a technical update and responded to questions. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is not specific about the amount of mitigation required on each project. Mitigation could be required at University Avenue intersections impacted as a direct result of the LRT project.

Chair Bell noted the Central Corridor Management Committee was clear that, if the FTA increases the CEI or further engineering studies result in reduced cost estimates creating additional resources, first claim would be for one infill station. While this recommendation is not an official part of the Council

motion, the record shows the CCMC's clear intent for one infill station, noting Council staff would work with City of St. Paul and Ramsey County officials to identify the station. Adoption of today's motion narrows the project vision, allowing staff to continue working with University of Minnesota officials on the design and Washington Avenue mitigation issues.

Chair Bell thanked the project principal partners (Central Corridor Management Committee), St. Paul Mayor Coleman, Ramsey County officials, Minneapolis Mayor Rybak, Hennepin County officials, and University of Minnesota officials for their diligence and dedication on difficult compromises, mindful of the CEI and timeframe. Bringing together the CCMC, along with state and federal officials was a major undertaking and all participants should be proud of their work.

Chair Bell and Council Members expressed deepest thanks to the Central Corridor Project Staff, particularly Mark Fuhrmann, Dan Soler, and Rich Rovang, for their detailed analysis and Council Member Sersland Beach, Robin Kaufman, and the Outreach Coordinators, for the public process involved in bringing the Central Corridor LRT project to this important juncture.

#### 2008-64 - Central Corridor LRT Scope Decisions

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Susag

"That the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed Central Corridor Action as attached directing the Central Corridor Project Office to:

1. proceed with preliminary engineering and make application to the Federal Transit Administration to move the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project to final design with the features as itemized in the attachment; and
2. continue to work with project stakeholders on mitigation measures, and other unresolved issues, throughout the balance of preliminary engineering."

Council Member Wolter recused himself from any discussion and vote on this issue.

Council Member McDaniel recognized University of Minnesota officials for their spirit of compromise, recognizing the project design limitations.

Council Member Aguilar noted the building of the LRT is an historical change for the city of St. Paul and will benefit the multi-cultural community and businesses located on the Central Corridor.

Council Member Sersland Beach said the Community Advisory Committee knows the importance of adhering to the goals of the project: improving mobility, easing congestion and strengthening communities. She remains adamant these goals are met, while being concerned with the financial aspect of the project.

Council Member Pistilli stated this probably is not the best line that could be built, but in reality it's probably the best line that can be built.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

					<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
	Scherer	Susag	Sanda	Sersland Beach		Meeks	Wolter
	Pistilli	Leppik	Hilker	McDaniel			
	M. Smith	Wittsack	Broecker	Bell			
	Peterson	Steffen	Aguilar				
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**Reports**

There were no reports from the Chair, Council Members, Regional Administrator, or the General Counsel.

**Adjournment**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45

**Part III - Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council Meeting of February 27, 2008.

Approved this 12th day of March, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Curtiss  
Secretary