



Other Business

Business Item

Item: 2008-176 SW

Metropolitan Council Meeting Date: June 25, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	June 21, 2008
Subject:	Central Corridor Light Rail Project Memorandum of Understanding
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Resolution 2008-11
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the attached Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Council, Regents of the University of Minnesota, the city of Minneapolis, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and Hennepin County dealing with mitigation of traffic and other environmental impacts in and around the University’s Twin Cities Campus due to the construction of the Central Corridor LRT Project.

Background

The Metropolitan Council adopted Resolution 2008-11 on May 28, 2008 reaffirming its action of February 27, 2008 directing the Central Corridor Project Office to proceed with Preliminary Engineering including among other features a University of Minnesota at-grade Transit/Pedestrian Mall on Washington Avenue with no vehicular traffic except light rail vehicles, buses and emergency vehicles.

The Regents of the University of Minnesota adopted a resolution on June 13, 2008 stating the University will pursue the Washington Avenue at-grade with a Transit/Pedestrian Mall alternative for the Central Corridor LRT through the University campus with necessary agreements to achieve a number of objectives.

Both the Council and Regents’ resolutions required the development of a memorandum of understanding focusing on mitigation measures in the University Twin Cities Campus area.

Rationale

The preferred alignment of Central Corridor LRT at-grade on Washington Avenue generates the highest ridership and the lowest Cost-Effectiveness Index while creating traffic impacts. The attached MOU provides specific detail defining the mitigation measures and funding commitments, identifying betterments and related advocacy for funding and references environmental and historical preservation issues.

Funding

The Central Corridor LRT Project budget of \$892 million currently includes \$6.9 million for baseline work and \$24.6 million for mitigation measures caused by the creation of the at-grade Transit/Pedestrian Mall on Washington Avenue. A third category of stakeholder identified improvements referred to as “betterments” are not included in the project scope or budget. The MOU commits all the parties to pursuing all eligible funding sources for these betterments including, but not limited to: federal transportation funds, state general obligation bonds and local funds available from their respective capital improvement programs.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Council, Regents of the University of Minnesota, city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and Hennepin County all support the Central Corridor LRT alignment at-grade on Washington Avenue operating with light rail vehicles, buses and emergency vehicles. Furthermore, the parties all agree on the need for creation of the attached Memorandum of Understanding addressing mitigation measures for traffic and environmental issues created by the Washington Avenue at-grade alignment. There is no known opposition to the MOU.

ATTACHMENT: [MOU](#)