

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

**MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**
Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Committee Members Present: Chair Peter Bell, Roger Scherer, Mary Hill Smith, Russ Susag, Peggy Leppik, Lynette Wittsack, Natalie Steffen, Kris Sanda, Georgie Hilker, Rick Aguilar, Dan Wolter

Members Absent: Tony Pistilli, Annette Meeks, Chris Georgacas, Brian McDaniel, District 4 Vacant, District 14 Vacant

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Peter Bell called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 4:05 PM. It was moved by Steffen, seconded by Sanda to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

INFORMATION / POLICY DISCUSSION

A. [Central Corridor Light Rail Transit \(CCLRT\) Project Update](#)

Judd Schetnan, Manager of Government Affairs, provided a status report on the Council's legislative initiatives. The Legislature is expected to adjourn Monday, May 21.

Mark Fuhrmann, Project Director, presented a detailed update of the Central Corridor project activities.

- CCLRT Project office managers were introduced Gary Berger, Administration, Public Involvement, Robin Caufman; Construction Chris Weyer, Communication, Lara Baenen, and Design, Jim Alexander.
- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) asked for a Comprehensive Project Management Plan that details how the Project will manage the scope, schedule and costs, an updated financial plan including an overall project budget, a fleet management plan and a real estate management plan,
- Staff updates will be presented throughout the preliminary engineering phase so Council members can determine the project viability before large amounts of dollars are spent.
- The FTA requires an environmental (NEPA) review before moving into final design.
- The \$45M Preliminary Engineering budget is part of the overall project cost. The partners' advance share in PE will be made up by federal dollars once the full funding agreement is signed,. The FTA's commitment to the project will be final when a full funding (and binding) agreement is signed.
- **SCHEDULE:**
 - 2007 Preliminary Engineering
 - 2009 Final design
 - 2010 Begin Construction
 - 2014 Revenue Service

Chair Bell noted there is not one transit project going forward in the US today, that has not had to make compromises based on cost. The Central Corridor Management Committee (CCMC) has discussed alternatives and agree the funding partners will not make their funding contingent on predetermined results. Chair Bell stressed the importance of being respectful of all partners' visions. The CCMC will study three termination routes to the Depot.

Arlene McCarthy, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services and Robin Cauffman summarized the various community committees. All information is funneled through the CCMC, who represent all partners and advise the Metropolitan Council. Other committees include the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Central Corridor Partnership (CCP), Project Advisory Committee (PAC), Communication Steering Committee (CSC), Land Use Coordinating Committee (LUCC) and the Business Advisory Council (BAC).

Councilmember M. Smith asked that the following items be placed on the May 23 Metropolitan Council agenda. Mark Fuhrmann will present comments on each item and will respond to questions from Councilmembers.

- 2007-184 Authorization to Approve a Professional Service Contract for Environmental Services, Project 65701 Central Corridor LRT
- 2007-191 Master Funding Agreement with MN Department of Transportation for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project
- 2007-196 Cooperative Funding Agreement for Central Corridor LRT, Preliminary Engineering with Ramsey and Hennepin Counties Regional Railroad Authorities
- 2007-190 Lease Agreement with Griggs-Midway Corporation for the Permanent Location of the Central Corridor Project Office

OTHER

Chair Bell announced the Community Development Committee is hosting a bus tour for Council Members on Monday, June 4, 2007. The tour, focusing on development issues in St. Paul, Roseville, Little Canada, Arden Hills, Blaine, Mounds View, New Brighton and Falcon Heights, will begin at the Council's offices at 1:30 and end return to the Council offices at 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned 5:47 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Curtiss, Recording Secretary