

T Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 25,
2010

Item: 2010-278
SW

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date August 24, 2010
Prepared:
Subject: Resolution in Support of the 2010 Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update

Proposed Action:

That the Council approve the attached Resolution supporting the draft 2010 Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Cole Hiniker introduced Sam O'Connell, staff from Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA). O'Connell presented an overview of the Cedar Avenue Implementation Plan Update.

Hiniker and O'Connell answered questions about the Cedar Avenue Implementation Plan Update and the purpose of the resolution of support. Dakota County Regional Rail Authority has requested a resolution of support from all implementation partners in the Cedar Avenue transitway.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Leppik and passed.

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: August 23, 2010
Council Meeting August 25, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	August 4, 2010
Subject:	Resolution in Support of the 2010 Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2030 Transportation Policy Plan
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director (651-602-1058) Cole Hiniker, Planner (651-602-1748)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Council approve the attached Resolution supporting the draft 2010 Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update.

Background

The Cedar Avenue Transitway project is being led by Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA). The Cedar Avenue Transitway is one of the first bus rapid transit projects to be implemented in the region. The project comes with significant challenges in timing and funding. The Implementation Plan is the guiding document for investment and timing decisions.

A recent influx of funding from the Urban Partnership Agreement and the Counties Transit Improvement Board in the past few years has advanced many components of the transitway, identified as "Phase I" in the existing Implementation Plan, ahead of schedule.

DCRRA has led the effort on updating the Implementation Plan to reflect these advancements and refine the short-term and long-term implementation needs for the Transitway. The draft 2010 Implementation Plan Update includes additional project elements, updated service recommendations, an updated staging plan, and complete estimated project costs through 2030.

The draft 2010 plan is available at <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/EnvironmentRoads/Transit/Cedar/Updates.htm>

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council is a project stakeholder and partner with DCRRA, providing both technical support to the planning and implementation process and financial support through federal, state, and regional funding sources. DCRRA has requested support for the draft 2010 Implementation Plan Update from implementation partners in the Transitway corridor, including all local communities.

Council staff recommends that the Met Council adopt a resolution of support for the draft 2010 Implementation Plan Update contingent upon the final plan presenting ridership data consistent with other regional transitways as well as acknowledging the uncertainty of demand at Lakeville stations for station-to-station service in 2012 and conducting additional analysis prior to finalizing the 2012 service plan.

Funding

The 2010 Implementation Plan Update was funded through the Metropolitan Council with State General Obligation Bonds appropriated for the Cedar Avenue Transitway. Implementing the plan for Cedar Avenue will require additional capital and operating resources from various funding sources, including the Council and CTIB.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
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RESOLUTION NO. 2010-25
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2010 CEDAR AVENUE TRANSITWAY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

Whereas, The Metropolitan Council is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, which means it is required by the federal government to provide a continuing, coordinated, comprehensive transportation planning process.

Whereas, The Metropolitan Council has adopted the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan*, which identifies the Cedar Avenue BRT as a transitway to be implemented between 2008 and 2020.

Whereas, The Cedar Avenue transitway has advanced significantly since the last Implementation Plan was completed, as a result of special funding from the Urban Partnership Agreement and the Counties Transit Improvement Board, and the advancement was made possible by the existence of the Implementation Plan.

Whereas, The Implementation Plan is an important component of ensuring a coordinated, timely, and cost-effective transit investment in the region.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Metropolitan Council supports the Draft 2010 Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update adopted by the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) contingent upon the following requested changes communicated by Council staff to DCRRA on August 3, 2010 being incorporated into the final document:

1. Changes to the presentation of ridership and financial information to be consistent with other regional transitways.
2. Changes to recognize the uncertainty of Lakeville station-to-station transit service demand in 2012 and conduct additional analysis prior to finalizing the 2012 service plan.