

District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
 Central Corridor Resource Center (old Lexington Library)
 1080 University Ave W, St Paul

Wednesday December 12, 2007

Notes of Discussion

---No Quorum Was Present for the Governing Council Meeting---

Chair: Anne White
 Secretary: Frank Schweigert

The chair welcomed visitors at 7:15 p.m.

The secretary called the roll:

Member Organizations	Representatives	Present and Voting
District Council 6 (North End, South Como)	None	
District Council 7 (Frogtown)	Karen Inman	Present
District Council 8 (Summit-University)	Steve Wilson	Excused
District Council 10 (Midway-Como)	Sehoya Cotner	Absent
District Council 11 (Hamline-Midway Coalition)	Frank Schweigert	Present
District Council 12 (St. Anthony Park)	Amy Sparks	Absent
District Council 13 (Merriam Park, Snell-Ham, Lex-Ham)	Anne White	Present
District Council 14 (Macalester-Groveland Com. Council)	Joel Clemmer	Present
District Council 16 (Summit Hill Association)	Melissa Sutherland	Absent
District Council 17 (Capitol River)	Bob Spaulding	Absent
PPERRIA (Prospect Park-East River Road Improvement Association)	Phil Anderson	Present
SECIA (Southeast Como Improvement Association)	Lynn Anderson	Absent
Marcy-Holmes	Doug Carlson	Absent
Cedar Riverside-West Bank Coalition	Rosemary Knutson	Absent
University of Minnesota Area Community	Ron Lischeid	Present
	Alternates	
District Council 6 (North End, South Como)	None	
District Council 7 (Frogtown)		
District Council 8 (Summit-University)	Tim Jorrison	Absent
District Council 10 (Midway-Como)	Marcy Micek	Absent
District Council 11 (Hamline-Midway)	Mike Dean	Present
District Council 12 (St. Anthony Park)		
District Council 13 (Snell-Ham, Lex-Ham, Merriam Park)	Sheila Sahu	Present
District Council 16 (Summit Hill Association)		
District Council 17 (Capitol River)		
PPERRIA (Prospect Park-East River Road Improvement Association)	Susan Larson-Fleming	Absent
SECIA (Southeast Como Improvement Association)	Lisa Hasebrock	Absent
Marcy-Holmes		
Cedar Riverside (West Bank Community Coalition)	Xan Cassiel	Absent
University of Minnesota Area Community		

DECISIONS and ACTIONS (none possible)

REPORTS and DISCUSSION

1. Quorum. It was suggested to remove District 6 from the roll of member organizations for lack of participation. The secretary consulted the by-laws and noted that a 2/3 majority of representatives of the current members could remove any member organization. The chair preferred that District 6 be reminded of the importance of participation and be given an opportunity to send a representative or remove itself; and she directed the secretary to contact District 6 with this message. [Note: the secretary left a voice mail message to this effect the evening of Dec. 12, 2007. Similar action was taken earlier in the fall.]
2. Report on Additional Stations. The chair distributed copies of the Preliminary Community Report, *Central Corridor LRT Stations at Western, Victoria, and Hamline Avenues*. She reported that this report was distributed through e-mail to all members of the Central Corridor Management Committee (CCMC) last evening, and the CCMC Chair invited the DCC chair to make an oral report to the CCMC at the beginning of its meeting today. The report was cited repeatedly in the CCMC's meeting, and the CCMC decided to hold two additional public meetings to get community input on transit services.
In regard to urging reconsideration of the cost effectiveness index (CEI), the report's recommendations will be examined by CCMC staff. Concerns were voiced, however, about opening the "black box" of the current CEI under which the Central Corridor LRT has received approval to proceed; there are no guarantees that a change in the formula would work to the advantage of this project. DCC members pointed out that the research supports supplementing the current CEI with a different CEI for urban connector lines—rather than a reformulation of the current CEI.
3. Next steps. The Community Liaison reported on next steps as follows:
 - the report will be presented to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) on Dec. 20;
 - presentations on the report are being given to community organizations and DCC member organizations as requested;
 - the DCC is continuing to work with Rep. Hausman and other legislators regarding funding of the Central Corridor project;
 - the DCC is continuing to work with Rep. McCollum and other members of the Congressional delegation regarding the FTA's funding formula and decisions;
 - the DCC will advocate that the City of Saint Paul include the Additional Stations in planning discussions regarding the downtown;
 - the DCC is keeping track of community members interested in supporting this effort, to contact them regarding future actions.
4. DCC research agenda. The chair pointed out that the current research agenda will be revised at the January meeting and members should begin proposing priorities for future work. The following concerns were noted:
 - the University of Minnesota (U of M) continues to advocate for a grade separated route under Washington Avenue as its first priority, with a realignment along University and 4th Avenue to a 35W bridge crossing as a secondary option;
 - the proposed bus schedule should be examined, in light of its support for the additional stations recommendations;

- new bridge standards are being promulgated by the federal government and may affect Central Corridor crossings;
 - Metropolitan State University is launching a Deliberative Democracy project on transportation policy and funding (including transit concerns) in winter-spring 2008, including a random sample poll of metro area adults, followed by a day-long deliberation on March 15.
5. Report on origins and destinations of bus use at Victoria and University. U of M students reported the results of their survey of 362 homes within ¼ mile of the intersection:
 - 131 adults responded;
 - 46% take the No. 16 bus (50% of these riding 3+ times per week);
 - 15% take the No. 50 bus (42% of these riding 3+ times per week);
 - 31% of all bus riders are destined for Minneapolis (downtown or U of M);
 - 27% of all riders are destined for downtown Saint Paul;
 - 24% of all bus riders are destined for locations along University Avenue;
 - 61% of all respondents own a car;
 - 31% of all respondents do not own a car.
 6. Report on station configurations—national comparison study. U of M student presented his study of station configurations in U.S. cities with similar urban connector LRT lines.
 - The literature search revealed no previous investigations into the relationship between station configuration and economic development; however, the studies of station area develops identified the following factors as contributing to a successful stations: quality, safe pedestrian access; a station connected to the surrounding community, including effective management of traffic flows; and a station with its own sense of “place.”
 - Case studies of Salt Lake City, Portland, Denver, and Houston yielded several key points in considering the impact of station configuration on development: 1) LRT line alignment relative to the street has more impact than station configuration (e.g., exclusive right-of-way for track reduces conflicts between trains and cars, but does not have the same potential for transforming the street and surrounding neighborhoods as a station integrated into the street); 2) implementing station area economic development plans is challenging and takes time; and 3) overall goals of the LRT projects and unique site considerations guide station configuration and give shape to how station areas function. A “Q & A” sheet based on this research was prepared to share what was learned with the public.
 7. Financial report. The DCC treasurer presented the Financial Report, showing income and expenses for the period, with comparison to the annual budget.
 8. Next meeting. The next Governing Council meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2008.