



# DISTRICT COUNCILS COLLABORATIVE

*of Saint Paul & Minneapolis*

Monthly Update — January 27, 2008

651-249-6877 • [www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org](http://www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org)

Next Governing Council Meeting: Wed., February 13, 2008 • 7 to 9 PM • Central Corridor Resource Center

## **ACTION ALERT — Central Corridor “Listening Sessions”**

February 6 • Noon–2 p.m. • University of Minnesota, Weisman Museum, 333 East River Rd., Mpls

February 7 • 5:30–7:30 p.m. • Metro Transit Fred Heywood Offices, 560 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., N., Mpls

February 11 • 5:30–7:30 p.m. • Met Council Chambers, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul

Chair Bell has requested members of the Met Council and the Central Corridor Management Committee to attend these sessions. The Met Council is unaccustomed to hearing directly from neighborhood organizations. This is an opportunity to voice your comments and to underscore the importance of working with community organizations when regional projects directly impact neighborhoods. The Governing Council is asking each member organization to recruit **5 people** to the session that fits best for his/her schedule. Please watch for further communications.

## **Central Corridor Issues and DCC Activities**

### **Advocacy for Stations at Western, Victoria, and Hamline**

In November, the DCC Governing Council passed a resolution in strong support of LRT stations at Western, Victoria, and Hamline and made advocacy for these stations its top priority. To that end, we have continued working independently and with community partners on a number of advocacy strategies.

- **November 29, 2007 Community Meeting**, Lao Family Center—Co-sponsored by the DCC and nine other community organizations, the community meeting featured a presentation of research commissioned by the DCC, comments from seven elected officials and/or their aides in support of these stations, and comments from community members and organizations.
- The DCC prepared a **Community Report** on the additional stations. It includes a summary of the research findings, written comments from community members, and letters of support. This report was distributed widely, including Met Council Chair Peter Bell, Central Corridor Management Committee (CCMC), elected officials, and the press.
- Anne White was invited by Chair Bell to present DCC research findings at the **December 13, 2007 meeting of the CCMC**. Her presentation prompted much discussion and opened new avenues for further consideration of these stations.
- Anne White and Carol Swenson co-authored an **Opinion/Editorial**, which was published in the **Pioneer Press on December 20, 2007**. It outlined our key arguments in response to a December 14, 2007 Pioneer Press article dismissing the additional stations.
- At the **December 20, 2007 Community Advisory Committee** meeting, Central Corridor Project Staff and consultants presented their findings on the additional stations. The DCC, along with many community partners, worked to turn out community members and organizations to hear their report and ask follow-up questions. Between 25 and 30 people participated, including Reggie Aligada, Community Representative on the CCMC and Council Member-elect Melvin Carter.
- **January 11, 2008**, Steve Wilson and Carol Swenson from the DCC and Brian McMahon and Linda Winsor from University UNITED met with **Central Corridor Project staff and consultants** to discuss Central Corridor Project findings on the additional stations—in particular regional transportation model data inputs for Hamline (a special interested of University UNITED)—and Project staff willingness to explore with the FTA the possible use of **“Direct Ridership Modeling”** to supplement ridership data from the regional transportation model. The Met Council responded to regional modeling questions and expressed no interest in contacting the FTA.
- The DCC has continued **convening community organizations** to develop and implement advocacy strategies for the **“Transportation Equity and Stops for Us Campaign.”** The goal is to influence the upcoming (February 27, 2008) Met Council decision on the major elements of the Central Corridor Alignment. Strategies include: 1) reactivating the “Stops For Us” web site and using it to launch an on-line advocacy petition; 2) securing elected officials’ signatures for a “Sign-On” letter to Chair Bell and the Met Council; and 3) ensuring maximum participation in the February 11, Met Council “Listening Session”. The DCC did request that the Met Council hold a “Listening Session” on University Avenue, but that request was denied.

- The DCC continued to **meet regularly with elected and appointed officials**, including: Ramsey County Commissioners Toni Carter, Rafael Ortega, and Janice Rettman, State Representative Alice Hausman, Congresswoman Betty McCollum’s aide, Fred Gates, Mayor Coleman, and Reggie Aligada, the Citizens’ representative on the Central Corridor Management Committee. Meetings will be arranged with Commissioner Jan Parker, new County Board Chair, Commissioner Jim McDonough, the new Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority Chair, and new Saint Paul City Council Members Melvin Carter and Russ Stark. Carol Swenson had a brief meeting with Congressman Keith Ellison. He is concerned about Transportation Equity and sent staff to advocacy meeting.
- DCC **member organizations** have been asked to **consider resolutions and letters in support** of the additional stations. Some member organizations have taken action already; others have taken the request into consideration. To support this request, Carol Swenson is making presentations to committees or boards as invited.
- February will be an intense month of decision-making and negotiations. The DCC will advocate and exert influence in support of these stations as events unfold.

**Cleveland Avenue Station Resolution Passed**

At its January meeting, the DCC Governing Council passed a resolution in support of asking the Met Council to include study of a Cleveland Station as changes to the line are taken into consideration. Although current land use at this intersection is industrial, the St. Anthony Park Community Council envisions a future land use of mixed development. Cleveland is also on a bus route that serves university/college campuses and residential neighborhoods north and south of the intersection. Finally, a station at Cleveland would be consistent with the DCC’s proposal of ½-mile station spacing in urban neighborhoods.

**CCLRT Planning Process and the Met Council**

❖ **Met Council/Central Corridor 2008 Critical Milestones**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
<b>Central Corridor LRT</b>									
Key Scope Information									
Key Scope Decisions									
Circulate SDEIS									
PE Plans to 30%									
City/County Approval of PE									
Update cost estimates									
Request to enter Final Design									

- ❖ **CC Management Committee (CCMC)**—The CCMC is meeting every other week from 12:00 noon to 3:30 PM in order to hear and discuss studies of all the project components and to formulate a recommendation to the Met Council, which votes on the final project. The next meeting of the CCMC is February 13 in the Met Council Chambers.
- ❖ **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**—The December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CAC was largely devoted to presentation of the Additional Stations Study conducted by the project staff/consultants. The January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting included presentations of studies of University Avenue reconstruction, various bridges, and West Bank station design. The next meeting is February 21 at Goodwill/Easter Seals building.
- ❖ **Met Council**—On February 27, the Met Council will vote on key project components, such as the University of Minnesota alignment, St. Paul Union Depot alignment, and stations at Western, Victoria, and Hamline.

**Governing Council Membership**

**Patricia Carlson** is the new representative from District 6 (North End/South Como). **Justin Hamilton** and **John Mazzitello** will serve as first and second alternates respectively.

**Anthony Fernandez** will serve as the alternate for District 7 (Frogtown/Thomas-Dale).

**Renee Lepreau** is the new representative for District 12 (St. Anthony Park Community Council).

**Rosemary Knutson** resigned as the representative of the West Bank Community Council (WBCC). We thank her for her service and for her valuable insights. WBCC is recruiting a new representative.

**DCC Executive Committee and Staff:** **Anne White**, Chair, District 13; **Steve Wilson**, Vice Chair, Summit-University, **Frank Schweigert**, Secretary, Hamline-Midway; **Ron Lischeid**, Treasurer, University District Improvement Association; **Phil Anderson**, Member-at-Large, Prospect Park/East River Road Improvement Association; and **Carol Swenson**, Community Liaison.

The District Councils Collaborative wishes to gratefully acknowledge funding support from **The Saint Paul Foundation** and the **F.R. Bigelow Foundation**.