



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: September 25, 2012

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study Update

Recommendation: Receive and file update on the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study.

Previous Directives:

- May 25, 2012 – City Council authorized the proper City officers to negotiate and execute a contract with URS Corporation to provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis for urban circulator transit services in the Nicollet Avenue and Central Ave corridor in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 for the period ending December 31, 2013.
- September 23, 2011 – City Council authorized the proper City officers to issue a Request for Proposals for professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis for urban circulator transit services in the Nicollet Ave and Central Ave corridor, pursuant to Permanent Review Committee approval.
- June 17, 2011 – City Council authorized execution of a subrecipient agreement with the Metropolitan Council to accept a \$900,000 Federal Transit Administration grant and provide a \$300,000 local match to conduct an alternatives analysis for urban circulator transit services in the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridor.
- July 2, 2010 – City Council authorized the proper city officers to submit an application for federal Alternatives Analysis Program funding and/or TIGER II planning grant funding to conduct an alternatives analysis for an initial streetcar line within the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridors.
- April 2, 2010 – City Council approved the long-term streetcar network as defined in the Minneapolis Streetcar Feasibility Study Final Report dated December 2007; authorized staff to engage partner agencies and private stakeholders and assemble the appropriate information from existing studies and additional study as needed to determine whether the City should enter into the federal project development process and appropriate phasing; and directed staff to return to T&PW Committee at least quarterly with a report on streetcars.
- March 23, 2010 – T&PW received & filed the Minneapolis Streetcar Funding Study.
- January 22, 2008 – T&PW received and filed Minneapolis Streetcar Feasibility Study Final Report.

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Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner

Reviews:

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Not Applicable
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan:	Not Applicable
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Not Applicable

Financial Impact: None

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: The study and upcoming open houses have been advertised via a press release, Facebook and Twitter postings, emails to stakeholder organizations, meetings with stakeholder organizations, a project email list, a project website, and a project advisory committee.

City Goals: Connected Communities.

Comprehensive Plan: Improving the quality of transit service on the Primary Transit Network is consistent with the transportation goals in the Comprehensive Plan.

Zoning Code: Not Applicable.

Background/Supporting Information

In late 2007, the City completed a streetcar feasibility study that identified a long-term network of seven modern streetcar corridors. In 2010, the City Council prioritized the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridors as the best place to start implementation of the long-term network and directed staff to seek grant funds to conduct an Alternatives Analysis study for the Nicollet-Central Corridor. The City was subsequently awarded a \$900,000 competitive grant from the Federal Transit Administration to conduct the Alternatives Analysis. Work on the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study began last summer, and the first stage of public engagement for the study is underway.

The Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives study will identify a preferred transit enhancement which could serve as a first phase of a longer-range vision for transit service throughout the 9.2-mile corridor, which extends from the 46th Street/I-35W Transit Station and Nicollet Avenue on the south, through Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis, and to the Columbia Heights Transit Center on the north via Central Avenue. The Project will determine the benefits, costs and impacts of implementing a variety of transit modes and service types, including streetcar and enhanced bus options, to identify a locally preferred alternative for inclusion in the Metropolitan Council's long-range transportation policy plan and subsequent implementation.

A series of three open house meetings is scheduled to give the public an opportunity to learn about the modern streetcar and enhanced bus options being considered for the Nicollet-Central Corridor and to share their ideas on improving transit service.

- 11 A.M.-1 P.M., Wednesday, September 26, 2012
Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
- 5:30-7:30 P.M., Wednesday, September 26, 2012
5th Precinct Police Station, 3101 Nicollet Avenue S
- 5:30-7:30 P.M., Thursday, September 27, 2012
Eastside Food Co-Op, 2551 Central Avenue NE

More information on the study is available on the website: www.minneapolismn.gov/nicollet-central.

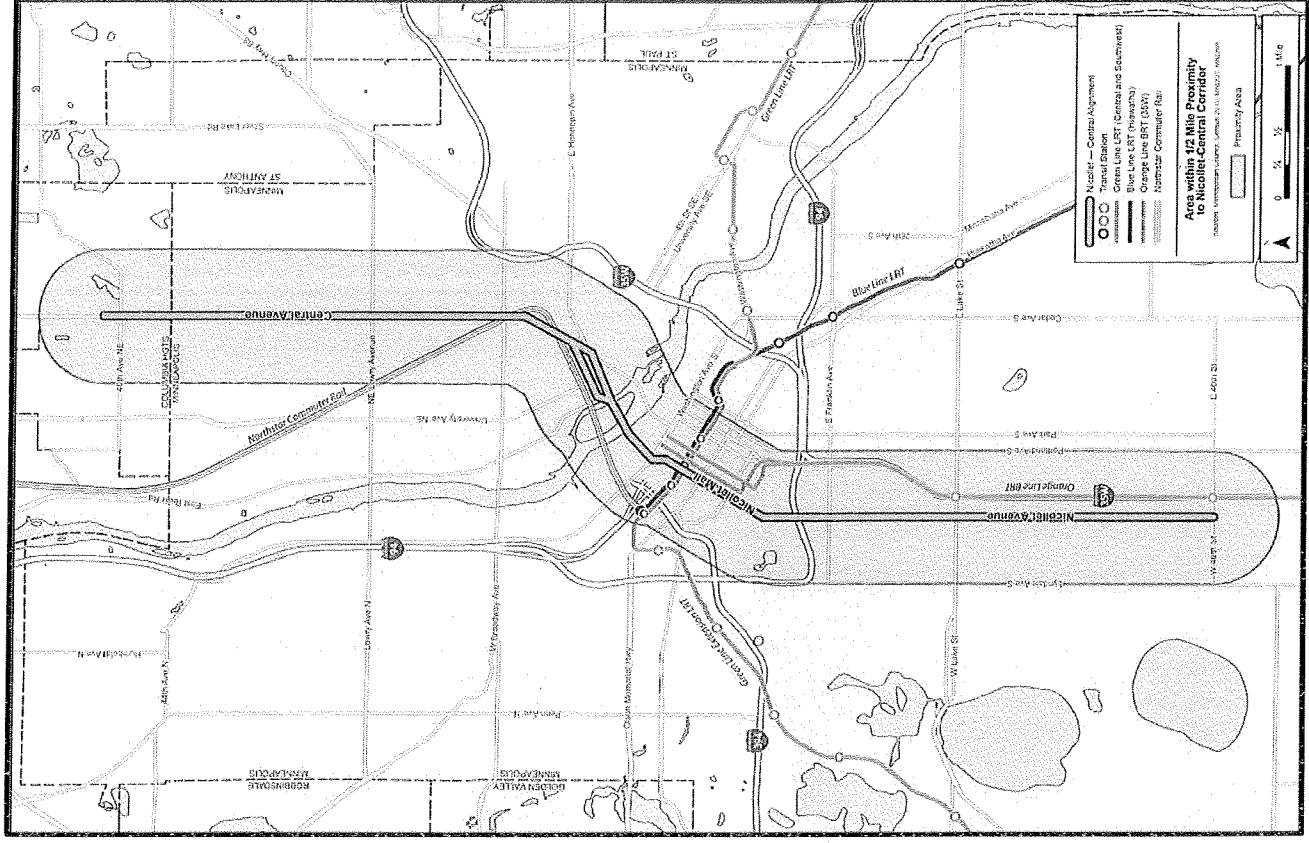
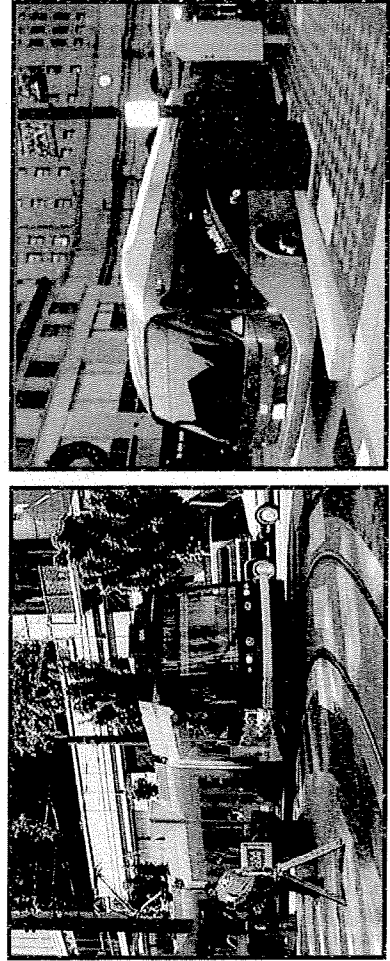
Attachment: Project Summary

NICOLLET-CENTRAL TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES PROJECT

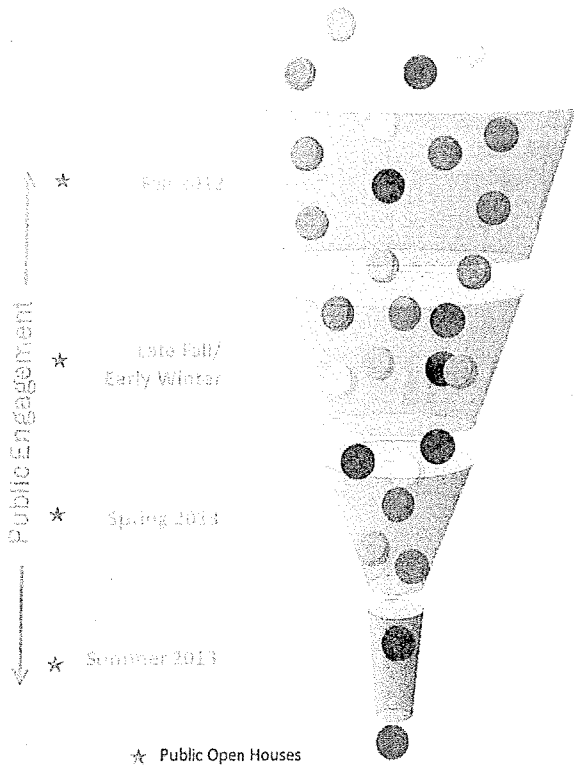
The Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Project will identify a preferred transit enhancement in the corridor which could serve as a first phase of a longer-range vision for transit service throughout the 9.2-mile corridor, which extends from the 46th Street/I-35W Transit Station and Nicollet Avenue on the south, through Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis, and the Columbia Heights Transit Center on the north via Central Avenue. The Project will evaluate the benefits, costs and impacts of implementing a variety of transit modes and service types, including streetcar and enhanced bus options, to identify the locally preferred alternative for inclusion in the Metropolitan Council's 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan*.

During a one-year process, the Project will:

- Identify a series of performance measures including mobility needs and land use/economic development goals to be supported by the preferred alternative
- Compare different transit modes and service alternatives (including streetcar and enhanced bus operations) and alignment termini to identify the best alternative for the corridor
- Provide a transparent and inclusive public engagement process that will involve all stakeholders in the decision making process
- Facilitate a local decision making process that identifies a locally preferred alternative that can attract federal transit funds



NICOLLET-CENTRAL TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES PROJECT



Project Study Process

Purpose and Need

- ✓ Corridor Problems and Challenges
- ✓ Vision for the Corridor
- ✓ Goals and Objectives and Evaluation Criteria

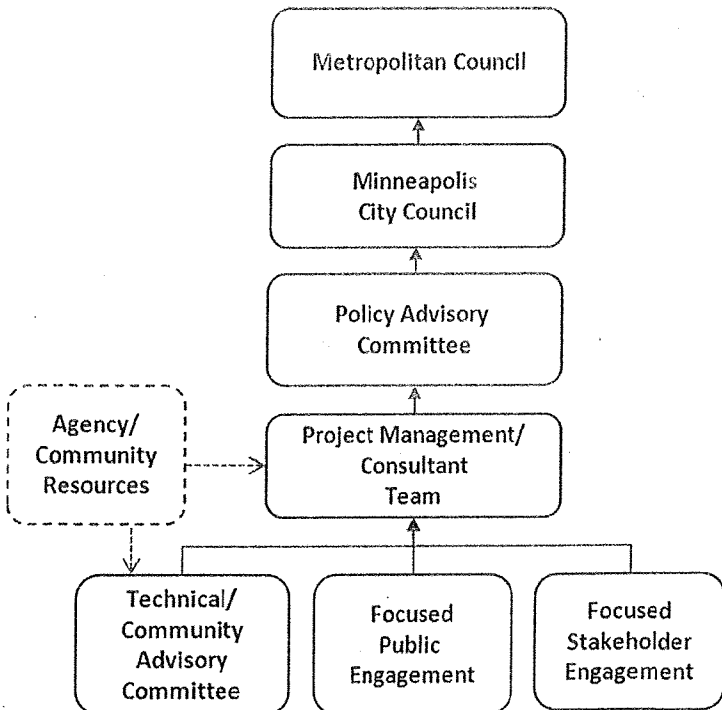
Initial Development and Screening of Corridor Transportation Options

- ✓ Transit Mode Options
- ✓ Corridor Segment Options

Detailed Definition and Evaluation of Alternatives

Selection of Locally Preferred Alternative

Decision-Making Structure



To sign up for email updates, to take a survey and for more information:
www.minneapolismn.gov/nicollet-central

Upcoming public open houses:

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Project Contact:

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