



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

Date: August 20, 2013

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

Subject: **Set a Public Hearing for Consideration of the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study**

Recommendation:

Set a Public Hearing to be held on September 24, 2013 for consideration of the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study

Previous Directives:

- August 16, 2013 – City Council authorized a contract amendment with URS Corporation to complete the NEPA process for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study.
- May 25, 2012 – City Council authorized a contract with URS Corporation to conduct an alternatives analysis in the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridor.
- July 2, 2010 – City Council authorized submission of an application for federal 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; authorized staff to engage partner agencies and private stakeholders to determine whether the City should enter into the federal project development process; and directed staff to return to T&PW Committee at least quarterly with a report on streetcars.
- March 23, 2010 – T&PW received and filed the Streetcar Funding Study.
- January 22, 2008 – T&PW received and filed the Streetcar Feasibility Study.

Department Information

Prepared by: Jenifer Hager, Principal Professional Engineer, 673-3625
Charleen Zimmer, Interim Project Manager, Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Project, 612-354-2101

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Charleen Zimmer

Financial Impact

- None.

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable
- City Goals: Jobs & Economic Vitality - Planes, trains and streetcars move goods and workers smartly; Strong commercial corridors, thriving business corners. Livable Communities, Healthy Lives - Equitable, integrated transit system.

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 completed a funding study that explored options for funding streetcar implementation. In 2010, the City Council prioritized the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridors as the best places 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, the result of which is identification of the locally preferred alternative (LPA).

Work on the Alternatives Analysis Study began in late 2012 and included extensive community engagement including a Technical Community Advisory Committee (TCAC) and a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The TCAC met on August 19, 2013 and has forwarded its recommendation of a LPA to the PAC which will consider that recommendation at their meeting on August 21, 2013. The PAC will then make a recommendation of a LPA to the City Council which will be the subject of the public hearing on September 24, 2013. City staff will then work with the Metropolitan Council to formally amend the LPA into the Region's Transportation Policy Plan.