



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

Date: November 30, 2010
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Access Minneapolis: Downtown East-West Transit Spine Plan**

Recommendation:

Receive and file draft Access Minneapolis: Downtown East-West Transit Spine Plan.

Previous Directives

June 29, 2007 - City Council approved the Access Minneapolis: Downtown Ten-Year Transportation Action Plan; directed staff to continue to explore multiple options or combinations of sub-options, including 4th Street, to serve and improve the East-West transit spine; and directed staff to involve the Project Steering Committee, including members of the business community, residents, business associations, neighborhood organizations, and others from appropriate subgroups when there is a modification or adjustment to the plan that will impact bus routes, lane configuration, pedestrian and bike plans.

Prepared by: Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner, 673-3885
Don Elwood, P. E., Director of Transp. Planning & Engineering, 673-3622

Approved by:

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

Presenters: Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner, 673-3885

Reviews:

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

Financial Impact

No Financial Impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: A public and stakeholder engagement process is underway for East-West Transit Spine improvements. A Project Steering Committee meeting was held on November 15, 2010. A public open house is scheduled for December 13, 2010. Notification of the public open house will be sent to all property owners along the corridor, downtown neighborhood organizations, and downtown business organizations.

City Goals: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Comprehensive Plan: Not applicable

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

In June 2007, the City Council approved the *Access Minneapolis: Downtown Ten-Year Transportation Action Plan*. At that time, the City Council directed additional study on an east-west transit spine through downtown. The attached draft *Access Minneapolis: Downtown East-West Transit Spine Plan* documents that additional evaluation and recommended improvements.

Ten alignment alternatives for the east-west transit spine were evaluated on 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Streets, including one-way pairs, contraflow bus lanes, and a two-way 8th Street alternative. Alternatives were evaluated based upon a series of criteria related to impacts to transit service, traffic, curbside uses and pedestrian space. The 7th and 8th Street one-way pair is the recommended alignment for the east-west transit spine. Recommended improvements on 7th and 8th Streets between 1st Avenue N and Chicago Avenue include curb extensions at the four busiest bus stops, new shelters at all bus stops, real-time transit information signs at most bus stops, roadway resurfacing, and greening/landscaping improvements.

City staff has been reviewing the draft plan with key downtown stakeholders and the Access Minneapolis Project Steering Committee members. The Project Steering Committee met on November 15, 2010 to discuss and provide feedback on the draft plan. A public open house is scheduled for December 13, 2010 at the Minneapolis Central Library. All property owners along the corridor, downtown neighborhood organizations, and downtown business organizations will receive a notice for the public open house. Presentations are also scheduled with the Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization and with the Downtown Council/Downtown Improvement District.

The draft *Access Minneapolis: Downtown East-West Transit Spine Plan* is available on the city website at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/DwtActionPlan.asp>.

Funding for the east-west transit spine recommended improvements has been identified for construction in 2011. Metro Transit has identified funds, which must be spent in 2011, to design and construct all of the transit improvements (curb extensions, shelters, and real-time signs). In addition, the city will be resurfacing the roadway on 12 of the 22 blocks on 7th and 8th Streets in 2011. Because the roadway surface typically must be re-graded immediately after construction of curb extensions, it is most cost-effective to construct the curb extensions together with the programmed 2011 roadway resurfacing projects. Funding has not been identified for greening/landscaping improvements.

In order to complete construction in 2011, design needs to begin immediately. Metro Transit is moving forward with the design in coordination with Minneapolis Public Works.

Attachments: *Draft Access Minneapolis: Downtown East-West Transit Spine Plan*