

Schiff

**Exploring the feasibility of bringing back a streetcar system in Minneapolis.**

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has a strong interest in providing transit alternatives for those who live and work in Minneapolis; and

Whereas, Minneapolis was originally built as a street car city and has had long experience with streetcar technology; and

Whereas, the Midtown Greenway Coalition has approved a resolution calling for a streetcar line serving the Midtown Greenway corridor and connecting Chowen Avenue on the west to the Lake Street/Midtown station on the Hiawatha Corridor light rail line on the east; and

Whereas, nine of the sixteen Greenway neighborhoods have approved a resolution calling for a streetcar line in the Greenway with approval pending in the remaining neighborhoods; and

Whereas, a streetcar line on the Midtown Greenway would provide a high quality connection between the Hiawatha Corridor and future Southwest Corridor light rail lines while serving and shaping development along the Greenway; and

Whereas, two feasibility studies, one by the Midtown Greenway Coalition and the other by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority in conjunction with the Met Council, have shown a streetcar line on the Greenway to be feasible; and

Whereas, the Midtown Greenway Coalition is seeking to build a streetcar line as a first step in providing the necessary proof of a streetcar system's reliability in all types of weather and operating parameters (not withstanding the test of time); and

Whereas, new and restored streetcar systems in cities from coast to coast have demonstrated their ability to revitalize the corridors they serve, and

Whereas, Minneapolis is ideally situated to explore the feasibility of bringing back streetcars to enhance the use of transit alternatives;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City wishes to explore the feasibility of bringing back a streetcar system in Minneapolis and will work with the Midtown Greenway Coalition to explore what the streetcar system's potential costs and benefits might be to the City.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council designate a working group to undertake the following functions:

- Work on feasibility issues with the Midtown Greenway Coalition
- Engage other partners in the streetcar discussion, including the business community, housing providers, Hennepin County, Metro Transit, Met Council, the legislature and Minnesota's congressional delegation
- Determine alternative strategies for funding a feasibility study of a streetcar system
- Determine a site within the City of Minneapolis for a modern streetcar demonstration
- Issue a report to the City Council no later than July 1, 2004 that lists key outcomes, decision points and next steps, at which time the working group would be dissolved.

Be It Further Resolved that the initial membership of this working group be composed of the following members:

- Council Members
- A representative of Mayor Rybak
- Midtown Greenway Coalition representatives
- Planning Director or designee
- CEPD Director or designee
- Public Works Director or designee
- Metro Transit representative
- Hennepin County representative

Be It Further Resolved that staffing for the working group be provided by staff from the following departments: Public Works, Planning division of CPED and Business Development division of CPED.