



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

Date: March 1, 2005
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: None

Subject: **Downtown Minneapolis TMO – Commuter Choice Awards Recognition**

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Previous Directives: None

Prepared by: Jon Wertjes, P.E., Director, Traffic and Parking Services, 673-2614

Approved by:

Presenters: Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works
Jon Wertjes, P.E., Director, Traffic and Parking Services
Lynn Frank, Minneapolis Downtown TMO

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information:

“Commuter Connection” is a project of the Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization (TMO). The Minneapolis TMO exists to promote congestion mitigation strategies and advocate for environmentally sound transportation policies to assure the continuous and orderly growth of Downtown Minneapolis and the region. The City of Minneapolis is on the TMO Executive Committee.

To honor those on the front line of promoting transit options, the Met Council's “Commuter Choice Awards” were presented November 16, 2004 to businesses and individuals who are getting more people to their jobs faster, and keeping more cars off the highway. Sponsored by Metro Commuter Services (MCS), the 14th annual awards recognized “creative solutions by companies and individuals promoting commute alternatives to single-occupant vehicles.” The TMO also has recognized the three organizations and one individual in Minneapolis that were among those awarded:

LARGE ORGANIZATION: Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis

- Actively promotes commuting options
- Large employee participation
- A 15-year participant in Commuter Choice
- Provides “CommuterShare” parking card
- Internal, online carpool matching service

SMALL ORGANIZATION: International Design Systems, Minneapolis

- Progressive attitude toward commuting options
- Promoted 2004 Commuter Challenge on many levels
- Aggressive internal promotion, good participation
- Impressive activity during transit strike

GREAT BEGINNINGS: University of Minnesota Foundation Investment Advisors

- Effectively promoted commuting options
- New programs drew 50 percent employee participation
- Supplies “transit kits” to new employees

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT: Mary Harkness, The Nature Conservancy, Minneapolis

- Generously educates coworkers and other downtown businesses
- Helped implement a commuter survey for neighboring shops
- An avid bicyclist, she participates in what she promotes
- Created “How to Bike Commute” seminar on own time
- Key member of Commuter Challenge bike/walk committee

C: Lynn Frank, TMO