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

Date: September 28, 2010

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

Subject: **Minneapolis Streetcar Planning Update**

Recommendation:
Receive and file update on streetcar planning.

Previous Directives:
- 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 and filed the Minneapolis Streetcar Funding Study.
- January 22, 2008 – T&PW received and filed Minneapolis Streetcar Feasibility Study Final Report dated December 2007.
- October 9, 2007 – T&PW received and filed draft Streetcar Feasibility Study for public review.

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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
No financial impact

Community Impact
Neighborhood Notification: Not applicable

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

As authorized by City Council on July 2, Public Works submitted applications for federal funding to conduct an alternatives analysis on an initial streetcar line within the combined Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridors identified in the council-approved long-term streetcar network. The proposed study would evaluate alternative urban circulator transit services in the corridor, including streetcar and enhanced bus service. The proposed study was submitted on July 12 to the Federal Transit Administration for the Alternatives Analysis Livability Program Funding Opportunity. It was also submitted on August 23 for the USDOT's TIGER II planning grant program.

In addition, since the June 22 T&PW committee meeting, staff have provided streetcar update presentations to the Whittier Alliance Business Association, the Downtown Council Board, the Downtown Council Key Executive Forum, and the Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization.