

**Request for City Council Committee Action from the
Department of Community Planning and Economic Development - CPED**

Date: August 12, 2008

To: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Community Development Committee

**Subject: Provision of Input from Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation
to City Plans and Projects**

Recommendation: Authorize CPED staff to proceed at the appropriate time with the notification/input options described in this report.

Previous Directives: On June 20, 2008, the City Council: a) adopted a resolution approving Laws of Minnesota 2008, Chapter 314; b) appointed Council Members Johnson, Hofstede and Ostrow to represent the City of Minneapolis on the board of the Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation; c) authorized the appropriate City official(s) to enter into an agreement with the new corporation to provide \$50,000 in funding once the corporation is created; and d) referred to the Community Development Committee for consideration the topic of when and how the new corporation could be provided opportunities to provide input on proposed City plans and projects that will affect the Minneapolis riverfront. On February 1, 2008, the City Council added to the 2008 City of Minneapolis state legislative agenda a request for legislative authorization to establish a new nonprofit corporation to support and coordinate continued riverfront revitalization in Minneapolis, conditioned upon the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board agreeing to support the request and participate with the City as a member of the nonprofit board. On December 21, 2007, the City Council referred the riverfront organization recommendation to the IGR Committee for consideration of inclusion on the City's 2008 legislative agenda. On February 23, 2007, the City Council received and filed an informational update about the riverfront organization study. On July 21, 2006, the City Council approved an interim riverfront organization concept and appointed Council Members Ostrow and Hofstede as the City Council representatives to the Riverfront Policy Oversight Task Force. On June 17, 2005, the City Council approved acceptance of a \$60,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation to complete the riverfront organization study to be led by the selected consultant. On November 5, 2004, the City Council approved the issuance of a request for proposals for a consultant to assist the City in evaluating and implementing organizational changes to enhance riverfront revitalization. (Additional information available at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/riverfront_study.asp.)

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Presenter in Committee: Ann Calvert, Principal Project Coordinator

Financial Impact

No financial impact
 Action is within the Business Plan

- 1) Once MRC staff is hired and an office is established, the MRC can be added to the list of entities that receive notices of any formal approval processes, i.e., those notices that go to the neighborhood organizations and adjacent property owners.
- 2) Activities such as small area plans, RFP processes and many City public improvement projects typically involve an early identification of the stakeholders that should be involved. The MRC can be consulted as a stakeholder for those riverfront plans and projects in which it wants to become actively involved.
- 3) MRC staff could participate on the staff-level Riverfront Technical Advisory Committee (and possibly take over the convening role) as an ongoing forum for sharing information, formulating strategies and discussing topics of shared concern.

In addition to the above options, consideration also could be given to allowing an MRC representative to participate in Preliminary Development Review (PDR) meetings for project along the riverfront. Specific projects and initiatives also may present other options that work for those specific situations.

The following table outlines which of these options are likely to be the most productive and appropriate for which types of plans and projects.

Type of activity	Notice	Stakeholder	TAC	PDR
Comprehensive plan amendments		X	X	
Small area plans		X	X	
Development RFP processes		X	X	
Environmental Impact Statements and Assessment Worksheets	X		X	
Specific project approvals (e.g., City Planning and Heritage Preservation commissions) *	X		X	X
City public improvements, etc.		X	X	

Additional steps are needed in the creation of the MRC before any input procedures can be formally established. These include:

- Hiring of MRC staff to receive notices and decide whether any input should come from staff, the full MRC board or perhaps a committee of the board
- Establishment of the overall MRC organizational structure and committees
- Preparation of an MRC strategic plan identifying its initial priorities (i.e., how much effort will be devoted to providing input and how much to the MTC's other functions)

* Council Members representing the City on the MRC will need to recuse themselves from pre-judging a development project that may eventually come before them in their quasi-judicial roles, e.g., an appeal of an action of the CPC or HPC. Once progress has been made on one or more of the above organizational steps, City staff will work with the MRC to further explore this topic. None of the input options require formal Council action, so staff proposes to proceed to formalize the best option(s) at the appropriate time. Staff also will explore the appointment of staff liaisons

from appropriate departments to facilitate communications with the MRC. (Note: Similar discussions about input options will occur between the MRC and its other governmental members.)

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