



7/23/2010 - Referred back to Committee  
by City Council

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

**Date:** July 13, 2010

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

**Subject:** Interchange Working Group Appointments

**Recommendation:**

Approve the appointment of 3 elected representatives from the City of Minneapolis to serve on The Interchange Working Group which will provide a forum for policy leaders to guide successful development and operation of The Interchange.

**Previous Directives:**

None

**Prepared by:** Jenifer Loritz, P.E., Principal Professional Engineer, Transp. Planning & Engineering 673-3625  
Don Elwood, P.E., Director of Transp. Planning & Engineering 673-3622

**Approved by:**

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

**Presenters:** Jenifer Loritz, P.E., Principal Professional Engineer, Transp. Planning & Engineering 673-3625

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

**Financial Impact**

Action is within current department budget

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification:

City Goals:

Comprehensive Plan:

Zoning Code:

## **Background/Supporting Information**

The Interchange in downtown Minneapolis brings together transit and development, creating a civic space that will connect multiple transportation options, support a vibrant regional economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase mobility.

The Interchange is operational today with 250 arrivals and departures daily via Hiawatha LRT and Northstar Commuter Rail. This will increase to 500 daily rail trips when Central Corridor LRT opens in 2014. The future Southwest Corridor LRT and Bottineau Transit Corridor lines will provide additional transit service and are anticipated to bring thousands of additional daily passengers to The Interchange. In addition, as of today, more than 1,900 bus operations occur within walking distance of The Interchange and the imminent extension of the Cedar Lake Bike Trail will add access for 2,000 plus bike riders per day. The Interchange will also accommodate future intercity passenger rail service, including the Northern Lights Express from Duluth and high-speed rail from Chicago via St. Paul. Given these planned transit improvements, The Interchange is poised for expansion.

The Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRRA) is leading efforts to advance development of The Interchange, provide facilities and services to support existing transit users and prepare for future growth. The Interchange has brought together multiple partners, including representatives from the community, neighborhood groups, the Minnesota Ballpark Authority, businesses, and local, state and federal agencies.

Support and cooperation among many jurisdictions will be required to create the 21st century regional transit hub envisioned by The Interchange and to successfully capitalize on the opportunity it presents to support economic development and attract robust private sector investment near The Interchange and in surrounding communities.

Collaboration among the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Transportation will be particularly important given the numerous elements that will require multi-jurisdictional expertise and participation through planning and implementation, such as facility siting and footprint; identifying and phasing public infrastructure investments; evaluating environmental and traffic impacts; exploring potential joint development opportunities; and enhancing the public realm.

To facilitate effective collaboration on The Interchange among these partners, it is proposed that an Interchange Working Group be established for the following purposes:

- To coordinate communications regarding the Interchange between and among elected officials and ensure that city, county, Metropolitan Council and MnDot staff are effectively coordinating efforts to support timely implementation of Interchange policy and plans
- To receive reports from staff and consultants on Interchange development plans, progress, and emerging issues requiring attention
- To formulate policy and strategy proposals for City Council, County Board, Metropolitan Council and MnDot consideration to address issues and advance Interchange development consistent with transportation and development plans
- To oversee the public outreach and community engagement process and ensure that all affected neighborhoods and stakeholders receive timely, accurate information and have opportunities to provide input on design and implementation

The Working Group would be established by resolutions of the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) and the Minneapolis City Council with 3 HCRRRA Commissioners and 3 elected representatives from the City of Minneapolis appointed by their respective

governing bodies. HCRRA approved a resolution on June 15, appointing Commissioners Peter McLaughlin, Mark Stenglein and Jan Callison to the Working Group.

The Working Group would have no formal decision making authority and would present to the HCRRA, the Minneapolis City Council and the Metropolitan Council any proposals requiring consideration and formal action necessary to support the development of The Interchange.

Staff and administrative support to the Working Group will be coordinated by The Interchange Project Manager with participation from appropriate staff from the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Metropolitan Council, MnDot and the Minnesota Ballpark Authority.

CC: Mayor Rybak  
Council Member Goodman

**Approving the appointment of 3 elected representatives from the City of Minneapolis to serve on The Interchange Working Group.**

**Whereas**, The Interchange in downtown Minneapolis brings together transit and development, creating a civic space that will connect multiple transportation options, support a vibrant regional economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase mobility; and

**Whereas**, The Interchange accommodates increased transit service and consolidates that transit service and multi-modal connections which aligns with the key strategies identified in the Downtown Action Plan and the recommendations contained in the recently adopted North Loop Small Area Plan; and

**Whereas**, the immediate need to address the expansion of the LRT component of The Interchange, also known as "Phase 1", is urgent given the timing related to Central Corridor coming online in 2014.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City of Minneapolis**, that the City of Minneapolis supports establishing an Interchange Working Group comprised of 3 county commissioners, 3 elected representatives from the City of Minneapolis, 1 member from the Metropolitan Council, and the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation or his designee; and

**Be it Further Resolved**, that the City of Minneapolis hereby appoints \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as its appointees to The Interchange Working Group; and

**Be it Further Resolved**, that The Interchange Working Group be charged with meeting regularly to review progress and issues related to The Interchange project and to ensure that The Interchange project is coordinated among County and City staff and policy makers with timely and appropriate community participation and input; and

**Be it Further Resolved**, that establishment of The Interchange Working Group in no way delegates to the Working Group decision making authority or responsibility of the HCRRA, the Minneapolis City Council, Metropolitan Council or MnDot and that the Working Group is directed to present regular reports of its progress and results to policy makers and to present to the HCRRA and City Council any proposed actions supporting the development of The Interchange requiring City and/or County approval.