



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

Date: June 19, 2007
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Access Minneapolis: Downtown Ten-Year Transportation Action Plan**

Recommendation:

- a. Present the final plan, share public meetings comments, and approve the Access Minneapolis: Downtown 10-Year Transportation Action Plan

Previous Directives:

- April 2, 2004 Resolution 2004R-139 – Appropriated \$300,000 for citywide transportation planning
- June 8, 2004 – TPW received & filed study goals and timelines
- November 5, 2004 – Authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals to solicit consultant proposals for the Transportation Action Plan
- November 5, 2004 – Authorized entering into interagency agreements with Hennepin county and Metropolitan Council regarding funding participation
- March 18, 2005 – Approved consultant selection and authorized execution of contract
- March 18, 2005 – Authorized entering into interagency agreement with Mn/DOT regarding funding participation
- July 1, 2005 – Appointed Project Steering Committee
- March 10, 2006 – Authorized amendment to consultant contract to complete a Streetcar Feasibility Study
- November 3, 2006 – Authorized amendment to consultant contract to complete additional traffic analysis and public outreach
- December 22, 2006 – Approved contract extension with three partner agencies for funding reimbursement to 12/31/2007
- March 20, 2007 – TPW received and filed draft Downtown Action Plan
- April 13, 2007 – Resolution 2007R-187 appropriated \$247,000 to Action Plan
- May 15, 2007 – TPW approval of the consultant contract extension and budget

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

Presenters: Charleen Zimmer, Project Manager

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)
Policy Review Group (PRG)

Approval _____ Not Applicable X
Approval _____ Not Applicable X

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

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification – Public meetings were held in downtown on April 11 and 12. Property owners on streets with proposed changes notified by direct mailing. Email distribution to Project Steering Committee, neighborhood organizations, city advisory committees, downtown business organizations and interested stakeholders. Information posted on city website.
- City Goals – meets the goals of:
 - Connected Communities
 - Integrated, multimodal transportation choices border-to-border
 - Walkable, bikeable
 - Enriched Environment
 - Energy into renewable and alternative energy
 - Replant, restore, reverse our urban forest
 - Arts – large & small – abound and surround
 - Fully implement the City's Sustainable Work Plan
- Comprehensive Plan – implements the transportation polices set forth in the city's comprehensive plan

Background/Supporting Information:

The Access Minneapolis – 10 Year Transportation Action Plan will be completed in 2007. The Action Plan will be documented in four components: a) Downtown Action Plan, b) Citywide Action Plan, c) Design Guidelines, and d) Streetcar Feasibility Study.

Over the next number of months each component will be brought before the public for review, input and comment. As part of this public process, Public Works intends to bring each component to the Transportation and Public Works Committee as a Receive & File item near the beginning of the public review period. Public Works will later return for City Council approvals of each Action Plan component.

The draft Downtown Action Plan was presented to the Transportation and Public Works Committee as a Receive & File item on March 20, 2007. Public meetings were held on April 11 and 12. Approximately 200 people attended those meetings, providing both verbal and written feedback on the project. A Project Steering Committee appointed by the City Council has met and discussed this plan for approximately two years. The plan has been revised based on public and PSC input. The key changes between the draft and final documents include:

- Added metric for modal shift based on downtown transportation targets of the city's Sustainability Plan
- Added recommended actions on bicycle facilities including: (1) additional research related to the Hennepin Avenue bike lane and intersections, (2) widening bike lanes on 10th and 11th Streets to standard width, (3) bike lane on 3rd Street, (4) recommended Bicycle Master Plan, (5) guidelines for providing additional bike lanes downtown when seal coating and other street renovation/reconstruction projects are undertaken.
- Added clarifying language regarding additional work that is needed during preliminary engineering on 2nd and Marquette Avenues including parking ramp access/egress, sidewalk capacity, bus stop locations, bike lanes, curbside uses and peak period traffic management.
- Added recommendations related to transit service to downtown neighborhoods including a market survey, commitment to increasing service as demand increases, additional marketing of transit services, and re-evaluation of the downtown fare zone.
- Added clarifying language that reserved bus lanes may be required on 11th and 12th Streets at some point in the future to provide a connection between I-35W BRT lanes and transit lanes on 2nd and Marquette Avenues.
- Added clarifying language that decisions on one-way to two-way conversions on streets such as 1st and LaSalle Avenues will be linked to the operation of these streets outside downtown.
- Added language clarifying that it is the city's practice to provide parking bays only by use of bump-outs, not by narrowing existing sidewalks.
- Added additional text on travel demand management strategies including carsharing, carpooling, telecommuting, flextime and incentives for walking, biking and transit use.
- Added recommendation to update development controls to ensure that development and redevelopment projects incorporate the city's new design guidelines for sidewalks and streets and reflect the city's downtown greening objectives.

This final Plan, along with a summary of public comments received, is posted on the Minneapolis website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/> under the project documents section.

The final document titled "Downtown Ten-Year Transportation Action Plan" will be summarized at the T&PW Committee meeting and is being recommended for City Council approvals.

While approval of the plan is needed to move forward toward implementation, it is Public Works intention to return to the City Council for appropriate actions related to funding and design.