



PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING Meeting Minutes

Date: February 22, 2007
Time: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Location: Room 319, City Hall
Attendees: See attached roster

Agenda

1. Housekeeping
 - a. Approval of minutes from last meeting
2. Status of Citywide Planning
3. Draft Downtown Transportation Action Plan

Summary of Items Discussed

Housekeeping

Meeting minutes from the January 25, 2007 PSC meeting were distributed at the meeting, but not approved, because they had not been distributed prior to the meeting. Members were asked to submit any comments by email to Anna Flintoft or Charleen Zimmer.

Status of Citywide Planning

Charleen Zimmer provided an update on the citywide work, which is continuing. Elements currently being developed are a citywide needs assessment and priorities, Primary Transit Network toolkit/checklist, a sidewalk checklist, design guidelines for streets and sidewalks, and a corridor evaluation process. The Phase III streetcar study is also continuing and expected to be completed in the next couple of months.

Downtown Transportation Action Plan

Charleen Zimmer explained that the PSC will not be asked to take action on the draft Downtown Action Plan today as originally planned because the downtown representatives have asked to delay action due to ongoing concerns about several unresolved issues, including: traffic operations on 8th Street with two-way traffic and with-flow transit lanes, security at bus stops, appropriate transit fare structure on Nicollet Mall, and curbside uses and property access. She explained that many of the curbside uses and property access concerns cannot be resolved at a planning study of this scale and will be addressed in preliminary engineering.

Jon Wertjes and Charleen Zimmer explained that the end table in the draft Downtown Action Plan lays out some priority actions in the 0-5 year and 5-10 year timeframe. While the City intends to pursue all recommendations in the plan, many of the proposed projects fall into the 5-

10 year timeframe, due to funding availability, and therefore, it is important to identify some shorter-term, lower cost projects for the 0-5 year timeframe.

Pat Scott asked how long it would take to amend the State Implementation Plan for the Hennepin Avenue 2-way conversion. Jon Wertjes explained that it's a 6-12 month process.

Jon VanHeel stated that he considers the current draft plan to be incomplete and could not support it without some changes/additions. His concerns include the bike lanes on 2nd/Marquette, the need for a cross-downtown transit strategy, the need to address street-level freeway crossings, the need to address transportation options beyond traditional transit modes, such as carsharing, the need for new fare passes (visitors and downtown residents) for transit downtown, and the desire for service improvements on PTN routes. He suggested that plan views be included of intersections where two-way changes are proposed on both streets.

Committee members discussed that the omission of issues such as the cross-town transit strategy does not mean that they are not desired. Steve Mahowald stated that the cross-town transit strategy may not have been discussed adequately and probably needs to be discussed further. Metro Transit has considered, for instance, extending Route 18 from Nicollet Mall to the Guthrie Theater if funding were available.

Kent Warden stated that it was important to make sure that plan elements were implemented in the proper sequence and stressed the importance of the plan's view of a system approach. He felt that the plan was backend loaded in the 5-10 year timeframe. He questioned whether the bike lanes on 2nd and Marquette are needed and asked if they could be located elsewhere. Charleen Zimmer explained that the Bicycle Advisory Committee discussed the 2nd/Marquette bike lane options (both curb side with autos and center with buses) and recommended maintaining the bike lanes on 2nd and Marquette and keeping the existing bike lane location in the center with buses.

Michael McLaughlin supported Kent Warden's comments and added that it was important for the unresolved issues to be addressed before action was taken on the plan concept. He noted that downtown property owners continue to have concerns about curbside uses, ingress/egress to/from parking ramps, traffic congestion with two-way operation on 8th Street and bus stop security. He also stated that property owners are particularly concerned about the 8th Street proposals.

Charleen Zimmer explained that city staff have been reassessing alternatives for transit and traffic operations on the 8th Street spine, including: operating bus service on 7th and 8th Streets one-way, operating bus service on 8th and 9th Streets one-way, operating buses with a contra-flow lane and one-way traffic on 8th Street, and operating buses in mixed traffic with two-way operations on 8th Street.

Other issues discussed included:

- Walk distances (report should reflect expected walk distances to bus stops, for example)
- Transit passes for visitors
- Need to fully hear private property owners concerns before moving forward

- Consideration of moving bicycles off 2nd/Marquette to Nicollet Mall
- Benefits of consolidating transit on 8th Street, including concentrating security efforts
- Need to address the relationship between transportation and the built environment
- Frequency of signal timing modifications
- Air quality standards used for the Hennepin Avenue air quality modeling
- Need to address bicycle parking and bicycle accommodations in the plan
- Vagueness of pedestrian action items
- Need to address street trees or other greening strategies
- Need for Skyway Advisory Committee to address access between transit and the skyway
- Taxi stands (guidelines for placement)
- Construction impacts
- Need for special assessments to pay for proposed street improvements

Short-Term, Low-Cost Actions

The Committee was asked to suggest actions that could be implemented in the next 1-2 years at a relatively low cost. This is necessary due to funding shortages and the timeframe required to apply for regional, state and/or federal funds. Suggestions included:

- Pedestrian amenities throughout downtown
- Greening the streets including tree planting, planters and hanging baskets, art or plantings on blank walls
- Reinforcing crosswalks
- Street and sidewalk cleaning
- Placement of recycling containers
- Jump starting strategies that would address security issues at bus stops
- Links (signing) between major transit stops and the skyway system
- Bicycle parking and shower facilities

Schedule Update

The next PSC meeting is currently scheduled for March 15, 2007, but will be confirmed, due to some potential conflicts for downtown PSC members.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Meeting Date/Time: February 22, 2007, 4:00-6:00 pm

Location: Room 319, City Hall

OFFICIAL MEMBER	NAME	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT
X	Akre, John	Northeast Sub-Area	X
X	Anderson, Richard	Mpls Bicycle Advisory Committee	
X	Brown, Tim	Mpls Parks	
X	Davis, Douglas	Mpls Senior Citizens Adv Commission	
X	Dewar, Caren	Southwest Sub-Area	
X	DeWitt, John	East Sub-Area	
X	Eikaas, Gary	Minnesota Freight Advisory Comm	
X	Gerber, Darrell	Southwest Sub-Area	X
X	Greenberg, Bob	Downtown Sub-Area Business Rep	
X	Grube, Jim	Hennepin County Alternate	X
X	Harrington, Adam	Metro Transit – Service Development	X
X	Hay, Steven	Minneapolis CPED	X
X	Imdieke Cross, Margot	Mpls Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	
X	Johnson, William	Transit Rider Representative	
X	Keysser, Janet	Transit Rider Representative	
X	Kjonaas, Rick	Mn/DOT – SALT	
X	Kotke, Steve	Minneapolis Public Works	X
X	Kozlak, Connie	Metropolitan Council	
X	Larson, Mike	Minneapolis CPED	
X	McLaughlin, Mike	Downtown Council	X
X	Moe, Susan	FHWA	
X	Morlock, Jan	University of Minnesota	
X	O'Keefe, Tom	Mn/DOT – Metro	
X	Pearce Ruch, Kerri	Northwest Sub-Area	X
X	Qvale, Pat	Opt-Out Transit Representative	
X	Scallen, Maureen	Meet Minneapolis	X
X	Schuster, Lea	Southeast Sub-Area	
X	Scott, Pat	Mpls TMO	X
X	Thorstenson, Tom	Metro Transit – Eng and Facilities	
X	VanHeel, John	Downtown Sub-Area Resident Rep	X
X	Walker, Katie	Hennepin Community Works	
X	Walter, Doug	Southeast Sub-Area	
X	Warden, Kent	BOMA Minneapolis	X
Mailing	Byers, Jack	Minneapolis CPED	
Mailing	Caddock, Andrew	Close Landscape Architects	

OFFICIAL MEMBER	NAME	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT
Mailing	Fey, David	Minneapolis CPED	
Mailing	Martens, Michael		
Mailing	Olson, Glenn	Mpls TMO Alternate	
Mailing	Schmidt, Stacy	Mpls Senior Citizens Adv Comm	
Mailing	Sheehy, Lee	Minneapolis CPED	
Mailing	Sporlein, Barbara	Minneapolis CPED	
Mailing	Wagenius, Peter	Mayor's Office	
Mailing	Wernecke, Teresa	Minneapolis TMO	
Mailing	Willlette, Pierre	Minneapolis	
PMT	Abegg, Michael	Minnesota Valley Transit	X
PMT	Rae, Rhonda	Minneapolis Public Works	X
PMT	Wertjes, Jon	Minneapolis Public Works	X
Alternate/PMT	Byers, Bob	Hennepin County Transportation	
Alternate/PMT	Gieseke, Mark	Mn/DOT – Metro State Aid	
Alternate/PMT	Stine, Paul	Mn/DOT- SALT	
Alternate/PMT	Elliott, Beth	Minneapolis CPED	
Alternate/PMT	Griffith, John	Hennepin County Transportation	
Alternate/PMT	Johnson, Tom	Hennepin County Transportation	
Alternate/PMT	Mahowald, Steve	Metro Transit – Service Development	X
Alternate	Opatz, Mike	Op-Out Provider Alternate	
Project Mgr	Zimmer, Charleen	Mpls Public Works (Zan Associates)	X
Staff	Flintoft, Anna	Minneapolis Public Works	X
Consultant	Buss, Jaimie	Richardson Richter	
Consultant	Dock, Fred	Meyer Mohaddes	X
Consultant	Gondringer, Linda	Richardson Richter	
Consultant	Kost, Bob	SEH	
Consultant	Messner, Gina	Meyer Mohaddes	
Consultant	Nelson, Bonnie	Nelson Nygaard	
Consultant	Pidaparathi, Praveena	Meyer Mohaddes	X
Consultant	Richter, Trudy	Richardson Richter	
Consultant	Thompsen, Will	Meyer Mohaddes	
Consultant	Tumlin, Jeff	Nelson Nygaard	
Consultant	Walker, Jarrett	Nelson Nygaard	
	Diaz, Nacho	Consultant to CPED	X
	Haugen, Dan	Downtown Journal	X
	Burg, Brian	United Properties – Midwest Plaza – Mpls BOMA	X
	Reich, Kevin	Northeast	X