

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2006
Time: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Location: Room 319, City Hall
Attendees: See attached roster

Agenda

1. Discussion of Pedestrian Systems
 - a. Presentation of Walk Minneapolis (Sarah Harris)
 - b. Presentation of Non-Motorized Transportation Study (Lea Schuster)
 - c. Discussion of Action Plan for Pedestrian Systems

2. Update on Downtown Transportation Strategy
 - a. Traffic Analysis
 - b. Air Quality Analysis

3. Housekeeping
 - a. Approval of minutes from last meeting
 - b. Summary of meetings
 - i. Downtown Task Force
 - ii. Downtown TMO
 - iii. Downtown Residential Neighborhood Associations
 - iv. SW LRT
 - v. Downtown Council (TMO, BOMA, Chamber, Meet Mpls)
 - c. Update on schedule and approval process

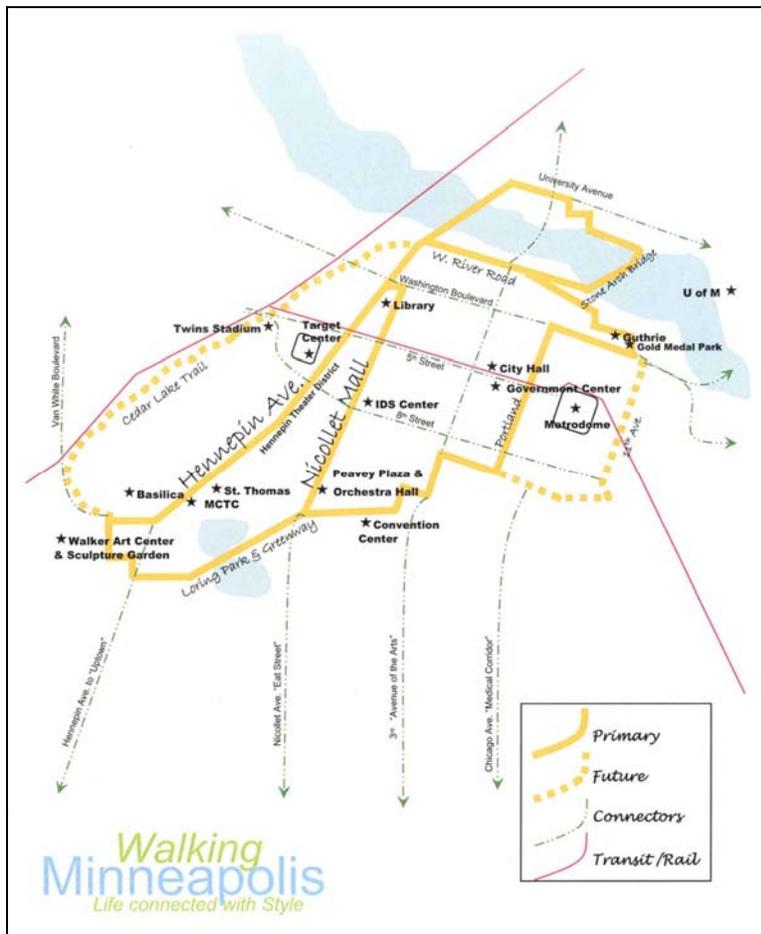
4. Other Issues

Summary of Items Discussed

Discussion of Pedestrian Systems

Presentation of Walking Minneapolis

Sarah Harris presented a summary of the 'Walking Minneapolis' plan. The plan focuses on connecting various activity places in Downtown through primary pedestrian routes (please refer to map in next page) and creating an interconnected system of walking paths through increased amenities and activities along those paths as well as at the public spaces they connect. A private non-profit foundation is being set up to attract private funding for the plan and to manage the use of these funds for the planned improvements.



Source: Walking Minneapolis

Comments from the PSC included the following:

- What is the vision for Nicollet Mall in the Plan? *Nicollet Mall is a primary pedestrian connection in Downtown connecting the Convention Center, Orchestra Hall, IDS center and the Public Library.*
- What might a pathway look like? *A pathway will have various street amenities, public art, and a high-tech way-finding system. The design of the pathway will be led by the use of the pathway.*
- Do you see increasing sidewalk width or changing streets to be more pedestrian-oriented? *The plan does not assume any physical changes to the existing sidewalks.*

Presentation of Non-Motorized Transportation Study

Lea Schuster provided an overview of the Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTP). The NTP is funded by SAFETEA-LU, under which four communities were designated to carry out a \$100 million, four-year program. Transit for Liveable Communities (TLC) was identified

in the law to receive the funds to implement the program in Minneapolis. A summary of the goals of the program and key components of the program were provided to the PSC (see attached). The law in Section 1807 subsection (d) specifies that the program shall a) Increase trips made by walking and bicycling, b) Decrease motor vehicle trips, c) Decrease congestion and energy use, and d) Promote better health and a cleaner environment.

Currently, the study is focusing on gathering background information on how to understand the distance people can walk or bike, literature review of any previous studies, and pedestrian facilities for Minneapolis cold weather.

Discussion of Action Plan for Pedestrian Systems

Charleen Zimmer discussed an approach in the Action Plan regarding pedestrian systems. The objective is to get more people to walk, to walk more frequently, and to walk farther. Various aspects of barriers to achieving these objectives, user groups or activity areas, sidewalk uses and related initiatives were discussed (please refer to handout). Finally the role of the Action Plan in terms of the gap analysis, design guidelines, direction/guidance for Master Plan was discussed. Comments from the PSC included:

- Include poor street lighting under safety barrier
- Physical barriers should include barriers for physically handicapped people
- Include destination and way-finding under cultural attitude
- Coordinate pedestrian related initiatives with bicycle plans

Update on Downtown Transportation Strategy

Traffic Analysis

Maps showing updates to the Downtown auto network were handed out. Most of the updates were to the ramps. The changes to the pedestrian system included adding 9th St and the walkway to the convention center. Updates to the bike map included removing 11th St and 12th St from the network. Maps were distributed indicating the proposed changes.

A computerized simulation of parking ramp access/egress and double-width transit lanes on Marquette Avenue was shown to the PSC. The simulation shows that traffic flows are adequate and egress from the parking ramp is acceptable. Comments from the PSC on the simulation included the following:

- Have you considered other uses on Marquette Avenue in addition to parking ramp access/egress? *Yes, an inventory of Marquette Ave and other proposed transit streets is being done to identify existing curb-side uses.*
- Where is the bike-lane located? *No decision has been made yet – two options are being considered: parallel to the bus lane or parallel to the curb on the traffic side of the street.*

- Is there a provision for curb-side uses? *Curb-side uses will be allowed during off-peak hours on 2nd Ave and Marquette Ave. On 8th Street, the curb side use issue is much more challenging and is still being investigated.*
- Is the simulation showing real-time traffic volumes on Marquette Ave? *The consultant has been asked to do a comparison of forecasted volumes versus existing volumes. Also, optimized signal times were used in the simulation.*
- Are signal times currently optimized? *No. There are improvements that could be made to existing conditions with improved optimization.*
- What is the impact of the various SW LRT alignments on Downtown traffic and transit operations? *The Royalston alignment would not have any impact on bus and auto traffic. The Hennepin Avenue alignment would have impact on both bus and auto traffic – buses would need to be moved off Hennepin Avenue. The Nicollet Ave alignment has impact only on bus service – existing buses would need to be moved off Nicollet in downtown. The 2nd/Marquette alternative would have a significant impact on traffic. The double-width transit lanes would need to be retained due to the expected volume of buses in downtown. LRT would need to displace two traffic lanes on Marquette and/or 2nd.*
- Where is the parking space for additional traffic in Downtown? *There will be an additional 150,000 trips in Downtown in the future. Not all trips will be auto trips hence, mode-shift is important. New residential and office buildings will be expected to provide some parking for their clients/tenants. Parking supply, parking location and pricing are important tools for making mode choice and traffic congestion in downtown.*

Air Quality Analysis

Fred Dock provided a summary of the air quality analysis conducted on two intersections of Hennepin Ave with 7th St and 8th St. The intersection of Hennepin Ave and 7th St was identified as an air quality “hot spot” when the State Implementation Plan (Clean Air Act) was completed. One of the required solutions for addressing this problem was changing Hennepin Avenue from two-way to one-way.

The air quality modeling included factors such as dispersion of carbon monoxide, wind direction etc. MPCA approved methodologies and assumptions were used in the modeling. The overall findings are well below the national air quality standards. Congestion mitigation measures and travel demand management can be used to reduce pollution at these hot spots. Reducing the number of idling vehicles, increasing transit ridership, changing bus stop locations are some of these strategies.

A formal amendment to the State Implementation Plan will be required before Hennepin Ave can be changed to two-way operation. The consultant report will include documentation of the process required for this approval.

Housekeeping

Minutes of the last meeting were approved without any comments. Motion by John Van Heel, seconded Bob Greenberg.

Charleen Zimmer provided a summary of the meetings that were held. These included meetings with the Downtown Council, Downtown TMO, MEET Minneapolis, and Downtown neighborhood associations meeting. It was noted in all meetings that the work items were “work-in-progress” and meetings were being held to gather comments. Overall, there was general approval for the study proposals. A summary of the key comments from these meetings are provided below:

Downtown TMO

- Concern about two-way operations on 8th Street
- Questions about transit operations on 2nd and Marquette Ave
- Need for wider sidewalks on these and other streets
- Questions about proposed transit service on Nicollet Mall

Downtown Council

- Concern about access to and from parking ramps on 8th St, Marquette and 2nd Aves
- How will taxi cabs be managed in Downtown, specifically on Nicollet Mall
- Security issues, particularly at bus-stops
- Loss of auto lanes to transit
- Questions about changes to transit service on Nicollet Mall

Downtown Residential Neighborhood Associations

- Frequency and accessibility of transit
- Pedestrian environment
- Bike connections

Schedule Update

The next PSC meeting will be in November 2006 (note: this meeting was subsequently cancelled). The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Action Items

MMA	Additional traffic simulation of Marquette Ave with double-width transit lanes
SEH	Final air quality report for Hennepin Avenue

**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Meeting Date/Time: October 12, 2006, 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
X	Brown, Tim	Mpls Parks	
X	Davis, Douglas	Mpls Senior Citizens Adv Commission	
X	Dewar, Caren	Southwest Sub-Area	X
X	DeWitt, John	East Sub-Area	X
X	Eikaas, Gary	Minnesota Freight Advisory Comm	
X	Gerber, Darrell	Southwest Sub-Area	
X	Greenberg, Bob	Downtown Sub-Area Business Rep	X
X	Grube, Jim	Hennepin County Alternate	X
X	Harrington, Adam	Metro Transit – Service Development	X
X	Indieke 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
X	Larson, Mike	Minneapolis CPED	
X	McLaughlin, Mike	Downtown Council	X
X	Miner, Pam	Minneapolis CPED	
X	Moe, Susan	FHWA	
X	Morlock, Jan	University of Minnesota	
X	O'Keefe, Tom	Mn/DOT – Metro	X
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
X	Scott, Pat	Mpls TMO	
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
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	Schmidt, Stacy	Mpls Senior Citizens Adv Comm	
Mailing	Sheehy, Lee	Minneapolis CPED	
Mailing	Sporlein, Barbara	Minneapolis CPED	
Mailing	Wagenius, Peter	Mayor's Office	X
Mailing	Wernecke, Teresa	Minneapolis TMO	
Mailing	Willlette, Pierre	Minneapolis	
PMT	Abegg, Michael	Minnesota Valley Transit	
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	Olson, Glenn	Mpls TMO Alternate	
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	Plum, Roger	SEH	
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	
	Okerstrom, Hans	Baker Center/BOMA	X
	Burg, Brian	United Properties – Midwest Plaza/BOMA	X
	Durda, Jim	Inland – IDS Center Management Co./BOMA	X
	Green, Tiffany	City of Minneapolis Ward 6	X
Media	Black, Sam	Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal	X