

District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Central Corridor Resource Center ♦ 1080 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104

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DCC UPDATE

December 2010

Next Governing Council Meeting: January 12, 2011, 6:30 PM at the Central Corridor Resource Center

CENTRAL CORRIDOR “STOPS FOR US” COALITION RECEIVES NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AWARD

On December 15, 2010 the Transportation Equity/Stops for Us Coalition was one of five partnerships awarded the 2010 National Justice Award from the Environmental Protection Agency. The award recognizes the diligent work of the a diverse group of neighborhoods, the religious community, housing, transit, environmental and labor organizations that resulted in the three “missing stations, Hamline, Westen and Victoria, being added to the Central Corridor Light Rail Line project. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson made the announcement, at the first-ever White House Environmental Justice Forum, convened to highlight the Obama administration’s commitment to environmental justice and sustainable communities.

In the coming weeks, the Stops for Us coalition will be working with the Environmental Protection Agency and other community and local government partners to plan a formal award ceremony in the Twin Cities in 2011.

For more information about the National Environmental Justice Award and the Stops for Us Campaign visit: <http://dcc-stpaul-mpls.org/special-projects/stops-us>

Central Corridor LRT Project

Central Corridor Branding and Station Naming

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing Director and Chair of the Regional Transitways Identity and Branding Committee, will present the approved branding framework to the **Community Agreements Coordinating Committee (CACC) on Monday, January 3, 2011 at 7:00 pm** at the Central Corridor Resource Center. Community members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Mr. Howard’s presentation follows an exchange of communications among the DCC, CACC and Met Council Chair Peter Bell. The DCC and CACC wrote to express strong community interest in participating in naming Central Corridor stations and branding the regional system of light rail (LRT) and bus rapid (BRT) transit lines. In response, Chair Bell suggested that community members meet with Mr. Howard and Robin Cauffman, of the Central Corridor Project Office to discuss the framework. The framework includes 1) branding LRT and BRT lines as one regional system; 2) using a color-coded scheme to name the lines; 3) using a distinct system name to unify LRT and BRT services; and 4) applying the regional transit color scheme in a

consistent manner across the region. Specific guidelines for choosing a color name for each LRT and BRT line will be developed. There will be an opportunity for public input in this process. The process for naming specific stations is unclear.

Public Art for Missing Stations

The Metropolitan Council approved two artists to design public art for stations at Western, Victoria, and Western. **Foster Willey** of Minneapolis will design art for Hamline and Victoria and **Catherine Widgery** of Cambridge, Mass., will design art for Western. Artists will begin their work in January 2011. Because Hamline is included in the 2011 construction season, public art for that station will be on a fast track so watch for early information on the public art process.

The Met Council has formed a station art committee (SAC) for each of these stations. **Steve Samuelson** will represent the DCC on the Hamline SAC and **Karen Inman** will represent the DCC on the Victoria SAC. We are still seeking a representative for the Western process. The Met Council also recruited other community members and businesses to serve on the SAC. **For more information, contact Shoua Lee at 651-602-1014.**

Disadvantaged Business/Affirmative Action Committee Update

Joint Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) and Affirmative Action Oversight Committee meetings have provided an opportunity to track the progress of General Contractor and Sub-contractors on meeting Workforce hiring and DBE utilization goals.

Contractors have until the end of their portion of the project to meet workforce hiring goals, which are 15% minority hires and 6% women hires. Progress towards these goals is determined by taking the percentage of total hours worked on the project that were completed by minority or women workers.

General Contractor progress presented at the December 16 meeting:

- **Ames/Mcrossan** : Minority- 35.03%
Female- 27.41%
(Ames has not yet signed contracts with sub-contractors and has completed only 98.5 hours to date)
- **Bolander**: Minority- 12.09%
Women- 4.4%
(85% of the project complete)
- **Graham**: Minority- 14.3%
Women- 4.13%
(As of 11/10/2010, project completion % unknown, Graham was not present at 12/16 meeting)
- **Walsh**: Minority- 15.08%
Women- 16.35%
(1.8171% of the project complete)

DBE utilization progress is measured by the percentage of contract dollars that were paid to a DBE. General contractor's progress on meeting DBE goals can only be determined at that time contract dollars are paid by the Met Council. The DBE utilization goal for the CCLRT project is 15%.

DBE Utilization progress reported at the December 16 meeting:

- **AECOM**: Exceeded 17% Goal at 17.7% to date.
(Not a contractor)
- **Ames/McCrossan**: 0% (Has not yet signed contracts with sub-contractors)
- **Bolander**: Percentage of Amount paid to DBE out of total contract amount paid to date: 10.8%
- **Graham**: Percentage of Amount paid to DBE of total contract amount paid to date: 10.6% (As of 11/10/2010, project completion % unknown, Graham was not present at 12/16 meeting)
- **Walsh**: 15.73% (As of 11/30/2010)

LRT Construction

Last Major Construction Contract Awarded — The Met Council awarded PCL Construction Services of Burnsville a \$43.1 million contract to convert a portion of the Gillette Building in Lowertown, St Paul into an Operations and

Maintenance Facility (OMF) for the Central Corridor line. The project budget for the OMF was \$45.8; the PCL bid is an underrun of \$2.7 million. PCL is seeking community assistance with hiring local workers.

West Bank Construction — Work to strengthen the piers under the Washington Avenue Bridge will continue over the winter months. The bridge will stay open during construction, but there will be more construction vehicles using the street. Xcel Energy is involved with utility work on Cedar Avenue, which will have short-term impacts on vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and bus riders.

East Bank Construction — Improvements to the road network serving the U of M East Bank campus is nearly complete. Unfinished work includes traffic signals at five intersections and street lighting on the new segment of Harvard from Beacon to Union.

Capitol Area — In the Capitol Area, utility relocation began this summer on Robert and 12th streets north of I-94. Road work continues with some streets and sidewalks are closed due to ongoing work.

Downtown St Paul — Utility relocation on Fourth Street in downtown Saint Paul streets and sidewalks is complete. In early January, Xcel will start its utility work on Exchange Street at Cedar. February will bring additional utility work on Sixth Street at Cedar.

Construction Communication Committees (CCCs) — As construction has begun, a Construction Communication Committee (CCCs) has been set up for each segment to provide a liaison between the community and the contractors. Additional CCCs will be established as construction begins on other sections. Each committee meets twice a month to review progress and ensure that community concerns are addressed. The CCCs will have a joint meeting each quarter to evaluate contractor performance and recommend whether to award incentive pay. Each DCC member organization that abuts the Central Corridor will be invited to nominate a representative to their local CCC.

Project Timeline

The Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA), which will provide federal funding to cover 50% of the cost of building the Central Corridor line, is now expected to be signed in March 2011. In the meantime, contractors have been chosen and work is moving forward, with the counties, CTIB and Met Council providing up-front funding to be matched by the federal government once the FFGA is awarded.

Counties Transit Improvement Board

The Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) plays an important role in funding new transit construction in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. With members from five counties (Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota & Washington), CTIB collects and distributes almost \$90 million a year from a dedicated ¼ cent sales tax that was authorized by the legislature in 2005.

In recent meetings, CTIB recognized that projected income for 2011 and 2012 would not be enough to support planning and construction for the proposed regional transit network that is envisioned. So at their November meeting, they voted to bond for \$110 million to fill the gap. This will enable all the planned transit lines to move forward as anticipated, although it is recognized that the changes in Congress, including Rep Jim Oberstar's defeat, may well delay some transit projects.

Corridor News and Activities

Discover Central Corridor Loyalty Program Launched

The Discover Central Corridor Loyalty program is an initiative of the Business Resource Center and local small businesses. The program offers an opportunity for small businesses and local community organizations to work together to engage the community in supporting local business along the corridor. The program centers on a card system that

allows users to take advantage of discounts, as well as donate to their charities and non-profit organizations in their community.

The program also has a special component designed to benefit nonprofits. Here's how it works:

- Purchase Loyalty cards for a nominal fee
- Distribute to your supporters
- Receive quarterly payments of 30% of the discount offered by merchant whose businesses are patronized!

Businesses are also able to select a cause and a portion of the merchant's discount is reserved for that nonprofit. Discover Central Corridor Loyalty Program is currently signing up businesses AND nonprofits. The DCC strongly urges you to give this program careful consideration.

Local businesses or organization interested in participating in this program should contact: **Chris Ferguson**, by phone at 763.244.1090, or email to: chris.ferguson@thebywatercompanies.com

Living Cities Integration Initiative

The Twin Cities have been named one of five winners of the Living Cities Integration Initiative. The award will provide up to \$16 million in loans, grants and Program Related Investments in the Central Corridor. These funds will be used to create and preserve 400-600 affordable housing units, offer small business support, and provide resources and strategies for housing, economic development and workforce training. Project Manager, **Mary Kay Bailey** met with the DCC Governing Council on November 10, 2010 to explain the grant and begin conversations about greater community involvement. **For more information visit www.livingcities.org.**

HUD Sustainable Communities Grant

On October 14, the Twin Cities received a 3-year, \$5 million HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant has

\$750,000 set aside for community engagement in regional transitways.

A Community Engagement Team will develop criteria for community engagement sub-grants, review and recommend grant proposals, and advise the grant policy board on community engagement.

DCC News

Ellen McPartlan, representative for the Capitol River Councils will no longer be apart of the DCC Governing Council as she is taking on a new role in her organization. Special thanks to Ellen for her work chairing the Communication Committee and jumpstarting the website redesign process.

The DCC welcomes three new member organization representatives: **Tim Griffin**, from the Capitol River Council, **Priscilla MacDougall**, from Summit Hill Association and **Mohammed Hamarjab**, from West Bank Community Council.

The **Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)** has accepted the DCC's request for a research assistant for Spring 2011, whose role will be to assist the CACC Neighborhood Livability Group on an effort to create a corridor-wide overview of plans, projects, and funding sources to improve the pedestrian realm.

The DCC is proud to announce that the **Saint Paul Foundation** and **F.R. Bigelow Foundation** have been approved funding requests for 2011. The DCC Governing Council is grateful for their continued support.

The District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis wishes to gratefully acknowledge funding support from the Saint Paul Foundation, F.R. Bigelow Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and McKnight Foundation, which makes our work possible.