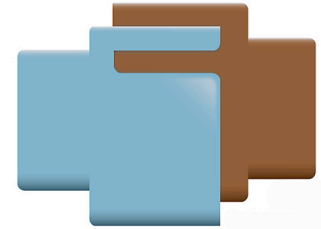


DISTRICT COUNCILS COLLABORATIVE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

D-6 North End • D-7 Frogtown • D-8 Summit-University • D-11 Hamline-Midway • D-12 St. Anthony Park
D-13 Union Park • D-14 Macalester Groveland • D-17 CapitolRiver • Prospect Park East River Road
Southeast Como • Marcy Holmes • West Bank • University District Improvement Association



DCC UPDATE

April 25, 2011

Next Governing Council Meeting: May 11, 2011, 6:30 PM

www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org

Central Corridor Resource Center • 1080 University Avenue W., Saint Paul

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Thursday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 10 Community Forum Series on Equitable Economic Development and Jobs in the Central Corridor

The Central Corridor Community Agreements Coordinating Committee (CACC) will be hosting a two-part community forum series on Equitable Economic Development and Jobs in the Central Corridor. The purpose of these forums is to promote a vision of Central Corridor as a community opportunity to begin generating wealth by looking at two major components, transit oriented development projects and the potential for the creation of jobs via those projects.

The first session called “Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Models: Frogtown Square/Kings Crossing Project” will be held on **Thursday, May 5, 2011, from 6 pm to 8 pm**. This evening will feature a presentation about the Frogtown Square Project by **Mike Temali** and **Nieeta Presely**, as well as a panel discussion on how to best identify, fund and promote future projects along the Corridor. Panelist include: **Dr. Beverly Hawkins**, of Model Cities; **Mike Christenson**, of the Minneapolis CPED; **Phyllis Gilliam**, of Sunday’s Best Boutique; and **Isaac Carpenter**, of Initiatives Construction.

The second session called “Jobs: Central Corridor, Union Depot, and Beyond...” will be held **Tuesday, May 10, 2011, from 6 pm to 8:30pm**. The focus for this session is sharing realistic expectations and barriers for employment, learning about opportunities on future projects related to construction and transportation, and exploring ways to promote job growth and retention in Central Corridor communities. This event is not a job fair. Panelist for this session include: **Wanda Kirkpatrick**, of the Central Corridor Project Office; **George Garnett**, of HIRE MN; **Mary Desjarlais**, of AFL-CIO; **Lynn Littlejohn**, of Mortenson Construction; and **John O’Phelan**, of Job Connect. There will also be a presentation about the LRT Works website by the Central Corridor Project Office, as well as opportunities to sign up on the site.

The event is co-sponsored by the DCC, HIRE MN, Jewish Community Action and Job Connect.

For more information, please contact **Karyssa Jackson**, karyssa@dcc-stpaul-mpls.org or call 651-528-8165.

Central Corridor LRT Project

Full Funding Grant Agreement

After several years of planning and engineering, the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be signed officially at a ceremony on Tuesday, April 26 at the State Revenue Department overlooking construction on Robert Street downtown Saint Paul. This agreement locks in the federal government’s share of the project — \$460 million. Local funding partners for the project include the Counties Transit Improvement Board, the regional rail authorities for Ramsey and Hennepin counties, the state of Minnesota, the city of St Paul, and the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative. The total amount includes the additional funds

committed to build the three missing stations at Western, Victoria, and Hamline. Having a signed FFGA ensures that the federal share of the \$185 million local funds, which were advanced to get the project under construction, will be paid.

At the April Central Corridor Management Committee meeting, Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager and long-time Central Corridor Project Manager, noted that “Central” is the highest ranked of the nine FTA New Starts program projects pending final approval for funding. Contributing to its high ranking is the number of projected daily riders by 2030 — 40,000, the certainty of local funding for construction and operations, and the overall quality of the project. The line is expected to begin generating revenues in 2014.

Environmental Assessment of Business Impacts

On April 20th, the FTA issued a "Finding of No Significant Impact" FONSI, which under the National Environmental Protection Act determines that a project may go ahead without further review. Completion of the court-ordered Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) of potential impacts of construction on business revenues was critical to finalizing the FFGA.

The draft SEA released on March 1 drew fire from many small businesses and community organizations (including the DCC) for the inadequacy of the technical report, which determined zero to 2.5 percent average loss in business revenues. Over 66 people attended the public hearings on March 16 and 75 individuals and organizations submitted written comments.

In the FONSI, the FTA responded to these comments in several ways, including:

1. The FTA acknowledged that the technical report finding of a specific percentage to predict average revenue losses was not appropriate and it acknowledged the many studies that the community brought to light in their comments.
2. The FTA noted that small and minority owned businesses will be impacted more by construction and other economic factors than larger businesses.
3. The FTA worked with the Met Council and local project partners to revise existing mitigation and avoidance measures so more resources are available and, in some cases, to tailor programs to meet business needs as they arise and are justified.
4. Finally, the FTA required the Met Council to report monthly to its Region V office. Reports are required to include but are not limited to: (1) the amount of funds expended; (2) details on pending mitigation requests and how requests were addressed; (3) the number of business openings and closings along the alignment; and (4) construction-related complaints and their resolution.

DBE/AA Oversight Committee

At the March 17 DBE/AA Oversight Committee meeting, contractors Graham Construction and Bolander reported that they had both completed over 90% of their contracts but neither had met the project's workforce goals of 18% minority and 6% women. Central Corridor Project Office staff explained that due to a clerical error in the RFP, contractually they had agreed only to goals of 14% for minorities and 2.4% for women. The Met Council and MN Dept of Human Rights is assessing whether or not both companies made "good faith efforts" to meet the goals.

At the April DBE/AA meeting, Walsh reported meeting DBE and women workforce goals but falling 2.25% short on minority goals. Ames/McCrossan reported achieving both DBE and workforce goals.

The LRTWorks, a website designed to connect contractors and job seekers has over 1,000 people in its database. Of these individuals, 620 are women and/or minorities and 167 live in zip codes along the corridor.

Metro Transit Construction Updates for Bus Riders

Metro Transit has created a construction updates webpage for riders who may be affected by Central Corridor LRT construction. The page features updated schedules for all affected bus routes, as well as an interactive map of bus stop closures. Visit <http://www.metrotransit.org/rail-construction.aspx>.

Corridor News and Activities

Met Council Chair Susan Haigh Visits CACC

The Central Corridor Community Agreements Coordinating Committee (CACC) hosted Met Council **Chair Susan Haigh**, as well as Met Council board members **John Commers**, **Gary Cunningham** and **Adam Duinick** at the April 4 meeting. Chair Haigh shared the new Met Council's goal to communicate and engage better with the community and indicated her interest in learning more. Council Member Jon Commers also spoke about the focus on community engagement. Council Member Gary Cunningham shared his hopes that the Central Corridor project provide opportunities for low income people and communities and creates a thriving business community.

May 12 Great River Gathering

The DCC will be exhibiting at the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation's 17th Annual Great River Gathering on May 12, 2011 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. The event begins with a reception at 5:00 pm. For more information call 651-293-6860 or visit http://www.riverfrontcorporation.com/?page_id=377

Discover Central Corridor Loyalty Card

The DCC has Discover Central Corridor Cards available and has distributed them to DCC member representatives. Please visit www.centralcorridorperks.com for more information about the program and to search discounts. Go to <http://dcc-stpaul-mpls.org/content/discover-central-corridor-loyalty-program> to view a list of participating merchants.

DCC News

- The DCC is pleased to announce that the **McKnight Foundation** awarded funding support for 2011-12.
- The DCC welcomes the new Saint Anthony Park Representative, **Jon Seppanen** to the Governing Council.
- We welcome back **Nolan Levenson**, who will be interning with the DCC for the remainder of spring semester.

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