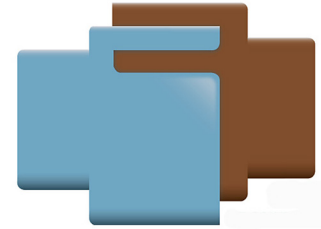


DISTRICT COUNCILS COLLABORATIVE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

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

September 2011

Next Governing Council Meeting: October 12, 6:30 PM

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

www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org

Like the District Councils Collaborative on Facebook • Follow us at <http://twitter.com/DCCstpaulmpls>

Central Corridor LRT Project

Central Corridor DBE/AA Goal Report

At the September 15 DBE/AA Oversight Committee Meeting, HIRE MN, the DCC and other organizations turned out in significant numbers to put pressure on the general contractor for LRT construction in Minneapolis, Ames-McCrossan Joint Venture, to meet their hiring goals. Over the past few months Ames-McCrossan began reporting that they were falling short of meeting their minority workforce goals. There is also concern that McCrossan, one of the members of the joint venture had recently paid a settlement to end a federal investigation into false reporting of DBE utilization.

In a break from the norm, project office staff had placed workforce goal reports to the end of the meeting after all other business items on the agenda. Request were made that the agenda be revised to bring this discussion to the beginning and those requests were denied. By the time the hiring reports were presented, with the meeting running overtime, many people had to leave, including reporters from Star Tribune and the Villager. For those who remained, the Ames-McCrossan report showed both the prime and several sub-contractors still underperforming. Promises were again made by the contractor and Met Council representatives to hold meetings with those who were not to achieving hiring goals. There was no commitment to develop a written strategy to address this issue as was requested by representatives from HIRE MN in earlier meetings.

CCLRT Project Contingency Fund Update

The Central Corridor Management Committee had a special meeting on August 24 to discuss expenditure of Contingency Funds. The first release point for contingency funds is at 20% of construction completion. The project has now reached over 20% completion and \$76 Million is now available. The

Met Council will be making a final decision on the allocations of these funds at its September 28 meeting. The timeframe for this decision is driven by the expiration date for the contract option to purchase additional rail cars under the terms of the original contract with Siemens. Mark Fuhrmann presented restrictions on these funds and spending options under discussion.

The total amount available is \$63.4M. Expenditures presented for discussion included: \$53.7M for light rail vehicles so the line can open with 3-car trains, \$2.4M for project enhancements, and \$2.1M for start-up operations. This leaves \$5.2M available for other purposes. Chair Haigh requested that Fuhrmann provide a full list of contingency requests to all members. Fuhrmann agreed with the observation from a CCMC member that it is the recommendation of staff that the unallocated balance of \$5.2 M be rolled over to the next contingency fund release point. Upon request of the DCC, this list was made available to all those on the CCMC email distribution list. This document is in DCC September 14 Governing Council meeting packet. The CCMC is expected to take on a recommendation at the September 14, 2011 meeting.

Corridor News and Activities

Walkability Checklist — CC Pedestrian Realm

The DCC has been participating in discussions on pedestrian realm improvements in neighborhoods along Central Corridor. As a part of this work, Anne White has been serving a lead role in the creation of the “Walkability Checklist” which is a tool to evaluate the pedestrian real in neighborhoods within a half-mile of the CCLRT. For more information contact the DCC office, 651-528-8165.

September 28 Irrigate Info Sessions

Irrigate, an artist-led creative placemaking initiative of Springboard for the Arts, Twin Cities LISC and the

City of Saint Paul. The initiative spans the six miles of the Central Corridor Light Rail Line in Saint Paul during the years of its construction. The goal of *Irrigate* is to mobilize and train artists in community development and creative placemaking and to activate hundreds of artist-led projects along the corridor that benefit businesses and neighborhoods. An information session for organizations was held Wednesday, September 28 from 3 to 5 pm. For more information contact Jun-Li Wang at jun-li@springboardforthearts.org or [651-789-0679](tel:651-789-0679).

October 16-17 Bicycle Tour of Fantastic Urban Futures — CC Public Art Plan

On October 16 and 17, Rebar will be leading the Central Corridor Roadside Attraction Bicycle Tour of Fantastic Urban Futures as part of the artist-led public outreach process of the Central Corridor Public Art Plan, a process led by the consultant team of Cliff Garten, Todd Bressi, Via Partnership and Rebar. The two-day, four-leg bike tour will take participants over the 11-mile stretch of Central Corridor to visit different spots “hosted” by artists, activists or designers.

The Public Art Plan is being undertaken as a partnership led by Public Art Saint Paul. Other partners include the City of Saint Paul, the City of Minneapolis Art in Public Places Program, the Saint Paul on the Mississippi Design Center, Ramsey County, and

the Capitol Region and Ramsey Washington Regional Watershed Districts.

For more information about the Bike Tour contact Blaine Merker at Rebar [blaine@rebargroup.org] or Nic Hager at Public Art Saint Paul [nic@publicartsaintpaul.org].

November 16 Big Picture Project Community Forum (Tentative Date)

The Big Picture Project, an effort to create a unified affordable housing plan in Central Corridor being led by Twin Cities LISC and the Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis will be hosting an additional Community Forum on November 16, 2011.

HECUA Community Engagement Interns, Erin Scott and Alysa Friedrich have been coordinating listening sessions throughout Central Corridor to allow for more neighborhood level discussion to feed into the LISC process. Erin presented some preliminary findings from these sessions at the September 21 Community Forum. For more information about listening sessions contact, Erin, erin@dcc-stpaul-mpls.org or Alysa, alysa@dcc-stpaul-mpls.org

For more information contact Gretchen Nichols, Twin Cities LISC, gnicholls@lisc.org or visit <http://www.funderscollaborative.org/vision/affordable-housing>

DCC News

On September 14th, **DCC hosted a Denver contingent** of community organizations and foundations interested in learning about organizing activities in the Central Corridor and other Twin Cities transit corridors. Denver folk shared their success with Community Benefits Agreements and their Workforce Development/Equitable Hiring campaign. The DCC talked about St. Paul’s Central Corridor Development strategy and the ongoing importance of the model in engaging diverse constituencies in Central Corridor discussions, The Community Summits and the Stops for Us campaign to build the three missing stations.

At the invitation of Professor Nekima Levy-Pounds, Chair of the Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the DCC presented testimony on community concerns and experiences with Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and minority and women workforce hiring goals in the Central Corridor. DCC testimony touched on the realities of how few jobs hiring goals are actually generated for women and persons of color, the difficulties in getting job projections so people can become trained and ready for work, and the challenges of timely access to data so hiring corrections can be made and goals met before the project ends. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission will be preparing a report with recommendations for changes.

The DCC will be presenting on the Stops for Us campaign in a Transportation Equity session at the **2011 Rail~volution Conference** in Washington D.C. in mid-October.

Exciting news from former DCC Intern, **Nolan Levenson**. He has been offered a position as community outreach person for suburban D.C. on the Purple Line LRT Project. He will be based in Baltimore, MD with our colleagues working on the Red Line LRT Project. The DCC wishes him the very best

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.