



**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting**

**August 21, 2013  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
Heritage Landing**

**Minutes**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.
  - b. Minutes from July were approved.
  
- II. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - a. Nicollet/ Central Transit Alternatives – *Charlene Zimmer*
    - i. Key discussion items include:
      1. Presentation of the proposed street car transit alternatives and selection of a locally preferred alternative
      2. Key items in selecting the locally preferred alternative include:
        - a. Preferred transit option (street car or enhanced bus)
        - b. Best River crossing (Central or Hennepin)
        - c. Street car starter line/ location
      3. Preferred Transit Option:
        - a. Enhanced bus is approximately ¼ cost of street car
        - b. Street car stops approximately every ¼ mile and attracts more ridership (approximately 19,000-20,000 per day)
        - c. Operating cost is similar between the two options
      4. Preferred River Crossing:
        - a. Hennepin has a shorter distance between Nicollet and Central
        - b. Hennepin has better bike and pedestrian circulation
        - c. Hennepin has better access to the island

- d. Central requires more retrofit and infrastructure which is more expensive and the bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places
- 5. Street car starter line
  - a. Proposed starter line is Nicollet Avenue between Lake Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street NE
  - b. Highest area of population and employment
  - c. Serves highest number of people living in poverty and highest number of transit users
  - d. Has the most development opportunity sites (5 of 9)
  - e. Best potential for replacing buses
  - f. For federal small starts funding the project must be less than \$200 million...this section would cost approximately \$182 million
  - g. Forecasted to have 9,200 boardings in 2030
  - h. State legislature authorized the City to create a value capture district along this line
  - i. The 5 redevelopment sites are under construction or redevelopment will happen in the very near future
  - j. Shared local funding source could generate ¼ of cost and make the project competitive for FTA federal funding
- 6. Next Steps
  - a. Next public meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm at the Minneapolis Central Library
  - b. Public comment period on locally preferred alternative goes to September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013
  - c. Public hearing on September 24<sup>th</sup> to select locally preferred alternative
  - d. After that meeting will amend the Met Council Regional Transportation Plan to allow for future State and Federal funding
- 7. For additional information see the project website [www.minneapolismn.gov/nicollet/central](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nicollet/central)

b. "West Loop Planning" – *Devon Lindee and Neal Gerten from Urban Works*

- i. Key discussion items include:
  - 1. Presentation on long term vision for the "West Loop" area of the North Loop Neighborhood
  - 2. Three key themes developed for the project
    - a. Quality Public Open Space
    - b. Quality Dense development
    - c. Traditional Urban street Grid
  - 3. Three Differentiators
    - a. Intergenerational Living

- b. Business Incubation
- c. Health and Wellness benefits of an urban neighborhood
- 4. Presentation finished on ideas for infrastructure improvements, public space improvements, and private development

c. Committee Business

- 1. Education Committee
  - a. Survey is out and available at [downtownmplsschool@gmail.com](mailto:downtownmplsschool@gmail.com)
  - b. Survey will close in October
  - c. The committee is looking for a new co-chair
- 2. SW LRT
  - a. Joint BAC and CAC focused co-location.
- 3. Neighborhood Issues
  - a. Discussion on improving crosswalks within the neighborhood.
  - b. Look to improve visibility and striping at the crosswalks
- 4. Discuss with new Council member SW LRT
  - a. Joint BAC and CAC focused co-location.
  - b.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Attendees:

DJ Heinle, Co-chair  
Dave Decker, Co-chair  
Karen L. Rosar  
John Slack  
Wendy Holmes  
Sarah Fesler  
Alice Eichholz  
Jo Vos