

Nicollet LRT Task Force

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 - 6:30-8:00PM
Minneapolis First Seventh Day Adventists Church 24th and Nicollet

Present: Alex Bauman (WA), Nick Boettcher, Mary Cable, Julie DuRose, Eric Grumdahl (WA)

Alex Bauman chaired the meeting. He noted as long as a consultant is working on the Environmental Input Study, there is opportunity for n'hood input. Draft EIS work began in 2001.

The members addressed the three alternatives and facts outlined in Southwest Transitway Vol.4 (April '07): 1A, 3A, 3C. Routes, geography, land use along corridors, entrance into downtown. The A route interlines @ 5th street w/ Central Corridor/Hiawatha. C: Opus, Golden Triangle employment hub. The task force was ambiguous on where tunnel would start tunneling under Nicollet @ greenway

Mary & Alex briefly discussed "Park & Hide." Rumors of a Mpls law against Park & Ride lots are "greatly exaggerated." Discussed concerns about water shutoffs during construction. Re-opening of Lake & Nicollet identified as a neighborhood goal. Goal previously identified of not supporting any project that would render opening of Nicollet & Lake unfeasible.

Noise & vibration on street & sub-street levels: Eric G. mentioned experience w/ Hiawatha sounds @ 28th & Hiawatha; screech noticeable, vibrations only during construction; mentioned complaints of whistles from trains (can be heard w/in 1-block radius). Sounds wouldn't rouse a person from his/her sleep Vibrations & sound already present on Nicollet from vehicular traffic. Mary mentioned benefits of hybrid buses: don't smell as bad, not as loud. Alex stressed considering positive as well as negative effects of LRT

Eric wonders whether we could find evidence of effects on business from Hiawatha lines & EIS. Alex mentioned a line in San Diego that could be comparable. Mary brought up financial pressure to cut costs; Alex agrees there will be such pressure. Mary: would new riders be attracted on Nicollet alignment. Alex pointed to info that 700 fewer riders would be attracted.

Alex directed the group to brainstorm & write thoughts on sheets provided. Per Eric, categories on sheets do not take into account concerns of B.A. and suggested adding another category. Don't "shaft" the business association & consider their concerns & positions. Mary agrees their concerns should show up. Eric & Alex agree to add business impacts category sheet. Group agrees to start w/ Business Impacts category. Added to category: disruption of utilities. Loss of street access during construction. Parking taken by park n' hiders.

Reiteration: Midtown Plan endorsed by Whittier. Per Alex: Streetcar & light rail run on same gauge Mary wonders about crime issues: commotion in greenway trench lead to more crime? Alex said emissions from LRT come only from friction b/w wheels & rails

In general, group didn't have as many ideas on Ecosystems, Geology & Hydrology or Hazardous/Regulated Materials. Eric: Goal of TC should be getting all our ideas down, have ideas from Comm Issues & other meetings & hash out a well-developed proposal. Could have more fantastical ideas, such as proposing another route besides 1A, 3A or 3C. The task force resolved to come up with more original ideas.

They will present to CI & BA in April

Next meeting Wed, Mar. 5, 6:30PM. Same location: Seventh-day Adventist Church.