

**Light Rail Transit-Task Force**  
**Proposed Nicollet Route**  
**March 3, 2008 6:30-8:00pm**  
**Whittier Alliance**

**Attendees:** Alex Bauman-Facilitator, Eric Grumdahl, Nick Boettcher, Brookes Mahoney, Marian Biehn

The LRT Task Force met twice to discuss the impact of the proposed LRT route along Nicollet Ave. The following is a summary of the impacts identified to be included in the Environmental Impact Study being conducted on the proposed lines. The conversation will continue and other impacts can be added to the list. The next step for the task force will be to refine the neighborhood position on the proposed Nicollet alignment

### **IMPACTS**

Of the proposed Southwest Transitway route through Whittier from the Greenway to Franklin Ave along Nicollet Ave

#### **❖ Business / Economic Impacts**

- ❖ Timing of Icehouse hotel construction (will it mean years of construction at 26<sup>th</sup> and Nicollet?)
- ❖ Disruption of utilities (water, gas, electric)
- ❖ Loss of street access during construction
- ❖ Loss of parking (hide 'n' ride)
- ❖ Increase in regional customer base
- ❖ Construction or operating noise
  - Particularly on existing noise-sensitive businesses
- ❖ Impacts on employee commutes
- ❖ Increase in foot traffic
- ❖ Potential to redo streetscape
  - Impact on outdoor dining
- ❖ Impact on property values
  - Property taxes paid by local businesses

#### **❖ Visual and Aesthetic Resources**

- ❖ Streetscape for stations would need to be reconstructed
- ❖ Compatibility with pedestrian overlay
- ❖ Placements of vents and electrical stations

#### **❖ Noise and Vibrations**

- ❖ How would construction affect buildings?
- ❖ How would operation affect businesses?
  - Businesses that need quiet for operation
- ❖ Compare levels of noise and vibration during operation of proposed route with noise and vibration from existing transportation

#### **❖ Hazardous / Regulated Materials**

- ❖ Potential for spread of contaminants from GFI site
- ❖ Potential for contaminated soil along Greenway rail corridor

- ❖ **Ecosystems, Geology and Hydrology**

- ❖ Air quality and noise impacts
- ❖ Drainage for tunnel
- ❖ Changes to Greenway water runoff

- ❖ **Air Quality**

- ❖ Effects on vehicular traffic in Nicollet Corridor?

- ❖ **Transportation**

- ❖ Compatibility with existing city plans
  - Particularly Comprehensive Plan and Nicollet Pedestrian Overlay District
- ❖ Park and Hide
  - Detriment or benefit for neighborhood
- ❖ Impact on other potential rail routes in Midtown Corridor
- ❖ Accidents in Greenway due to increased pedestrian traffic at LRT stations
- ❖ Necessary transit police for stations and route
  - Costs? Safety impacts?
- ❖ Travel time for transit users
- ❖ Existing bus service
  - necessary changes to route and frequency

- ❖ **Land Use**

- ❖ Eminent domain
  - Where will it be used?
  - How much will it cost?
- ❖ Land values
  - How will changing land values necessitate a change in land use?
- ❖ Density along transit route
- ❖ Traffic patterns around stations

- ❖ **Cultural Resources / Parklands**

- ❖ Changes to experience of using the Greenway
- ❖ Loss of green space along south side of Greenway
- ❖ Greenway safety
- ❖ Connection to MIA
- ❖ Impact on historic buildings

- ❖ **Suggestions**

- ❖ 26<sup>th</sup> Street Station
- ❖ Define EIS boundaries early
- ❖ Alternate route along freeway / 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave
- ❖ Surface route along Nicollet
- ❖ Route continuing along Greenway to Hiawatha instead of Downtown

**Next Meeting:** Mon. March 24 6:30pm Whittier Alliance

**Summary Submitted by:** Alex Bauman, facilitator