

# CENTRAL CORRIDOR COMMUNITY AGREEMENT(S) NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

February 2010

*To be successful, the light rail line must not only improve mobility, but must also serve as a catalyst to strengthen and enhance existing and future neighborhoods, workforces and businesses along the line.*  
Saint Paul and Minneapolis Community Summit, March 7 & 8, 2009

In 2009, Central Corridor stakeholders participated in two Central Corridor Community Summits, one Community Assembly, and three meetings to explore a Community Compact, leading to a commitment to work together to develop a "Central Corridor Community Agreement(s)" to ensure that all corridor communities benefit from construction of the light rail transit project. It was further agreed that the first step was to establish a Community Agreement(s) Coordinating Committee (CACC) to create the agreement and oversee its implementation.

Those at the August Community Assembly asked Community Summit planners to serve on the Nominating Committee and charged the committee with developing a slate of candidates for endorsement or modification at a future Community Assembly. The District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis was asked to convene the group. The Assembly also provided general guidance on the composition of the CCAC. (See notes of August 10, 2009 Assembly.)

To ensure the Nominating Committee represents a range of views, elected officials and community members who participated in Community Compact discussions hosted by the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative were also invited to be on the committee. Several from this group agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. At the writing of this interim report, the nominating committee has met five times, beginning October 23, 2009. The committee agreed to make decisions on a consensus basis and when consensus wasn't achievable to decide by a majority vote.

In the spirit of transparency and full disclosure, the Nominating Committee is offering this interim report of its activities and proposal for creating a Community Agreement(s) Coordinating Committee. The organization of this report reflects the primary areas of work undertaken by the committee:

- Section 1. Proposed Coordinating Committee Size and Composition
- Section 2. Expectations of Coordinating Committee Members
- Section 3. Nomination Processes
- Section 4. Community Assembly and Establishing the Coordinating Committee

This report and notes from meetings of the Nominating Committee are available online at [www/dcc-stpaul-mpls.org](http://www/dcc-stpaul-mpls.org). For further information, please contact Carol Swenson, District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, at [carol@dcc-stpaul-mpls.org](mailto:carol@dcc-stpaul-mpls.org) or 651-249-6877.

## *Central Corridor Community Agreements Nominating Committee*

Anne White, *Chair*  
*Union Park District Council,*  
*Saint Paul;*  
*Chair, District Councils*  
*Collaborative Governing Council*

Phil Anderson  
*Prospect Park East River Road*  
*Improvement Association and*  
*District Councils Collaborative*  
*Governing Council Member*

Melvin Carter, III  
*Saint Paul Council Member*

Toni Carter  
*Ramsey County Commissioner*

Diane Dube  
*Wm Mitchell Law School,*  
*Community Development Clinic*

Metric Giles  
*Community Stabilization Project*

Cam Gordon  
*Minneapolis Council Member*

Nancy Homans  
*Mayor Chris Coleman's Office*

Mona Langston  
*Housing Preservation Project*

Vic Rosenthal  
*Jewish Community Action*

Hussein Samatar  
*African Development Center*

John Slade  
*MICAH*

Russ Stark  
*Saint Paul Council Member*

## SECTION 1. PROPOSED SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee made every effort to follow guidance from the August Community Assembly when determining the composition of the committee. After deliberating at length about the structure of the committee and how best to ensure that diverse community interests were fully represented and honored in the work of the Community Agreement(s), we propose that the Coordinating Committee be structured as shown below.

### General Committee Composition

#### Geographic Balance

70% from Saint Paul  
30% from Minneapolis

**Voting:** One vote per seat.

#### Size

**30 members**, with the option to add more as needed to ensure an inclusive process.

#### 20 seats for Community and/or Business Representatives

Saint Paul — 14 seats  
Minneapolis — 6 seats

#### 8 seats for elected officials

##### Saint Paul/Ramsey

Saint Paul Mayor's Office – 1 seat  
Saint Paul City Council – 2 seats  
Ramsey County – 2 seats

##### Minneapolis/Hennepin County

Minneapolis Mayor's Office – 1 seat  
Minneapolis City Council – 1 seat  
Hennepin County – 1 seat

**Metropolitan Council** – 1 seat

**University of Minnesota** – 1 seat

An objective of the proposal for committee composition is a broadly inclusive membership with a balance of decision-making power vested in community and business representation (20 of 30 seats on the committee). Elected and appointed government officials, already decision-makers in the project, will be appointed by the agency represented. **Each member will have one vote, regardless of the size or role of the entity represented.** All committee members will be held to the same set of expectations, and the same level of accountability.

Creating a committee structure that will ensure broad and balanced representation from the many communities along the corridor proved to be a challenging assignment for the Nominating Committee. Many different options were debated and most decisions were made by consensus. When we could not reach consensus, we voted, but not until all voices were heard and every effort was made to address the concerns of those who were in the minority. In the few instances where we voted, each decision was made by a substantial majority.

One of the most important decisions was unanimous — that community/business representatives will have 20 of the 30 seats on the committee, with one vote for each committee member. There was also unanimous agreement that all members of the committee must be committed to equitable community benefits and to an inclusive process that is transparent and accountable to corridor stakeholders. This should ensure that community voices are heard as everyone comes to the table prepared to work toward solutions that resolve community concerns.

#### **Recommendation: At-large Community/Business seats rather than designated**

The committee debated whether or not community/business seats should be designated for particular types of community/business or advocacy organizations, racial/ethnic/affinity groups, or special interests or seat at-large; that is persons holding community/business seats would represent all corridor communities as a whole. By a majority vote, it was decided to recommend that seats will be at-large, although the geographic representation would follow the 70% Saint Paul – 30% Minneapolis as recommended by the Community Assembly. The Nominating Committee committed to preparing a slate of candidates that is reflective of the diversity of communities and interests found in the corridor. When reviewing nominations, consideration will be given to:

- Racial, Ethnic, Affinity Communities
- Small Businesses
- Chambers of Commerce
- District Councils and Neighborhood Associations
- Property Owners (all sizes and types)
- Transit Riders
- Developers
- Student Associations
- Special Interest Groups, e.g. affordable housing or transportation equity
- Age groups, especially youth & seniors
- Persons with disabilities
- Homeowners
- Renters

**Committee Observation and Recommendation about Community/Business Participation** — Community/business members may not be able to attend every meeting and provisions should be made for them to send alternates. The Coordinating Committee should make the final determination on this process as part of creating their governance rules.

**Committee Observation and Recommendation about the term length** — The committee recommends that the first term be for one year and that the Coordinating Committee address in their governance rules the length of terms and whether or not they will be staggered.

## **SECTION 2. EXPECTATIONS OF NOMINEES AND APPOINTEES**

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The Nominating Committee agreed that to be eligible to serve on the Coordinating Committee, Community/Business representatives must either live within a district council or neighborhood association that borders directly on the corridor and/or hold a position in a workplace located within the corridor.

The Nominating Committee identified five qualities/commitments it would look for in nominations and appointments. These expectations will be clearly stated in letters soliciting nominations and appointments to the Coordinating Committee. Governing bodies and the University of Minnesota and their representatives will be asked to meet the same expectations as community/business representatives.

### **Expectations**

- Acceptance that the Central Corridor LRT Project is being built.
- Commitment to equitable community benefits.
- Commitment to an inclusive process that is transparent and accountable to corridor stakeholders.
- Ability to bring a perspective, constituency, or resources (broadly defined) to the table.
- The exact time commitment involved is unknown, but at a minimum it is expected that CACC members will participate in monthly meetings and be available to communicate between meetings over e-mail or phone.

## **SECTION 3. PROCESSES FOR ESTABLISHING THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

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The Nominating Committee agreed that representatives of governing bodies and the University of Minnesota should be appointed by and

bring the authority of their respective entity to the Coordinating Committee. The Nominating Committee further agreed that Community/Business representatives should be endorsed by those present at the Community Assembly convened for this purpose.

Given these circumstances, the Nominating Committee will have one process for preparing a slate of Community/Business representatives and another process for soliciting appointments from governing bodies and the University of Minnesota.

The Nominating Committee also agreed that, in an effort to provide opportunities for further community involvement in creating the Coordinating Committee, it would leave three (3) seats open on the Community/Business Representatives slate to allow for nominations from the floor of the Community Assembly. Ideally, two seats would be filled by persons from Saint Paul and one seat would be filled by a person from Minneapolis.

### **Process for Preparing a Slate of Community/Business Representatives —**

- The Nominating Committee will solicit nominations from organizations and communities within the corridor. Self-nominations are encouraged and welcome. The nomination solicitation period will be a minimum of four weeks.
- The Nominating Committee will review all nominations and prepare a slate of 17 community/business candidates. Since members of the Nominating Committee may be interested in serving on the Coordinating Committee, a process will be developed to address conflict of interest in the review of applications.
- The slate will have 3 seats for nominations from the floor (2 for St. Paul and 1 for Minneapolis). If there are no or insufficient nominations from the floor to fill all 3 seats, the Coordinating Committee will fill these seats by rules it creates.
- The slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee may be endorsed or endorsed with modifications at the Community Assembly under the rules adopted by the Assembly.
- To be eligible to vote on the slate of candidates, Assembly members must live or work within the boundaries of a St. Paul district council or Minneapolis neighborhood association that borders on or surrounds the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Line.

**Process for Preparing a Slate of Elected Officials & Institutions —**

- The Nominating Committee will send a letter to each governing body, the Metropolitan Council and the University of Minnesota inviting each entity to appoint its allotted number of representatives. These entities and their representatives will be asked to meet the same expectations and to make the same commitments as are being asked of community / business representatives.
- A slate of elected officials and institutional representatives appointed to the Coordinating Committee will be publicized and presented at the Assembly.

**SECTION 4. THE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY**

At the March 28 Community Assembly, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of 17 candidates for Community/Business seats on the Coordinating Committee. The slate will have 3 empty seats to be filled with nominations from the floor. A facilitator not actively involved in Central Corridor issues or projects will be asked to manage the endorsement process. The Nominating Committee proposes that to be eligible to vote for the slate of candidates, persons must live and/or work in a Saint Paul district council or Minneapolis neighborhood association that directly borders the light rail transit line.

Representatives of local governments, the Metropolitan Council, and the University of Minnesota will be introduced at the assembly.

The Nominating Committee also anticipates that the Community Assembly will include reports of progress on addressing issues raised at the 2009 Community Summits and identify different partnerships, collaboratives, and issue work groups that are seeking solutions to the range of needs in the Central Corridor.

The Assembly will launch the next phase in developing a Community Agreement(s). Residents and business owners will be encouraged to join issue work groups, to propose additional topics for review, or to become involved in other ways in Agreement(s) work. There will certainly be plenty of opportunities to participate, or play a leadership role in one of the work groups that will be responsible for researching best practices and proposing solutions to unresolved issues.

Everyone who is interested should be able to find a niche that suits him/her, so that the Agreement(s) will build on the work of the Community Summits and represent a broadly based community vision that addresses the needs of all the neighborhoods along the Central Corridor.

*To be eligible to serve on the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee or to vote for the slate of candidates you must live or have a work address in at least one of the Minneapolis neighborhood associations or Saint Paul district councils that are contiguous with the Central Corridor LRT line from Cedar-Riverside to the Operations Maintenance Facility in downtown Saint Paul. See map below.*

