

MEETING MINUTES

MAIN STREET MULTI-MODAL ACCESS AND REVITALIZATION PROJECT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 11

DATE: August 24, 2006

TIME: 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: Buffalo Place Conference Room

ATTENDEES: See attached sign-in sheet

ATTACHMENTS: Meeting Sign In Sheet

An agenda was distributed to all attendees. The main issues to be discussed include the submission of the Final Design Report for the Preliminary Project Design, the review of the second Public Information Meeting, and project policy direction. The following was discussed during the meeting:

Final Design Report Submission

- The Final Design Report for the Preliminary Design for the project was submitted to the Advisory Committee and the Client group. The final design report addresses all of the written comments received by the consultant on the July 2006 Draft Design Report. This concludes the preliminary design phase for the project.
- John Bidell stated that NFTA would forward the Final Design report to the FTA.

Public Information Meeting #2 Review

Debra Chernoff stated that more than 100 people attended the second public information meeting held on August 8, 2006. She stated that the public appreciated the 3D Traffic Model. The following were the items discussed:


- Debra Chernoff stated that there was a group that did not agree with the Share the Trackbed Alternative for the project. Keith Belanger stated that the perception of some people was that this was the first step to make light rail go away. Walt Zmuda affirmed NFTA's commitment to keeping the light rail by stating that NFTA is investing \$ 32 million in train car improvements.
- Steve Carmina stated that some comments he received were again related to the preferred alternative not being the right one and that left turns would be a problem.
- Christopher Fahey (representing Congressman Brian Higgins office) stated that he met with Gladys Gifford of the Citizens Regional Transit Corporation and that she intends to file a complaint with the FTA regarding the project. Debra Chernoff stated that Gladys Gifford is campaigning against the removal/elimination of the Theatre District Station.
- Keith Belanger stated that Tony Conte (of Sheas) was in favor of the project and for the elimination of the Theatre District Station.
- Debra Chernoff presented the summary of comments received – there were 29 written comments received, 16 comments were written on post-it notes on the roll map of the project. There were 9 positive, 8 negative comments. 10 comments were specifically related to the removal of the Theatre District Station. 2 comments suggested moving the Theatre District Station to North of Chippewa Street.

EA Status/Policy Direction

- Harold Matuszak stated that ERM is completing the EA revisions and that the EA will be transmitted to FTA on August 25, 2006.
- Keith Belanger stated that the design could not proceed beyond 30% until a FONSI is issued. John Bidell stated that the design is at 15%. Keith Belanger stated that there may be an option of tapping funds designated by the State for lower Main Street for the start of final design and reimburse those funds prior to receiving the FONSI. Richard Tobe (City of Buffalo-Office of Strategic Planning) will be contacted to find if this is a feasible option.
- Keith Belanger stated the survey work could proceed based on his conversation with Joe Giambra (DPW Commissioner). He also stated that the FONSI is expected by mid-December. Bill Jones inquired if the final design could be completed for bidding the project in March 2007, if FONSI was received by mid-December. John DiDonato stated that it would not be possible to complete the final design for the 600 and 700 block in such a short time period.
- Keith Belanger stated that the construction for 700-block could be started in that time. John Bidell stated that in order to start construction in 2007, the Phase IA could be split in two parts, one for the 700-block and the other for the block between Tupper and Chippewa.
- Steve Carmina stated that segmenting the project would increase the cost for the bid process. John Bidell stated that in order to move the project the cost would be minimal, and the start of construction would provide the required momentum for the project. Steve Carmina was concerned that segmenting would affect the material quality of the project.
- Mike Schmand enquired about the time required for completing the final design for the 600 and 700-block. John DiDonato stated that the minimum time required for the design would be four months and that it does not include the bid to award time frame of 2 to 3 months.
- John Bidell stated that the bid approval process will take 4 weeks for the bid process, 2 weeks for the Common Council approval and another 2 weeks for the Control Board approval. John Bidell also stated that the latest would be early September to give a go ahead to the designers to proceed with the final design, in order to meet the above stated dates and that does not include the decision making involvement of the AC or public interaction.
- Walt Zmuda inquired if the construction work would be a 24-hour operation. John Bidell stated that the work would consist of at least 2 work shifts.
- John Bidell stated that if funds were available, survey could start for final design. John DiDonato will provide the COB with the required information.
- Keith Belanger offered that the AC would gladly assist further in the design process of this project.
- John Bidell thanked the Advisory Committee & Buffalo Place for their support and assistance.

These Meeting Minutes represent our understanding of the items discussed and/or agreed upon during this meeting. Any additions, corrections, or revisions by those present shall be directed (in writing) to the undersigned within (5) days of receipt of these Minutes or they will be considered accurate and complete.

Respectfully Submitted,


Pradeep Simlote
DiDonato Associates

cc: Attendees
Neal Radice
Steve Fitzmaurice
Sheila Lopez
Sue Sweet
Tim Wanamaker
Kim Mathews
Ed Stachura