



WEST SEVENTH STREET / FORT ROAD FEDERATION

882 7th St W Suite 6, St Paul, MN 55102 • 651.298.5599 • fortroadfederation.org

D9 Fort Road Federation Transportation and Land Use Committee Meeting September 6, 2023

This meeting will be held at location/online address or web address.

- I. Call to order **6:35pm** by Paul Hardt

- II. **Introductions** (name and neighborhood) - [Digital Sign-In](#) for guests
 - A. **Attendees:**
 1. **Board Members:** Paul Hardt, Sara Fleetham, Meg Duhr, **Staff:** Julia McColley
 2. **Community Members:** Sean Kershaw, City of St. Paul Public Works, Jose-Luis, Xcel Energy
Joe Landsberger, resident; member of the Station Selection Advisory Committee, Riverview Corridor
John Yust, resident

III. Committee Business

A. Information

1. Update from Sean Kershaw, City of St. Paul Public Works

Next 15 years will see lots of street construction in St. Paul.

Update on Riverview Corridor:

Two alternatives methods of moving traffic:

Best Bus alternative---Bus Rapid Transition

Best Rail strategy--"traditional" street car---runs with traffic, runs on the "right" side of traffic, source of economic development

Decision-makers-- Policy Advisory Committee (composed of representatives of government entities the corridor goes through. About 12-15 members)

Route---go south of Xcel Energy Center.

Discussions are starting with MnDOT to plan complete reconstruction of West 7th. Just conversations.



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Several attendees expressed encouragement that there is more of an effort to coordinate all of the projects that will take place on West 7th.

We discussed the relationship between Rapid Bus, streetcars.. There was some disagreement about what the impact of the various transportation options may have on economic development. Sean responded that Bus Rapid Transit and streetcars can have positive impact on economic development. There is evidence that a streetcar can have a greater impact on economic development.

Joe claimed that the state wanted to move “ownership” of West 7th to the City. Sean confirmed this, but said the only way the City would accept this if West 7th is completely reconstructed.

Some phased in approach---starting with Bus Rapid Transit, and then adding streetcar later---may be adopted.

Meg pointed out a number of problems with West 7th—lack of trees, poor markings for street crossings, poor road conditions.

Sean reported that the County was pursuing a rail option that was not practical and not able to be implemented. Within the last year, this impractical LRT plan has been dropped. Sean reported that these concerns about West 7th have been pressed on the city engineers. Short-term projects—painting, striping, and some short-term mill and overlay actions may be taken.

Sara reported that Snelling has great pedestrian crossings and beautification (near Macalester).

Julia reported that there are about 90 tree stumps on west 7th, and the stumps will be taken out and replaced with woodchips. Sean reported Councilmember Noecker also reported that the stumps will be replaced with woodchips. There will be further discussions about this.

We also discussed pothole repair and this is ongoing in the City.

B. Discussion

John Yust raised the question of what would the status of Leech Street be, when/if the request to vacate Leech Street is approved. What would the implications for zoning and other land use questions be?



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Julia pointed out that the vacation will be discussed by the City Council.

Paul offered to contact Councilmember Noecker to get clarification on the Leech Street vacation. (Paul has sent a message about Leech Street. I received a response from a professional staff person in the Real Estate office, City of St. Paul. There appears to be some ambiguity about the intention of the owner of Hope Breakfast Bar regarding the vacation. Paul is going to attend the City Council meeting on Wednesday, September 20, when this will be discussed.)

Concerns were also expressed about the configuration of streets around Bad Weather Brewery.

Paul asked for a report from the Station Advisory Committee (Joe) in November.

Community Input Meeting with MnDOT on October 3, to prioritize temporary improvements. Meg reported to the group about this meeting, and connection has been made with the project coordinator for the mill/overlay project. MnDOT may be able to carry out some short-term improvements. Joe suggested that it would be good to hear if there have been any changes to the mill/overlay plan since the spring community meetings.

Julia reported that the board sent a letter of support for the Puzzle Room business in the former funeral home. Some objections have emerged about parking and the liquor license. Legislative hearing Monday, September 11.

IV. Adjourn – 7:50pm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Date – September 20, 3:30pm** City Council review of Vacation of Leech Street, Wednesday, , City Council Chambers
- **Date – October 3**, Community Input Meeting- West 7th Improvement Projects, Palace Community Center

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Date September 20** - City Council review of Vacation of Leech Street, Wednesday, September 20, 3:30pm, City Council Chambers
- **Date – October 4**, T&LU Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm (Chaired by Sara F.)