

city of saint paul
planning commission resolution

file number 14-15

date February 21, 2014

Streetcar Feasibility Study

WHEREAS, the *Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan* includes strategy 2.10 Study the feasibility and possible location of new streetcar lines, to help provide balance and choice to the system; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development engaged a team of consultants from Nelson\Nygaard, HDR and Richardson Richter and Associates in a technical Streetcar Feasibility Study, and identified a network of feasible routes as well as a priority corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, on December 6, 2013, released the draft study and recommendations for public review and set a public hearing for January 24, 2014; and

| WHEREAS, notice of the hearing was published pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 462.357, Subd. 3, and mailed to the early notification system list and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, public testimony was accepted via Open Saint Paul and at two Open Houses held on January 15th and 16th, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the Streetcar Feasibility Study was conducted by the Planning Commission on January 24, 2014, at which all persons present were allowed to testify; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission referred the draft study and conclusions to the Transportation Committee for consideration, review of the public testimony, and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2014, the Transportation Committee forwarded its recommendations to the Planning Commission; and

moved by Lindeke

seconded by

in favor 12

against 2 (Noecker, Oliver)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission considered the public testimony and the recommendations of the Transportation Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission recommends approval of the long-term network of feasible streetcar routes for Saint Paul, including 7 lines: East 7th, Grand, Payne, Rice, Robert, Selby, and West 7th; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission recommends authorization for staff to proceed to a more detailed analysis of the Starter Line corridor, *comparing the potential benefits of streetcars to enhanced bus service*, specifically for East-West 7th Street from Arcade to Randolph, with the purpose and intent to:

- Improve transit connectivity;
- Enhance the attractiveness of transit service; and
- Catalyze development through transit investment.

This next study will include (among other elements) an examination and recommendation for routing through Downtown Saint Paul; a more detailed analysis of capital, operating, and lifecycle costs; and an economic development potential breakdown, including a close study of the impacts of modern streetcar lines in other cities in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission forwards these recommendations and public testimony to the Mayor and City Council for their consideration.