

**Exploration of a Community Compact for the Central Corridor
Discussion Summary: Moving Forward Discussion**

Friday, March 13, 2009 2:00 – 4:00

Wilder Foundation

Attendees

Jonathan Sage-Martinson, Central Corridor Funders Collaborative
Cam Gordon, Minneapolis City Council
Debbie Wolking, West Bank Community Development Corporation
Toni Carter, Ramsey County Commission
Russ Stark, Saint Paul City Council
Dennis Presley, Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation
Melvin Carter, Saint Paul City Council
Nancy Homans, City of Saint Paul Mayor's Office
Phil Anderson, Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association
Veronica Burt, Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation
Hussein Samatar, African Development Center
Stephen Wilson, Summit University Planning Council
John Couchman, The Saint Paul Foundation
Rick Heydinger, F. R. Bigelow Foundation
Gordon Goodwin, Carol Lukas, Fieldstone Alliance, Facilitators

The meeting commenced at 2:10 p.m. with a review of the meeting objectives by Jonathan Sage-Martinson from the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative. Jonathan mentioned that members of the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative (CCFC) had talked with many people and organizations in the Corridor that are interested in a tool that can help align as many Corridor stakeholders as possible around commonly held goals, promote action toward achieving those goals, and create a way for jointly holding ourselves accountable for making progress on those goals. Jonathan stated that the CCFC has also heard a healthy dose of skepticism about a community compact or similar tool. All parties seem to agree that they cannot determine whether a compact would be helpful until they know how it would be structured: who would be a party to the compact, how is accountability built in, etc. Finally Jonathan pointed out that the CCFC sees the potential benefits of a compact or similar tool, but, like others, would want to know what the tool, and the process to build it, would look like before the CCFC can fully evaluate its interest. Jonathan said the objective for today's meeting (as well as the meeting held on February 6th) is to have a discussion to learn if there is sufficient common ground in stakeholder interest in a community compact or similar tool. Jonathan mentioned that the CCFC invited this small group to participate in this discussion because invitees represent constituencies and neighborhoods close to the Corridor and because the CCFC thought that the group could learn more about each other's perspectives in a small group.

After a round of introductions, Gordon Goodwin facilitated a review of the notes from the February 6 meeting. The group suggested some changes to language for clarifying the report context. An update on the March 7-8 Central Corridor Community Summit was provided by Veronica Burt and Stephen Wilson. They mentioned that the Summit made clear that community members are concerned about more than the light rail project, that they are concerned about the catalytic effect of the investment in the light rail project and the resulting economic development. They also mentioned that a draft statement from the Summit had not yet been completed.

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A concern from members of the Summit planning group that today's discussion was a closed process and could be duplicative of the work of the Summit planning group was also expressed.

Participants agreed that the formation of a community compact or similar tool would need to include a wide variety of parties. A conversation ensued about how all parties interested in equitable development around the Corridor could agree on a set of priorities and work together to achieve them. A comment was made that a jointly developed compact or similar tool might be a more effective approach than previous attempts by individual organizations to achieve their outcomes.

After some discussion, it was suggested that the metaphor of a journey might be a good way to think about the creation of a community compact or similar tool.

- a) *Destination*: What is the end result that we want to see for the Corridor? What is the vision the Corridor is trying to achieve?
- b) *Vehicle*: The priorities and agreements for achieving the vision need to be outlined in a product, but the product or tool still needs to be defined: Is it a community compact? A community benefits agreement? A community plan? A community statement? Other?
- c) *Road Map*: Once the destination and vehicle are determined, the process and path for getting there needs to be planned. This includes a discussion about who to include and in what way.

After some discussion about this metaphor and the needs/next steps that it lays out, the question was asked about what the next step was. Jonathan mentioned that the CCFC was interested in this idea and supporting its pursuit, but did not want – or think it was the right entity – to lead a long-term discussion.

Participants suggested that a small group think about and suggest options for addressing the Destination, Vehicle, and Road Map. Jonathan said that the CCFC would support the work of a small group and their efforts to report back to the larger group.

Participants agreed that this process made sense and a small group of people volunteered to work on these issues. These volunteers (collectively, the 'working group') include:

- a) Nancy Homans
- b) Hussein Samatar
- c) Phil Anderson
- d) Cam Gordon
- e) Stephen Wilson commented that the staff of the District Councils' Collaborative would participate
- f) Russ Stark
- g) Veronica Burt
- h) Toni Carter

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The working group agreed to meet and address the following next steps:

Step 1. Gathering information (Suggesting a 'Destination')

It is important for everyone to gain a better understanding of the various visions and ongoing work of groups that are actively pursuing Central Corridor development issues. Knowing what visions and groups exist and their objectives for the Central Corridor will help identify the *Destination* for a community compact or similar tool. Nancy Homans from the St. Paul Mayor's Office volunteered to compile (with help from others):

- a) A list of the groups that are actively pursuing their priorities as related to the Corridor, and
- b) Documents outlining the Corridor-related priorities of these groups or vision statements generated by these groups.

Step 2. Moving towards agreement (Suggesting a 'Vehicle')

The working group also agreed to discuss what kind of a product would best guide the alignment of future work on equitable development along the Corridor (The kind of tool is yet to be named. It could be a "community compact", a "community benefits agreement", a "community statement", a "community plan" or something else.).

Step 3. Developing a Process (Suggesting a 'Road Map')

The working group agreed to bring forward recommendations regarding the *Road Map* part of the metaphor – an outline of how to create the tool, including:

- a) What steps are needed
- b) Who will be involved in each step
- c) How the steps will be carried out, and by when

Participants of the large group indicated that several issues would need to be address as the working group did its work, including:

- a) How do we insure that voices from New Americans, light rail transit users, and Minneapolis neighborhoods are included in the discussion; and
- b) What would be the best tools for keeping stakeholders informed about the process as it is developing – meeting notices, draft documents, etc.

Participants asked the working group to address these three steps and then present their suggestions at a future meeting of the larger group sponsored by the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative.

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To facilitate the work of the working group, Fieldstone Alliance has suggested the following schedule:

Community Compact Exploration Timeframe

Date	Who	What
Working Group Meeting 1 Week of April 6	Working group members Fieldstone Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review rough draft of Community Statement (District Council Collaborative) • Review existing vision statements and priorities of groups pursuing corridor community development activities (research by City of Saint Paul - Nancy Homans). • Identify elements of a corridor community agreement document (<i>Vehicle</i>).
Working Group Meeting 2 Week of April 27	Working group members Fieldstone Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review final draft of Community Statement • Refine elements of a corridor community agreement document (<i>Vehicle</i>). • Identify <i>Road Map</i> (process elements and timeframe) the <i>Vehicle</i> will travel to achieve the collaborative destination. • Suggest who should be involved in what steps. • Prepare recommendations for the larger group.
Large Group Community Compact Exploration Meeting Week of May 11	FA/ Community Compact Exploration Group (community organization reps, elected officials, community and small business associations, institutional reps.	Discuss design alternatives for a corridor community collaboration <i>Destination, Vehicle and Road Map</i> . Decide next steps.