

Midtown Greenway Coalition

Resolution 2 regarding Xcel Energy's Hiawatha Project, Approved January 22, 2009

WHEREAS Xcel Energy announced on January 14, 2009 its recommend substation sites and high voltage transmission line route as follows:

- The Hiawatha Substation is proposed for a location south of the Midtown Greenway trails east of Hiawatha Avenue;
- The Midtown Substation is proposed for a location on the north edge of the Midtown Greenway corridor west of Oakland Avenue;
- Two 115-kilovolt transmission lines are proposed to be suspended overhead on poles with footings on the street-level edges of the Midtown Greenway from Hiawatha Avenue to Oakland Avenue;

WHEREAS the Midtown Greenway Coalition recognizes that some Lake Street businesses are experiencing electricity supply and quality problems that negatively impact them;

WHEREAS the Midtown Greenway Coalition supports the provision of reliable electric power for area businesses and residences;

WHEREAS Xcel has not yet explored alternatives its proposed Hiawatha Project to the satisfaction of the Midtown Greenway Coalition, where alternatives could include a combination of: aggressive conservation; local distributed power generation such as photovoltaic panels; distribution system upgrades; and state of the art load management such as Smart Grid to shave peak demands;

WHEREAS Xcel recommends locating its Hiawatha Substation on land that has been targeted for public greenspace by the Seward and greater Longfellow communities and the Midtown Greenway Coalition at the nexus of the Midtown Greenway, the Hiawatha LRT Trail, and our region's only existing Light Rail Transit line, and the pursuit of additional public greenspace on the Greenway has been supported by numerous other Greenway neighborhoods citywide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Midtown Greenway Coalition continues to oppose Xcel Energy's Hiawatha Project for reasons identified above and in its December 3 resolution (attached) and further:

- Opposes the placement of substations and high voltage lines at Xcel's recommended locations along the Midtown Greenway, and;
- Opposes the placement of the high voltage lines elsewhere along the Midtown Greenway including underground along the rim of the Midtown Greenway or at trail elevation, or overhead lines with pole footings at trail elevation, should such an alternatives scenarios be proposed, and;
- Will do its best to represent its interests throughout Xcel's project approval process and empower communities along the Midtown Greenway to represent their interests as well.

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
XCEL ENERGY'S HIAWATHA PROJECT

December 3, 2008

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy has proposed the "Hiawatha Project," a plan in which Xcel Energy would construct and operate high voltage power lines along or near the Midtown Greenway corridor between Hiawatha Avenue and I-35W and add two substations adjacent to or near the Midtown Greenway – one near Hiawatha Avenue and one near I-35W;

WHEREAS, the Midtown Greenway is a regional amenity and public space which serves thousands of users daily and has served as the catalyst for development along its edges;

WHEREAS, the Midtown Greenway Coalition (the Coalition) supports the continued economic development in the Lake Street/Midtown Greenway corridor, including electrically powered rail transit in the Midtown Greenway, and the necessary infrastructure to accommodate this future development;

WHEREAS, high voltage power lines will create visual pollution in the corridor, degrade the user experience in the Greenway, and negatively impact property values and the potential for future development;

WHEREAS, the presence of new power lines would be a potential health hazard in an area already disproportionately impacted by pollution, and representatives from impacted neighborhoods recommend that the well-being of local residents take highest priority;

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy is working on a needs assessment for the Hiawatha Project that will accompany its permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) but this needs assessment has not yet been completed or made public;

WHEREAS, the Midtown Greenway Coalition would like to meaningfully explore an aggressive combination of less invasive solutions to the power issues that exist in south Minneapolis including modernizing distribution equipment, conserving energy, using distributed generation from renewable sources such as solar, improving existing substations, and implementing 'smart grid' technology;

WHEREAS research into alternatives to the proposed substations and power lines will take time and the current timeline proposed by Xcel Energy of one more public meeting in January 2009 prior to submitting a permit application to the PUC in January or February 2009 does not allow enough time for this research;

WHEREAS the Midtown Greenway Coalition has received expressions of interest to collaborate on researching and evaluating alternatives to the Hiawatha Project from a number of parties with relevant capacities and constituencies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Midtown Greenway Coalition currently opposes Xcel Energy's Hiawatha Project in the project notification area.

The Coalition may reassess its opposition if a comprehensive needs assessment demonstrates that a power supply increase in south Minneapolis of the magnitude proposed is justified and all alternatives, as proposed and evaluated by Xcel and independent parties, are explored in good faith and found not to adequately address the needs, and appropriate mitigation measures are developed with community involvement and included in implementation plans and budgets. The needs assessment should provide the information required for affected neighborhoods, Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, the Lake Street Council, the Midtown Greenway Coalition and other stakeholders to work as a team with Xcel Energy to explore the best ways to abate and/or meet local future electricity demand.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The Midtown Greenway Coalition asks Xcel Energy to delay its permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission until alternatives to the project can be researched by Xcel and independent groups including the Midtown Greenway Coalition and all parties can agree on the adequacy and objectiveness of such an alternatives analysis.