

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.