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Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Citizens' Guide to the Municipal Consent Process and Preliminary Design Plans

State law requires cities, counties and regional rail authorities to hold hearings to receive public comment on preliminary design plans for the Central Corridor LRT Project. These preliminary design plans show the general dimensions and location of the light rail alignment, including approximate station locations and a plan for disability access. They are provided to give municipalities and other interested parties the opportunity to review and comment on the plans. This is known as the municipal consent process.

See inside pages for how to read the plans

The state Department of Transportation and the regional rail authorities for Hennepin and Ramsey counties will hold a joint public hearing May 29th. In June, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Hennepin and Ramsey counties will hold separate public hearings prior to their city councils and county boards approving the plans in July (see schedule on back page). Preliminary design plans for stations, tracks and electrical systems are available for public review at the following locations:

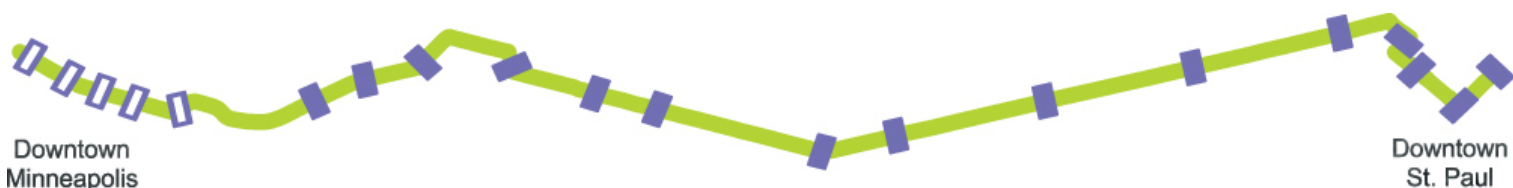
In St. Paul

- Metropolitan Council library, 390 N. Robert St.
- Central Corridor Project Office, 540 Fairview Ave. N.
- MnDOT's Transportation Building Library, 395 John Ireland Blvd.
- Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 West Minnehaha Ave.
- Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.
- Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice St.
- Rondo Community Library, 461 North Dale St.
- St. Paul Central Library, 90 West 4th St.
- St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 W. Como Ave.

In Minneapolis

- Franklin Library, 1314 E. Franklin Ave.
- Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
- Southeast Library, 1222 4th St. SE

An electronic copy is also available in a PDF format at www.centralcorridor.org under Reports & Presentations.



How to read the seven preliminary design plans

Five of the seven plans are broken into geographic areas, and the final two plans cover the entire 11-mile corridor. By geographic region, the first five plans show the location of the track, roads, turn lanes, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, bus stops, crosswalks, proposed on-street parking spaces, traffic signals, station platform locations and existing conditions to give readers a before-and-after comparison. Of the latter two plans, one shows the typical station platform types and layout of equipment on each. The second one shows all the electrical and communications components.

The first few pages of each plan include a guide that shows the entire corridor, the segments' place on the corridor and a key of the symbols and abbreviations. Follow these four steps to help you read the plan and find information.

Step 1: Identify correct plan by geographic segment using the map on the eighth page of each plan.

Segment	Geographic Descriptions	Segment Code
Segment 1	Downtown Minneapolis Metrodome to University Avenue & 30 th	01
Segment 2	University Avenue & 30 th to Pascal	02
Segment 3	University Avenue & Pascal to Farrington	03
Segment 4	University Avenue & Farrington to Downtown St. Paul Union Depot	04
Segment 5	Downtown St. Paul Union Depot to Vehicle Maintenance Facility	05

Step 2: Identify correct “sequence” of each geographic segment. An index of sequences is found on the ninth and 10th pages of each plan. Sequences are delineated by two double vertical lines (known as match lines on each end of the sequence), and each covers about one or two blocks.

Step 3: Determine which plan and type has the information sought.

Components	Plan Type	Plan Code	Type Code
Tracks	Track Plan : Overhead view	TRK	PLN
Stations			
Roads and turn lanes	Roadway Plan: Overhead view	CIV	PLN
Sidewalks			
Curbs and gutters			
Bus stops			
Crosswalks			
Proposed on-street parking spaces			
Traffic signals			
Sidewalk width			
Traffic lanes width	Typical Cross-Section Plan	CIV	TYP
Track location			
Stations	Existing Conditions Plan: Overhead view	SUR	PLN
Present roadway conditions			
Underground utilities			

Step 4: Figure out the code for the desired page. Each page includes a sheet name in the lower right hand corner based on the codes from the above information.

Plan Code	Segment	Type Code	Sequence
CIV	01	PLN	002

Example: Find the plan that shows the westbound bus stop closest to the Griggs Midway Building at 540 Fairview Ave. N. in St. Paul.

Step 1: Go to the plan for University Avenue from 30th to Pascal, which is Segment 02.

Step 2: Find the sequence that spans the intersection of Fairview and University avenues. The sequence number is 025.

Step 3: Identify which plan shows bus stops from the table in Step 1 above. The answer is: Roadway Plan which has the code CIV-PLN


Step 4: Go to the Roadway Plan and look for a sheet name CIV – 02 – PLN – 025. Find the bus emblem located in the northeast corner of the intersection of Fairview and University avenues.

SEGMENT 2		SHEET
ROADWAY PLAN		416
UNIVERSITY AVE. 505+00 - 509+50		OF
DISCIPLINE:	CIVIL	1034
SHEET NAME:	CIV-02-PLN-025	

The sheet name is located in the lower right hand corner of each page.



Contact the Central Corridor Project Office with questions and for assistance reading the preliminary design plans and requests for alternative formats at centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us or (651) 602-1645. One of the outreach staffers will contact you.



Public Hearing Schedule on the Preliminary Design Plans

The following public hearings are being held before the cities and counties take formal action on the plan in July. The public will be able to ask questions and get answers informally from project staff at open houses one hour before each hearing. The same brief preliminary design plan overview will be presented by project staff before each hearing. If you attend a hearing outside of your jurisdiction, your comments will be forwarded. These meetings will deal only with the content of the preliminary design plans; no action will be taken at these hearings. Future decisions regarding issues such as public art, station design and streetscape will be the focus of future meetings.

- **May 29, 5-7 p.m.** - Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Hennepin and Ramsey counties' regional rail authorities joint public hearing, Goodwill/Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul. Open house at 4 p.m.
- **June 3, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** - City of Minneapolis, City Council chambers, Room 317 City Hall, 350 S. 5th St., Minneapolis. Open house at 12:30 p.m.
- **June 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** - City of St. Paul, City Hall Council Chambers, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul. Open house at 4:30 p.m.
- **June 5, 5-7 p.m.** - Ramsey County, Lao Family Center, 320 W. University Ave. St. Paul. Open house at 4 p.m.
- **June 17, 1:30 p.m.** - Hennepin County, Hennepin County Government Center A-2400, 300 S. 6th St., Minneapolis. Open house at 12:30 p.m, in A-2350.

How to participate besides speaking at the hearings

Submit written comments focused on the technical details of the preliminary design plans to both your city and county contacts listed below, by the date indicated:

City of St. Paul (accepted up to June 12)
Allen Lovejoy
1500 CHA, 25 W. Fourth St.,
St. Paul, MN 55102
Email: centralcorridor@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ramsey County (accepted up to June 12)
Art Coulson
RCGC-West, Suite 6560, 50 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55124
Email: comments@regionalrail.org
Phone comment line: (651) 266-2776

City of Minneapolis (accepted up to June 9)
Kelly Moriarity
309 2nd Ave. S., Rm 300, Minneapolis, MN 55401
Email: kelly.moriarity@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Hennepin County (accepted up to June 23)
Joe Scala
417 N 5th St., Suite 333, Minneapolis, 55401
Email: joseph.scala@co.hennepin.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Transportation is also taking comments up to June 12 through Carissa Ptacek at the Central Corridor Project Office, 540 Fairview Ave. N., Suite 200, St. Paul, 55104, carissa.ptacek@dot.state.mn.us

Central Corridor LRT Project Overview

The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project linking downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis via Washington and University avenues will be the fourth in a planned network of rail and bus "transitways" in the Twin Cities. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2010 on the planned 11-mile Central Corridor line, with service beginning in 2014. The line would connect with the Hiawatha LRT line at the Metrodome station in Minneapolis and the Northstar commuter rail line, which will begin operating in 2009, at the new Downtown Minneapolis multimodal station. The Metropolitan Council will be the grantee of federal funds. The regional government agency is charged with leading the design and building of the line in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Central Corridor Management Committee, which includes the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis and commissioners from Ramsey and Hennepin counties, provides advice and oversight. The Central Corridor LRT Project Website is www.centralcorridor.org