

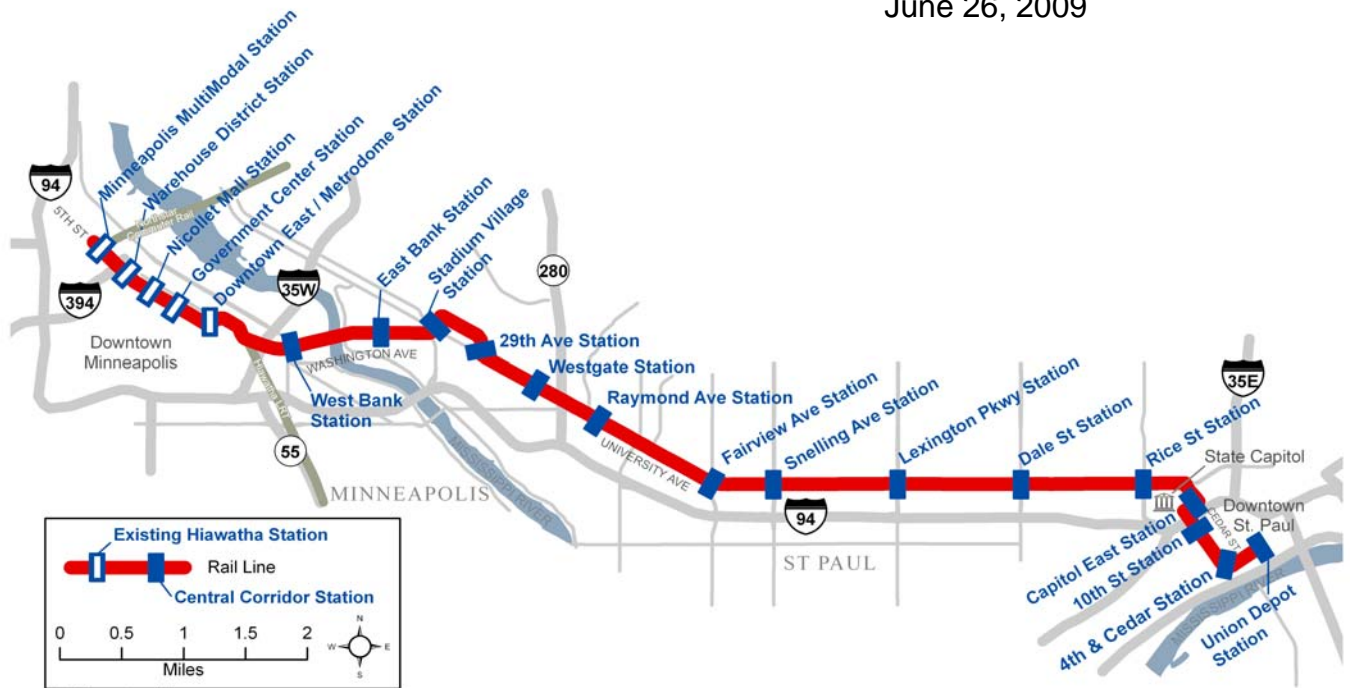
Improving
mobility

Easing
congestion

Strengthening
our communities

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Citizens' Guide to the
Final Environmental Impact Statement
June 26, 2009



The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

What is the FEIS?

- This document describes the project as it is going to be constructed, giving the **final** picture so everyone knows what is going to be built and where.
- The FEIS describes the route and how it was chosen, and provides exact location of the tracks, stations and key pieces of supporting infrastructure, such as the traction power substations and operation and maintenance facility.

How does the FEIS affect project decisions?

- The FEIS includes responses to all comments received on the 2006 Draft Environmental Impact Statement as well as the 2008 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- The FEIS explains the purpose and need for the project and commitments to mitigate adverse impacts. **Mitigation commitments made in the environmental process must be fulfilled.**

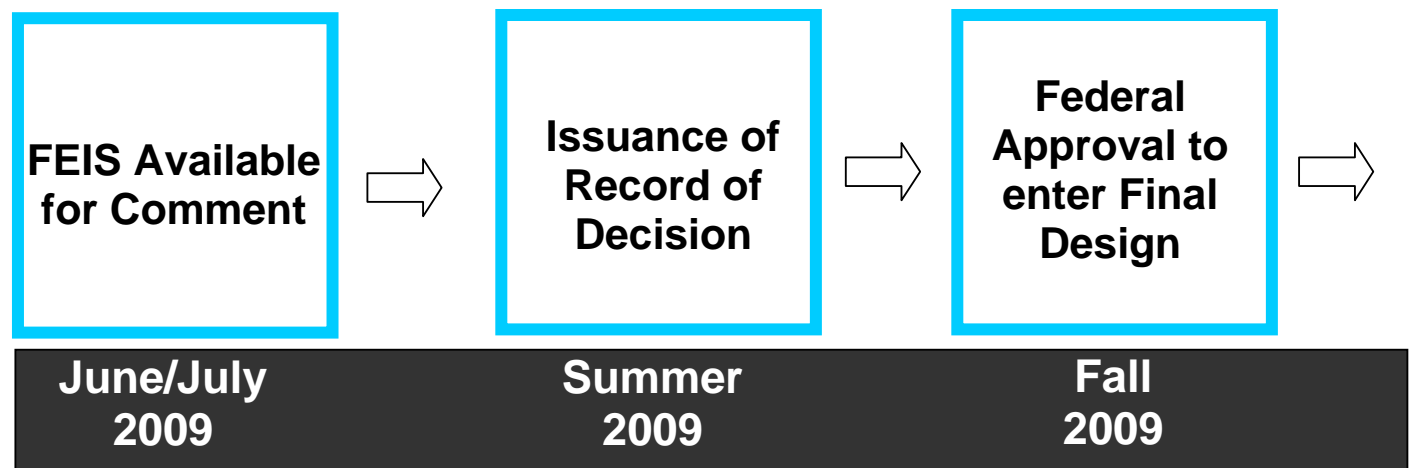
Topics covered in the FEIS

Topics prescribed by state and federal environmental regulations are covered in 11 chapters and appendices, with text, charts, photographs, drawings and other informational exhibits. Subjects discussed in detail include:



Restaurant owner Sharon Richards-Noel (left) and Mark Aune, who was buying her West Indies Soul Food business, met in April 2008 with community outreach coordinator Shoua Lee from the Central Corridor LRT Project about on-street parking changes along University Avenue with the advent of light rail. Outreach coordinators have been meeting for the last year with business owners and community members to explain where on-street parking will be eliminated and to discuss solutions.

- Project purpose and need
- Alternatives considered
- Social effects
- Environmental effects
- Economic effects
- Transportation
- Section 4(f) evaluation (parks and cultural resources)
- Financial analysis
- Indirect and cumulative impacts
- Evaluation of alternatives
- Public and agency coordination and comments



Where to find copies of the FEIS

The FEIS is available for public review at the following public libraries or facilities:

In St. Paul

- Metropolitan Council library, 390 N. Robert St. (paper & electronic)
- Central Corridor Project Office, 540 Fairview Ave. N, Ste 200 (paper & electronic)
- MnDOT's Transportation Building Library, 395 John Ireland Blvd. (paper & electronic)
- Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 West Minnehaha Ave. (electronic)
- Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. (electronic)
- Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice St. (electronic)
- Rondo Community Library, 461 North Dale St. (paper & electronic)
- St. Paul Central Library, 90 West 4th St. (paper & electronic)
- St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 W. Como Ave. (electronic)
- Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. (paper & electronic)

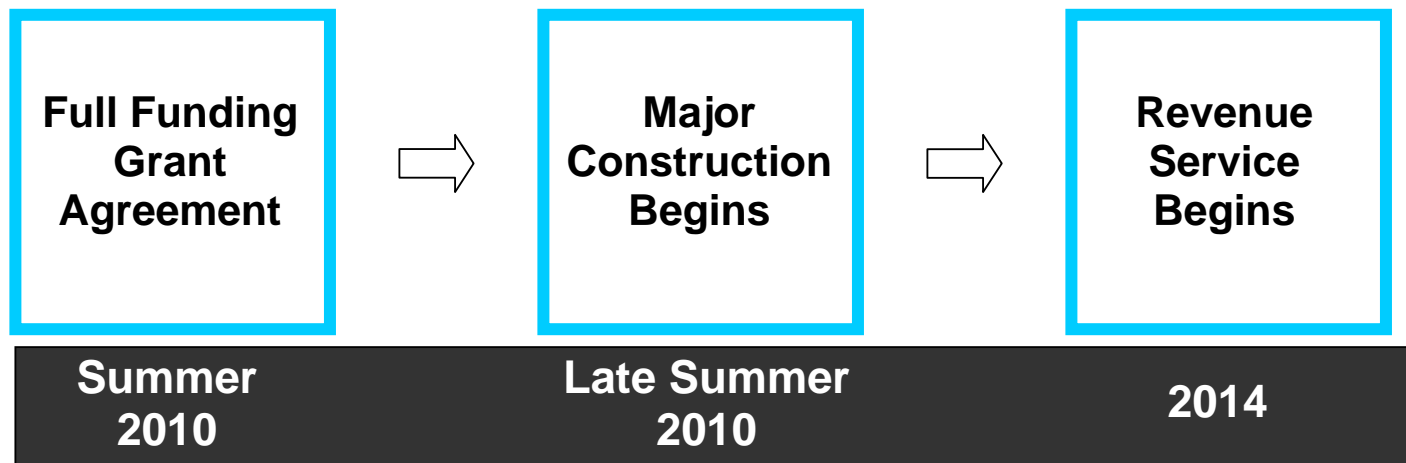
In Minneapolis

- Franklin Library, 1314 E. Franklin Ave. (electronic)
- Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall (paper & electronic)
- Southeast Library, 1222 4th St. SE (electronic)

An electronic copy is also available in a PDF format at www.centralcorridor.org under Hot Topics.

Next Steps

- Agency and public review period of 30 days, ending on July 27, 2009
- Issuance of document called the Record of Decision will conclude the environmental phase of the project
- Record of Decision allows the project to make application to enter Final Design in 2009 and pursue the Full Funding Grant Agreement in 2010



Project Background

The Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority initiated the scoping process in 2001, and conducted the alternatives analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement over the following four years. The rail authority's role as project lead ended in 2006 with a series of public hearings and the selection of a locally preferred alternative - light rail transit operating on University and Washington avenues. Since 2006, when the Metropolitan Council became the project lead, the Central Corridor Project Office identified several issues that resulted in changes to the alignment and required additional analysis and disclosure of potential impacts. The Metropolitan Council held three public hearings prior to taking formal action to adopt a locally preferred alternative on Sep. 3, 2008.

Examples of changes made to the project due to the 2006 and 2008 public hearings:

- Designing an entirely new road surface, sidewalks, curbs and gutters from façade to façade for a uniform look for University Avenue.
- Including more frequent pedestrian crossings on University Avenue to address concerns about pedestrians' ability to cross the street safely and conveniently
- Adding infrastructure for future stations at Hamline Avenue, Victoria Street, and Western Avenue
- Moving the West Bank Station to better serve both the University of Minnesota and surrounding communities

Contact Information

- Requests for alternative formats and assistance reading the Final Environmental Impact Statement may be directed to Jessica Hill at the Central Corridor Project Office at jessica.hill@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1840.
- For questions or comments regarding the FEIS, contact:
Kathryn O'Brien at kathryn.obrien@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1927 or

Kathryn O'Brien
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540 Fairview Ave. N., Ste. 200
St. Paul, MN 55104

About the project

The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project will link downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis along Washington and University avenues via the state Capitol and the University of Minnesota. Construction would 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 operation in late 2009, at the new Minneapolis Multimodal Station. The Metropolitan Council will be the grantee of federal funds. The regional government agency is charged with building the line in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Central Corridor Management Committee, which includes the commissioners from Ramsey and Hennepin counties, mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota provides advice and oversight. The Central Corridor LRT Project Website is www.centralcorridor.org.