

Section 3:

Advertisement of 45-day Public Comment Period

Committee Report**T Transportation Committee**
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 23, 2008

Item: 2008-186

Consent

ADVISORY INFORMATION**Date Prepared:** July 15, 2008**Subject:** Central Corridor Light Rail Transit – Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) Publication and Comment**Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council recognize the publication of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) as approved by the FTA and approve 45-day public comment period including the scheduling of at least three (3) public hearings. Hearings have been scheduled for the following dates and times.

- Monday, August 4, Noon (12:00 p.m.), Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul
An open house will precede the hearing from 11:30 a.m. to noon
- Thursday, August 7, 6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis
An open house will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 9, 2:00 p.m., Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul
An open house will precede the hearing from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann. The item passed unanimously with no discussion.

Business Item

Item: 2008-186

T Transportation Committee**Meeting date: July 14, 2008****For Metropolitan Council Meeting: July 23, 2008****ADVISORY INFORMATION****Date:** July 3, 2008**Subject:** Central Corridor Light Rail Transit – Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) Publication and Comment**District(s), Member(s):** All**Policy/Legal Reference:** Federal Title 23 CFR, Part 771, Minnesota Statutes 4410.3000**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Brian J. Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510
Mark W. Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager 651-602-1942
Rich Rovang, Deputy Project Director, 651-602-1941
Kathryn O'Brien, Principal Contract Administrator, 651-602-1927**Division/Department:** Metro Transit / Central Corridor Project Office**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council recognize the publication of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) as approved by the FTA and approve 45-day public comment period including the scheduling of at least three (3) public hearings. Hearings have been scheduled for the following dates and times.

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- Saturday, August 9, 2:00 p.m., Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul
An open house will precede the hearing from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Background

Business item 2007-391, passed by the Council on December 12, 2007, authorized the publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an SDEIS for the Central Corridor LRT project. The scope of the document was limited to disclosing changes from the Locally Preferred Alternative as documented in the April 2006 DEIS with a specific focus on key elements including the following issues:

1. Hiawatha / Central Connection
2. University of Minnesota alignment (tunnel vs. at-grade and stations)
3. Potential Added Station at: Western, Victoria or Hamline
4. Capitol Area Alignment/Station Modifications
5. Downtown St. Paul Alignment/Station Modifications
6. Right-of-Way for Systems Components – traction power substations
7. Design for 2- or 3-Car Trains / Platforms
8. Maintenance and Storage Facility Needs

Subsequent to passage of this business item, the FTA required the addition of Washington Avenue Bridge modifications and/or improvements to the SDEIS. The SDEIS is now complete and has been approved for publication by the FTA with a scheduled publication date of July 11, 2008. A formal public comment period will commence upon publication to conclude on August 25, 2008.

Rationale

Holding a minimum of one public hearing is a requirement of state and federal environmental regulations. Holding three public hearings is desirable, as part of thoroughly gathering public input and providing reasonable opportunities for the public to attend.

Funding

There are no funding considerations associated with recognizing the publication of the SDEIS or authorizing conducting public hearings as part of the 45-day public comment period.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Council and its Central Corridor Partners support this action. There is no known opposition.

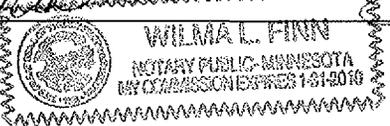
STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

Linda St. Clair, being duly sworn, on oath says she is and during all times herein stated has been an employee of the Star Tribune, a subsidiary of Avista Corporation, Inc., 425 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55488, publisher and printer of the Star Tribune newspaper (the "Newspaper"), published 7 days a week, and has full knowledge of the facts herein stated as follows:

1. (a) The Newspaper is printed in the English language in newspaper format and in column and sheet form equivalent in printed space to at least 1,000 square inches;
 - (b) The Newspaper is printed daily and distributed at least five days each week;
 - (c) In at least half of its issues each year, the Newspaper has no more than 75 percent of its printed space comprised of advertising material and paid public notices. In all of its issues each year, the Newspaper has not less than 25 percent of its news columns devoted to news of local interest to the community that it purports to serve. Not more than 25 percent of the Newspaper's non-advertising column inches in any issue duplicates any other publication;
 - (d) The Newspaper is circulated in the local public corporation which it purports to serve, and has at least 500 copies regularly delivered to paying subscribers;
 - (e) The Newspaper has its known office of issue established in either the county in which it lies, in whole or in part, the local public corporation which the Newspaper purports to serve, or in an adjoining county;
 - (f) The Newspaper files a copy of each issue immediately with the state historical society;
 - (g) The Newspaper is made available at single or subscription prices to any person, corporation, partnership, or other unincorporated association requesting the Newspaper and making the applicable payment;
 - (h) The Newspaper has complied with all the foregoing conditions for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the notice publication which is the subject of the Affidavit; and
 - (i) Between September 1 and December 31 of each year, the Newspaper publishes and submits to the secretary of state, along with a filing fee of \$25, a sworn United States Post Office periodical class statement of ownership and circulation.
2. The printed copy of the matter attached hereto (the "Notice") was cut from the columns of the Newspaper and was printed and published in the English language, on the following days and dates: **Friday, July 11, 2008.**
 3. Except as otherwise directed by a particular statute requiring publication of a public notice, the Notice was printed in a typeface no smaller than six point with a lowercase alphabet of 90 point.
 4. The rate actually charged for publication of the Notice was **\$973.80**

Linda St. Clair

Subscribed and sworn to before me on July 15, 2008

Wilma L. Finn
Notary Public


Received
JUL 17 2008
CCPO/Met Council

Metropolitan Council
Att: Judith Phillips, Central Corridor Project
540 Fairview Avenue N. Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55104-1753

11291444
12.36 inches x 2 columns
Class 203

Received
JUL 17 2008
CCPO/Met Council

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
of Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Public Hearings

The Metropolitan Council, on behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a cooperating agency, is notifying the public of the availability of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed construction of transit improvements in the Central Corridor for review and comment.

The SDEIS describes modifications that have been made to the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project since the publication of the Central Corridor Alternatives Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS) in April 2006 (No. 20060147-ERP No. D-FTA-F40434-MN) and the adoption of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) in June 2006. This SDEIS is the latest step in providing a framework for local decision-making as the Central Corridor LRT Project is advanced. Its purpose is to inform the public, resource agencies and local governments of changes proposed to the project since publication of the AA/DEIS in April 2006 and refinements proposed and analyzed during preliminary engineering.

The Central Corridor LRT Project is an approximately 11-mile LRT line that would serve downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul, as well as the University of Minnesota and the state Capitol complex. It will integrate with the Hiawatha LRT in downtown Minneapolis. The project will involve the construction of LRT primarily within existing street rights-of-way and would improve mobility, accessibility and transportation system linkages. The social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed changes to the LPA have been analyzed in the SDEIS.

A 45-day period has been established for comments on this document. Comments may be submitted in writing or may be made orally at the public hearing(s). Written comments should be submitted directly to Ms. Kathryn O'Brien at the address below by Aug. 25, 2008. Information on the public hearing(s) can also be obtained from Ms. Kathryn O'Brien.

Kathryn O'Brien
Environmental Services
Project Manager
Central Corridor Project
Office
540 Fairview Ave N.,
Ste. 200
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 602-1927
TTY (651) 291-0904

The SDEIS and draft Section 4(f) Evaluation are posted on the Central Corridor LRT Project website at www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.htm

Copies of the SDEIS and draft Section 4(f) Evaluation are also available for review in hard copy format at the following locations:

- Met Council Robert Street Library, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul MN 55101
- Central Corridor Project Office, 540 Fairview Ave. N., Ste. 200, St. Paul, MN 55104
- MnDOT Library, Transportation Building, 395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155
- Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55104
- Rondo Community Library, 461 N. Dale, St. Paul, MN 55103
- St. Paul Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., St. Paul MN 55102
- St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 W. Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108
- Merriam Park Library, 1331 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
- Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice St., St. Paul, MN 55117
- Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul MN 55104
- Franklin Library, 1314 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404
- Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401
- Southeast Library, 1222 4th St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Public hearings will be held at the following locations at these dates and times:

- Monday, Aug. 4, Noon (12:00 p.m.), Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul. An open house will precede the hearing from 11:30 a.m. to Noon.
- Thursday, Aug. 7, 6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis. An open house will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 9, 2:00 p.m., Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul. An open house will precede the hearing from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

For people with special needs, please contact community outreach coordinator Dana Dellis for reasonable accommodations. Her contact information is dana.dellis@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1954.

LuLetta Schmitz,
being duly sworn on oath, says: that she is,
and during all times herein states has been,
Clerk of Northwest Publications, Inc.,
Publisher of the newspaper known as the
Saint Paul Pioneer Press, a newspaper of
general circulation within the City of Saint
Paul and the County of Ramsey.

That the notice hereto attached was cut from
the columns of said newspaper and was
printed and published therein on the
following date(s):

11th of July 2008
Newspaper Ref./Ad # 70706680

LuLetta Schmitz

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
4th day of August 2008

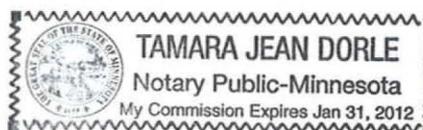
Tamara Jean Dorle

Tamara Jean Dorle

NOTARY PUBLIC

Ramsey County, Minnesota

My commission expires January 31, 2012



Received
AUG 7 2008
CCPO/Met Council

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL CORRIDOR LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Metropolitan Council, on behalf of the Central Transit Administration (CTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a cooperating agency, is advising the public of the availability of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and Supplemental Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed construction of transit improvements in the Central Corridor for railward extension.

The SDEIS describes and illustrates the proposed transit improvements in the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project since the publication of the Central Corridor Alternatives Analysis and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in April 2006 (No. 2006-07, LRP No. D-1A-4-02424-004) and the adoption of the locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) in June 2007. This SDEIS is the latest step in preparing a framework for local decision-making on the Central Corridor LRT Project. It is intended to provide to the public, interested agencies, and local government officials information about the project since publication of the SDEIS in April 2006 and subsequent to changes and analysis during preliminary engineering.

The Central Corridor LRT Project is an approximately 11-mile LRT line that would cross downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul, as well as the University of Minnesota and the State Capitol campus. It will integrate with the existing LRT in downtown Minneapolis. The project will include the construction of LRT capacity within existing street right-of-way and would improve mobility, accessibility and transportation system linkage. The social, economic, and cultural impacts of the proposed changes to the LRT have been analyzed in the SDEIS.

A 45-day public comment period has been established for comments on this document. Comments may be submitted in writing or any form acceptable to the public hearing, with the exception of hand-delivered comments. Comments should be submitted to the CTA, 500 Marquette Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102, by August 25, 2008. Information on the public hearing(s) can also be obtained from the CTA at 651-266-3344.

Kathryn O'Brien
Environmental Services Project Manager
Central Corridor Project Office
500 Marquette Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 651-266-3327
TTY: 651-266-5624

The SDEIS and draft Section 4(f) Evaluation are posted on the Central Corridor LRT Project website at www.cta.org and also available for public review at the following locations:

- City of St. Paul, 200 Central Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102
- City of Minneapolis, 300 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55402
- Metropolitan Council, 300 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102
- Central Corridor Project Office, 500 Marquette Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Minneapolis Library, Transportation Building, 300 John F. Kennedy Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Central Corridor Project Office, 500 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Hamlet Community Library, 401 N. Oak, St. Paul, MN 55102
- St. Paul Central Library, 40 W. 4th St., St. Paul, MN 55102
- St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 W. Chicago Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Excelsior Park Library, 3151 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Blue Stone Library, 1011 Rice St., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Phalen-Midway Library, 1501 W. Marquette Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102
- Franklin Library, 2214 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55402
- Minneapolis Central Library, 200 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55402
- Southway Library, 1222 4th St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Public Hearings will be held at the following locations at these dates and times:

- Monday, Aug. 4, 6:00 p.m. White Foundation, 600 Washington Parkway E., St. Paul
- Thursday, Aug. 7, 6:00 p.m. Brian Doyle Center, 423 7th Ave. S., Minneapolis
- Friday, Aug. 8, 6:00 p.m. Grand Central Station, 553 Marquette Ave. N., St. Paul

An open house will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, and from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 8.

For people with special needs, please contact accessibility@cta.org or call Dana DeBoer at 651-266-3344 for more information. For general information, contact the CTA at 651-266-3344.

Received
JUL 17 2008
CCPO/Met Council

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

Carrie Retzack, being duly sworn on oath say she/he
(SS. and during all times herein stated has been the publisher or the publisher's designated agent
) in charge of the newspaper known as

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
OF CENTRAL CORRIDOR
LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT
PROJECT SUPPLEMENTAL
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

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Central Corridor Project Office
540 Fairview Ave N., Ste. 200
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 602-1927, TTY (651) 291-0904

The SDEIS and draft Section 4(f) Evaluation are posted on the Central Corridor LRT Project website at

www.metrocouncil.org/
transportation/ccorridor/
centralcorridor.htm

Copies of the SDEIS and draft

FINANCE AND COMMERCE

and has full knowledge of the facts herein stated as follows:

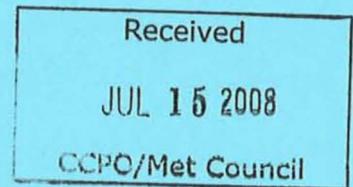
- (A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualifications as a legal newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, and 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.
(B) She/He further states on oath that the printed

Public Hearing
22172071

hereto attached as part hereof was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published therein in the English language; that it was first so published on

July 11, 2008 for 1 times(s);

the subsequent dates of publications being as follows:



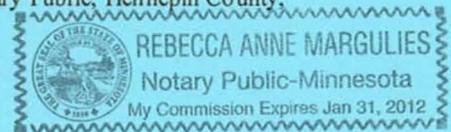
And that the following is a printed copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, and is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of said notice, to wit:

_____ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
_____ X abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Carrie Retzack

Subscribed and
Sworn to before me this 11th day of July, 2008

Rebecca Margulies
(Notarial Seal) Notary Public, Hennepin County,



RATE INFORMATION:

- 1. Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space: 3.25000
2. Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter: 1.41034
3. Rate actually charged for the above matter: 1.28213

Section 401 evaluation are also available for review in hard copy format at the following locations:

Record of Public Comment on Central Corridor SDEIS

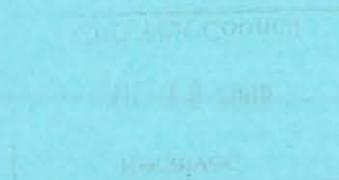
- Met Council, Robert Breard Library, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101
- Central Corridor Project Office, 540 Fairview Ave. N., Ste. 200, St. Paul, MN 55104
- MnDOT Library, Transportation Building, 395 John Ireland Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155
- Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55104
- Rondo Community Library, 461 N. Dale, St. Paul, MN, 55103
- St. Paul Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., St. Paul MN 55102
- St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 W. Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108
- Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
- Rice Street Library, 1011 Rice St., St. Paul, 55117
- Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul MN 55104
- Franklin Library, 1314 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404
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- Southeast Library, 1222 4th St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

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An open house will precede the hearing from 11:30 a.m. to noon
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For people with special needs, please contact community outreach coordinator Dana Dellis for reasonable accommodations. Her contact information is dana.dellis@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1954.

(Published in Finance and Commerce July 11, 2008)
22172071



Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Improving Mobility

Easing Congestion

Strengthening our Communities



Met Council seeks public comments

The Central Corridor Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for public review at www.centralcorridor.org and 13 local area libraries, including the Rondo Community Library, the St. Paul Central Library, the Minneapolis Central Library, and the Central Corridor Project Office. The Metropolitan Council will be holding three public hearings in August to seek public comments on the SDEIS.

SDEIS Public Hearings

Monday, August 4, 12:00 p.m (Noon)

Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway North, Saint Paul
Open House at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 7, 6:00 p.m.

Brian Coyle, 420 15th Avenue South, Minneapolis
Open House at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 9, 2:00 p.m.

Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N. St. Paul
Open House at 1:00 p.m.

Comments on the SDEIS will be accepted through **August 25, 2008** by:

- speaking in person at one of the public hearings or
- calling the Central Corridor LRT Project Office and leaving a message on the comment line at 651-602-1645 or
- e-mailing comments to kathryn.obrien@metc.state.mn.us or
- writing Kathryn O'Brien at the Central Corridor Project Office, 540 Fairview Ave. N., Ste. 200, St. Paul, MN 55104

Metropolitan Council



>Transit+Transportation > Central Corridor

• Set text size:



Central Corridor Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The Supplemental DEIS documenting changes to the Central Corridor LRT project as it was disclosed in the 2006 Draft Environmental Impact Statement is now available for public review and comment.

The comment period formally began with publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on July 11, 2008. The comment period will conclude on **Aug. 25, 2008**.

How to comment

- [Submit comments via the web or U.S. mail with a comment form.](#)
- Call the comment line at 651-602-1645
- Attend a **Supplemental DEIS public hearing** (list at right)

What is in the Supplemental DEIS?

A Citizen's Guide to the Supplemental DEIS gives a brief introduction to the document and the environmental impact statement process.

- [Citizen's Guide to the Supplemental DEIS](#) (pdf)

NOTE: The Citizen's Guide and other documents are in PDF format. Please note the file size indicated. Many are LARGE files which may take some time to download, depending on your internet connection. [Download the latest version of Acrobat Reader](#) for best results.

Supplemental DEIS

- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Chapter One: Project Purpose and Need](#)
- [Chapter Two: Alternatives Considered](#) [part1](#), [part2](#), [part3](#), [part4](#), [part5](#), [part6](#)

Supplemental DEIS Public Hearings

- **Monday, Aug. 4, Noon** (12 p.m.), Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul. An open house will precede the hearing from 11:30 a.m. to noon
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- **Saturday, Aug. 9, 2 p.m.**, Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul. An open house will precede the hearing from 1 to 2 p.m.

Special needs? Please contact community outreach coordinator Dana Dellis for reasonable accommodations: 651-602-1954 or [dana](mailto:dana.dellis@metc.state.mn.us).
dellis@metc.state.mn.us

- Chapter Three: Social Effects [part1](#), [part2](#), [part3](#)
- Chapter Four: Environmental Effects [part1](#), [part2](#), [part3](#)
- [Chapter Five: Economic Effects](#)
- [Chapter Six: Transportation](#)
- [Chapter Seven: Section 4\(f\) Evaluation \(Parks and Cultural Resources\)](#)
- [Chapter Eight: Financial Analysis](#)
- [Chapter Nine: Indirect and Cumulative Impacts](#)
- [Chapter Ten: Evaluation of Alternatives](#)
- [Chapter Eleven: Public and Agency Coordination and Comments](#)

Appendices [Section 1](#), [Section 2](#), [Section 3](#), [Section 4](#), [Section 5](#), [Section 6](#), [Section 7](#), [Section 8](#), [Section 9](#), [Section 10](#), [Section 11](#), [Section 12](#), [Section 13](#), [Section 14](#), [Section 15](#)

Extras

- [Report Cover Page](#)
- [Signed Cover Page](#)
- [List of Acronyms](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)

Cultural Resources Reports

- [Cultural Resource Investigation 1995 Part 1](#)
- [Cultural Resource Investigation 1995 Part 2](#)
- [Architectural History Investigation 2003](#)
- [Architectural History Investigation 2004](#)

Supplemental Historic Property Investigation and Evaluation

- [Capitol Area](#)
- [Downtown Saint Paul](#)
- [Midway East](#)
- [Midway West](#)
- [Prospect Park and the University of Minnesota](#)
- [Summary Table](#)

Review print copies of the Supplemental DEIS at these area libraries

Met Council Robert Street Library
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Central Corridor Project Office
540 Fairview Avenue N., Ste. 200
St. Paul, MN 55104

Mn/DOT **Record of Public Comment on Central Corridor SDEIS**

Transportation Building
395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Central Corridor Resource Center
1080 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55104

Rondo Community Library
461 N. Dale
St. Paul, MN 55102

St. Paul Central Library
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Rice Street Library
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Hamline-Midway Library
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St. Paul, MN 55104

Franklin Library
1314 E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Southeast Library
1222 4th St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Hennepin County Law Library
300 South 6th Street
C-2451 Government Center
Minneapolis, MN 55487

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News Releases/Published Stories

Central Corridor report excludes parking solutions

Document handles 'more major' issues

By Jake Grovum

jgrovum@pioneerpress.com

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Haven't had enough Central Corridor? There are 1,800 double-sided pages waiting for you at the local library or online. The document details the latest engineering plans for the 11-mile light-rail line connecting St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Intended to lend an engineer's eye to two years of policy and design changes, the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement addresses issues from additional stations in St. Paul to the transit mall agreement with the University of Minnesota.

But those looking for hard answers about parking along University Avenue and skyway access in downtown St. Paul will have to wait.

The report wasn't intended to address issues like parking, just "more major issues" like route alignment, though officials are still working to tackle those, Central Corridor LRT Project spokeswoman Laura Baenen said.

Issues addressed in the report include the potential of adding stations at Hamline and Western avenues and Victoria Street.

Still, Baenen called the parking lost as a result of the project "really a drop in the bucket" given the 20,000 off-street parking spots on side streets.

"That's really been lost" in the debate, she said. "People aren't looking at that."

But for Ahvo Taipale, owner of Finn Sisu, a cross country ski supply store between Dewey Street and Fairview Avenue on University, parking is everything.

"It is very tough to find enough parking if all the parking on University is gone," he said. "Today's customer is not willing to walk that far."

For his business, Taipale said, most of his customers come from the suburbs, which means they expect to be able to park close by.

Taipale is not alone. A number of business owners along University Avenue have voiced concerns about parking shortages stemming from the project.

Another concern not addressed in the report is skyway access at Cedar and Fifth streets in downtown St. Paul. Plans call for demolition of a section of skyway that will separate the main system from skyways to City Hall and other buildings west of Cedar.

In a separate report, project planners said reducing University Avenue to one lane during construction would worsen traffic congestion in the area. Planners had looked into the issue at the request of City Council Member Russ Stark.

The entire impact statement is available online at central corridor.org and at some Minneapolis and St. Paul libraries. The public comment period ends Aug. 25, and officials have organized three public hearings, two in St. Paul and one in Minneapolis.

The public also may comment by calling the Central Corridor LRT Project Office at 651-602-1645.

Jake Grovum can be reached at 651-228-5480.

- Aug. 7, Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis

- Aug. 9, Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 N. Fairview Ave., St. Paul

City Council submits concerns about Central Corridor design

More customer parking, additional stations, wide sidewalks among requests

By Jane McClure

Ten-foot-wide sidewalks, convenient bus connections, ample bicycle parking near stations and the replacement of lost on-street parking are among 25 "outstanding issues" the St. Paul City Council has identified as the Metropolitan Council completes its preliminary designs for the Central Corridor light-rail transit line.

The plan for the 11-mile light-rail line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis is now going through a municipal consent process. St. Paul, Minneapolis, Ramsey and Hennepin counties, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the University of Minnesota have all been asked to weigh in on the preliminary engineering plans and forward their comments to the Metropolitan Council.

The City Council and Ramsey County Board share many of the same concerns about the project. Ramsey County commissioners are also concerned that their request to eventually extend the light-rail line to the Union Depot concourse, where a multimodal transit hub is envisioned, not get sidetracked.

City Council members Russ Stark and Melvin Carter III said the loss of on-street parking for businesses on University Avenue is one of their top concerns. A resolution adopted by the City Council on July 9 asks the Metropolitan Council "to work with the city and the county to assist in finding solutions and funding to help address this issue."

The inclusion of funding in the agreement is key because it isn't clear yet who will pay for additional off-street parking to make up for the estimated loss of 625 to 985 of the 1,150 on-street parking spaces on St. Paul's section of University. City officials have contended that the money should come out of the Met Council's \$892 million budget for the project.

Another priority for the city and county is to make sure that the infrastructure is in-

stalled for future light-rail transit stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues, as promised by the Met Council, and that those stations are built sooner rather than later.

The City Council is asking that Metro Transit maintain the current level of service on the Route 16 bus along University. The Central Corridor plan currently calls for cuts in University Avenue bus service. According to Stark, that plan would seriously inconvenience people who are dependent on transit, especially considering the one-mile distance between most of the proposed light-rail stations on University. His colleagues on the City Council agree, and have called for a net gain in transit service along the Central Corridor line.

The City Council has also asked for "a thorough and fair comparison of the costs, benefits and impacts" of maintaining the existing four traffic lanes on University or narrowing the street to two traffic lanes to provide for wider sidewalks once the light-rail tracks are in.

The City Council has asked Central Corridor engineers to work with District Energy St. Paul to minimize the impact of light-rail construction on the downtown heating and cooling system, to work with the St. Paul Fire Department on maintaining access across the light-rail tracks for emergency vehicles, and to address any problems that might arise from train vibrations on the Church of St. Louis, Central Presbyterian Church and Minnesota Public Radio.

The Central Corridor project staff has promised to work with state and municipal officials on issues raised through the consent process.

Three public hearings have been scheduled on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the transit project. They will begin at noon Monday, August 4, at the Wilder Foundation, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. (an open house begins at 11:30 a.m.); at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 7, at the Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S. in Minneapolis (an open house begins at 5:00 p.m.); and at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 9, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 N. Fairview Ave. (an open house begins at 1:00 p.m.).

Public hearings on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Central Corridor light-rail transit project will be held August 4, 7 and 9.



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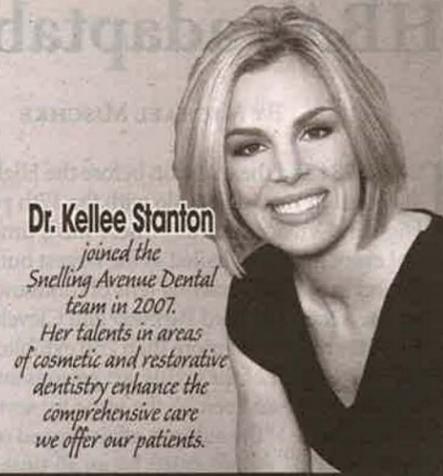
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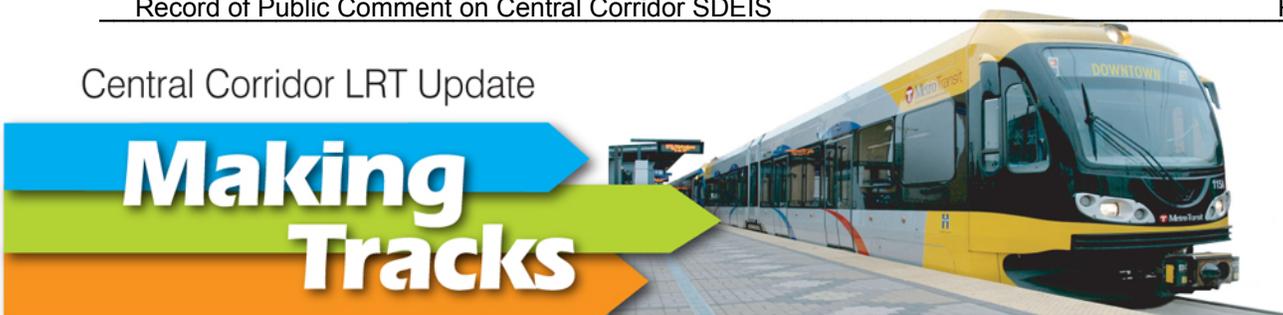
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Central Corridor LRT Update



Making Tracks

July 2008

Two Pages

Three public hearings set in August on Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Metropolitan Council will hold three public hearings in August on the Central Corridor LRT Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The SDEIS discloses changes from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the impacts of those changes. After the hearings and a 45-day comment period that will end Aug. 25, the Met Council will take formal action Aug. 27 to revise the preferred alignment from the route identified in the DEIS. The hearings will be at noon Aug. 4 at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul; 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at the Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis; and 2 p.m. Aug. 9 at Goodwill/Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul. An electronic copy of the SDEIS is available in a PDF format at www.centralcorridor.org under Hot Topics where more information can be found on how to comment and where to view printed copies of the SDEIS.

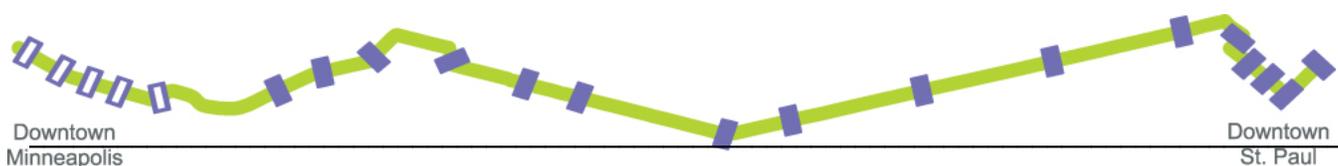
Regents OK agreement for Washington Avenue transit/pedestrian mall traffic mitigation

Regents for the University of Minnesota have approved a memorandum of understanding on \$27 million in traffic mitigation, including \$11.1 million for converting Washington Avenue into a transit/pedestrian mall. The MOU also includes \$5.1 million for East Bank campus area street connections and funding for modifying some intersections. In addition to Central Corridor project funding, the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, city of Minneapolis and university agreed to seek funding outside of the project costs for these betterments. "We're confident that with these mitigations and community betterments, this new light rail line will be a positive addition to our campus and the backbone of a modern regional transit system," University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks said.

Preliminary design plans for Central Corridor unanimously approved

The cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Ramsey and Hennepin county boards have unanimously approved preliminary design plans for the Central Corridor LRT Project. The plans show the location of track, roads, turn lanes, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, bus stops, crosswalks, proposed on-street parking spaces, traffic signals, station platforms and existing conditions. Also shown are the typical station platform types, layout of equipment on each and the electrical and communications components.

More



Reducing University Avenue to one lane each way would worsen traffic congestion

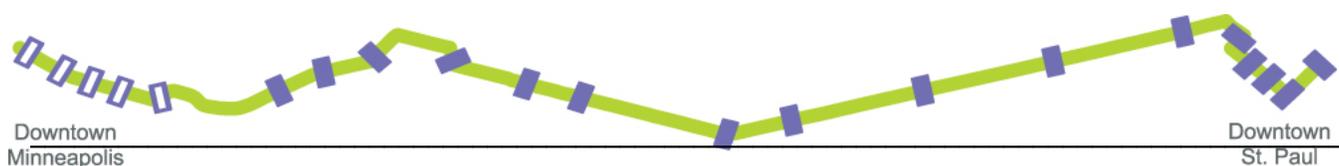
Traffic delays during the afternoon peak period would increase greatly and 10 intersections would fail if University Avenue is reduced from two lanes to one lane in each direction as part of the Central Corridor LRT Project, a study concluded. The Central Corridor LRT Project office conducted the study at the request of the city of St. Paul to see if there was a way to add bicycle lanes, increase sidewalk width or retain on-street parking and still keep vehicle traffic flowing well with the advent of light rail. The analysis found there would be significant vehicle back ups and delays at intersections by reducing University to one lane in each direction. The average travel speed for the afternoon peak hour would be 5 mph eastbound and 10 mph westbound, compared with the current 18 mph eastbound and 19 mph westbound. Besides 10 intersections failing, three others would drop in the afternoon peak hour to a level of service rating of E, which is marginally functional. A failure is when vehicles have to wait through more than one light cycle.

Familiar face returns to the Central Corridor LRT Project

Eve Vang, who was a community outreach intern in the summer of 2007, has rejoined the Central Corridor LRT Project as an associate outreach coordinator. Vang, a 2007 graduate of the College of St. Benedict, left last fall to spend six months in Thailand teaching English on a Fulbright scholarship. The U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program is the U.S. government's flagship program in international educational exchange. Vang, who grew up in St. Paul, speaks Hmong and Thai in addition to English. She can be reached at eve.vang@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1968.

For more information about the project, visit: <http://www.centralcorridor.org/>

Questions or Comments? Call the Central Corridor LRT Project's Comment Line at 651-602-1645 or e-mail us at centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us



Speak up: Central Corridor comments



BY MARY TURCK , [TC DAILY PLANET](#)

July 14, 2008

Though the Central Corridor looks like a done deal, many people, especially in St. Paul, remain convinced that it is the wrong solution for transit. [St. Paul E-Democracy forum](#) hosts a lively discussion, including judgments ranging from “pretty sound” to “shame!” Among the comments:

“The current routing is slow, eliminates the ability of the people in the neighborhood to use transit on University Avenue, eliminates parking and will create horrendous traffic jams at key intersections that are already overburdened.”

“But one of the most fundamental questions going forward that everyone should be asking is what can we do to make sure the benefits of this investment are realized by the many diverse people often of very modest means who have called the area along Central Corridor home. There are so many potential ways to make sure those benefits are shared widely as we re-imagine the Central Corridor. But making sure the benefits are shared fairly will take creativity, collaboration, and persistence. And in those efforts, we all have a role we can play, if we wish to take it.”

With recent changes in the Central Corridor route and plans, a new public comment period has opened.

Three public hearings in August —

- Monday, August 4, Noon (12:00 p.m.), Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul.

An open house will precede the hearing from 11:30 a.m. to noon

- Thursday, August 7, 6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Avenue S., Minneapolis. An open

house will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

- Saturday, August 9, 2:00 p.m., Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Avenue N., St. Paul. An

open house will precede the hearing from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Also:

- Calling the Central Corridor LRT Project Office and leaving a message on the comment line at 651-602-1645.

- Emailing comments to Kathryn O'Brien at kathryn.obrien@metc.state.mn.us or

- Mailing comments to:

Kathryn O'Brien

Central Corridor LRT Project Office

540 Fairview Avenue N., Ste. 200

St. Paul, MN 55104

The Official Word

from Met Council documents

The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project linking downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis via Washington and University avenues would be the fourth in a planned network of rail and bus "transitways" in

the Twin Cities. 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 Downtown Minneapolis multimodal station. The Metropolitan Council would 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

The Bridge

Comment period closes Aug. 25

by Jeremy Stratton (July 31, 2008)

A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Central Corridor light-rail transit project is available for public review through Aug. 25. An environmental impact statement is a comprehensive study and document intended to guide local decision-making on a wide range of impacts related to large development projects.

Three public hearings will be held on the topic, including one in Cedar-Riverside on Aug. 7:

Monday, Aug. 4 at noon at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul An open house will precede the hearing, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 7, 6 p.m., at the Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S. An open house will precede the hearing, beginning at 5 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 9, 2 p.m., at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul. An open house will precede the hearing, beginning at 1 p.m.

An earlier Alternatives Analysis/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement (AA/DEIS) for the Central Corridor was published in April 2006; the more recent SDEIS is to “inform the public, resource agencies and local governments of changes proposed to the project” since that time, and to published “refinements proposed and analyzed during preliminary engineering,” according to the Central Corridor website.

The SDEIS offers a project summary, including proposed stations and key project elements, and it addresses the project’s history; key changes and refinements; social, environmental and transportation issues; agency coordination and community outreach; and next steps and actions.

The public has an opportunity to comment on the SDEIS and “participate in the decision making process.” An electronic version of the complete SDEIS (as well as a much shorter executive summary) is available online at www.centralcorridor.org. Copies are available for viewing at Hennepin County, St. Paul and Met Council libraries and at the Central Corridor offices in St. Paul. (Locations include the Southeast, Franklin and Central libraries.)

Comments can also be left by calling the Central Corridor LRT Project Office at 651-602-1645; by email to Kathryn O’Brien at kathryn.obrien@metc.state.mn.us; or by mail to:

Kathryn O’Brien
Central Corridor LRT Project Office
540 Fairview Ave, N., Ste. 200
St. Paul, MN 55104

last revised: July 31, 2008
