

April 9, 2008

Beginning in April, outreach coordinators for the Central Corridor LRT Project will visit business and property owners to gather information to help engineers redesign University and Washington avenues and Cedar and Fourth streets for light rail. The project also will use the information to plan construction mitigation, such as detours, and the Central Corridor Partnership will use it for business mitigation, which includes marketing strategies for businesses to survive the construction process.

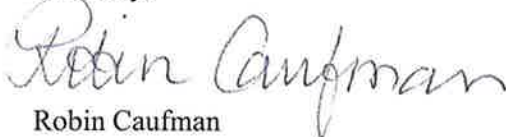
Please take time to answer questions regarding the number of customers, employees, suppliers and others who frequent your business daily and other details, such as whether your property has an old areaway where coal for heating was once stored. Your cooperation is vital so engineers can make good decisions about elements, such as on-street parking, non-signalized pedestrian crossings and secondary station access.

Although construction of the light rail connecting downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis won't begin until 2010, this information is needed now because preliminary engineering must be finished by the end of August. That is the deadline for the project to apply for federal permission to enter final engineering.

Also, this will be an opportunity for business and property owners to become acquainted with staff of the Central Corridor LRT Project. The outreach coordinators will be your contacts when construction begins and there are questions about maintaining access while work progresses on the line. Outreach coordinators are assigned by territory. For their contact information, visit www.centralcorridor.org and look under Public Involvement.

We are your neighbors and will be experiencing with you the challenges of operating a business in a construction zone. Our engineers have done this before, and project staff and the Central Corridor Partnership can share some coping strategies with you. The Central Corridor LRT Project office opened last fall in the Griggs Midway Building at Fairview and University. The location was chosen because it is midway between the two downtowns, on the corridor and will allow us to keep a close watch on construction. You are welcome to drop by our office at 540 Fairview Ave. North, Suite 200, but we encourage appointments. If you would like to host a block meeting about the project, we would be happy to address your group.

Sincerely,



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