

8.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

8.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the public and agency outreach efforts that have taken place during the development of the *Central Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*.

At the onset of the Central Corridor Transit Study, a Public and Agency Involvement Program was developed that identified public outreach techniques and activities to support the decision-making process. The Public and Agency Involvement Program followed guidelines set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and activities outlined in the program have guided public and agency involvement from initial planning activities through the EIS. The goal of the public outreach effort has been to encourage public and agency participation throughout the transportation decision-making process, including development of alternatives, assessment of potential social, economic, environmental and transportation impacts and identification of areas and issues that will require mitigation.

The Public and Agency Involvement Program was developed during the initial stages of the Central Corridor Transit Study by the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA). All program activities were managed by RCRRA. The purpose of the program is to support decision-making efforts and encourage an open, collaborative approach regarding a balanced transportation system. The program recognized that the key elements to an effective process are to actively involve the community and to create enthusiasm for the transit project and sustainable development along the corridor. The specific objectives of the Central Corridor Public and Agency Involvement Program are to:

- Communicate with and involve local residents in refining the proposed alternatives
- Communicate with and educate the public, neighborhoods, and agencies within the corridor on the opportunities and impacts the project presents for their community and/ or area of interest
- Involve local residents in the decision-making process thereby creating a sense of public ownership of the project
- Gain insights into issues of greatest concern or interest to the public and municipalities of the corridor and incorporate them into the decision-making process
- Meet and/or exceed the requirements and intent of federal, state, and local public involvement policies in a manner that is consistent with the federal NEPA process

During the initial stages of the Central Corridor Transit Study the public was invited to participate through public information meetings and telephone surveys. Public and agency outreach activities were employed at the key decision points of the Central Corridor Transit Study and these continued into the EIS Scoping Process. These activities with all affected municipalities within the corridor will be continued through the completion of the EIS. The major public and agency involvement activities conducted during the preparation of the EIS are described in the subsequent text of this chapter.

8.2 KEY CONSTITUENCY INTERVIEWS

At the start of the Central Corridor Transit Study, interviews were conducted with approximately 35 members of diverse groups of policymakers, advocacy groups, business leaders and community and neighborhood organizations within the Central Corridor. The interviews were conducted between late April and early June 2000. The purposes of the interviews were two-fold:

- To identify issues and concerns important to the community as a whole
- To identify perceptions and attitudes about transit and transportation issues

The results of the interviews resulted in recommendations on how to engage the public in making decisions, how to effectively use the public and media relations to reach the broadest audiences possible, and to identify critical issues and concerns that should be incorporated into public involvement communications.

The detailed results of the key constituency interviews are available in *Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Communications Audit*, June 2000. These results served as the foundation in the development of the integrated public and agency involvement communications work plan used throughout the Central Corridor Transit Study and EIS Process.

8.3 OUTREACH TECHNIQUES

The Public and Agency Involvement Program implemented throughout the preparation of the EIS provided a variety of opportunities for communication, education and public comment at key decision points. In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, workshops and briefings, outreach techniques for citizens, elected officials and agencies used throughout EIS preparation included the following:

- Web Site – continuously updated with Central Corridor information
- E-mail comment opportunity
- TDD telephone
- Newsletters
- Speakers bureau presentations
- Media Alerts and news releases
- Interviews with key stakeholders
- Survey of residents along the Central Corridor
- Public presentations and briefings
- Presentations at meetings of neighborhoods, businesses and other corridor groups
- Agency coordination meetings
- Committee/task-force meetings

The above outreach techniques were applied during EIS preparation as described for the following major activities:

- EIS Scoping Process
- Coordinating Committees

- Asian American Press May/June 2001
- The Bulletin May/June 2001
- Frogtown Times May/June 2001
- Grand Gazette May/June 2001
- Highland Villager May/June 2001
- Merriam Park Post May/June 2001
- North End News May/June 2001
- Seward Profile May/June 2001
- Southeast Angle May/June 2001
- Spokesman-Recorder May/June 2001

8.4.4 Agency Scoping Meeting

Agency coordination is critical to reaching agreement and achieving consensus on various aspects of the proposed project. Effective production and implementation of the proposed project will require ongoing coordination between the CCCC and the public planning, resource, regulatory and permitting agencies. One Agency Scoping Meeting was held as indicated below.

- Agency Scoping Meeting
 June 26, 2001
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Sheraton Midway – St. Paul

The Agency Scoping Meeting included a presentation of the results of the alternatives screening process, the alternatives recommended for inclusion in the EIS, the issues to be considered in the EIS, the schedule for EIS completion, and the Public and Agency Involvement Program to support EIS activities.

Information packets were distributed at the meeting and included an agenda, comment sheet, and *Central Corridor Scoping Booklet*. Display boards of the EIS Process and preliminary alternatives were available for viewing before, during, and after the presentation.

8.4.5 Public Scoping Meetings

Public Scoping Meetings were held to inform the public that the EIS Process is commencing and to solicit the issues of concern to them. Three Public Scoping Meetings were held as indicated below.

- Public Scoping Meeting
 June 26, 2001
 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
 Sheraton Midway – St. Paul
- Public Scoping Meeting
 June 26, 2001
 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 Lifetrack Resources Job Search Center – St. Paul

- Public Scoping Meeting
June 27, 2001
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Radisson Metrodome - Minneapolis

Each of the Public Scoping Meetings included a presentation of the results of the alternatives screening process, the alternatives recommended for inclusion in the EIS, the issues to be considered in the EIS, the schedule for EIS completion, and the Public and Agency Involvement Program to support EIS activities.

Information packets were distributed at each of the meetings and included an agenda, comment sheet, and *Central Corridor Scoping Booklet*. Display boards of the EIS Process and preliminary alternatives were available for viewing before, during, and after the presentations.

8.4.6 Scoping Meeting Participation

Table 8.4-1: Scoping Meeting Participation, shows the meeting place/date, number of attendees, and number of speakers who provided verbal comments at the Agency and Public Scoping Meetings.

Table 8.4-1: Scoping Meeting Participation

Place	Date	Time	Number of Attendees	Number of Speakers
Sheraton Midway 400 North Hamline Avenue St. Paul, MN	June 26, 2001	8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	35	7
Lifetrack Resources Job Search Center 709 University Avenue West St. Paul, MN	June 26, 2001	5:00 to 8:00 p.m.	24	12
Radisson Metrodome 615 Washington Avenue SE Minneapolis, MN	June 27, 2001	5:00 to 8:00 p.m.	23	6
Agency Meeting: Sheraton Midway 400 North Hamline Avenue St. Paul, MN	June 26, 2001	2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	10	0
TOTALS			92	25

Verbal questions and comments were solicited from both public and agency Scoping Meeting participants. Verbal comments were transcribed by a court reporter. Written comments were encouraged through the use of formal comment sheets, which were available at the meetings.

All written and verbal comments received at the formal public Scoping Meetings, by mail, or via the web page during the scoping period are recorded and addressed in the *Central Corridor Scoping Summary Report*, Section 7.0: Scoping Comments and Responses.

Comments made during the EIS Scoping Process were incorporated into the process of selection of the proposed alternatives for inclusion in the EIS and into the impact assessment criteria to be

used in evaluating the alternatives. In addition, comments received were used to help define the social, economic, environmental and transportation factors to be addressed in the EIS, and the types of technical analyses to be completed.

8.5 CENTRAL CORRIDOR ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES

The following sections describe the composition and function of each group or organization providing coordination, along with their responsibilities and intra-relationships within the framework of the proposed Central Corridor project.

8.5.1 Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) Commissioner

The Mn/DOT coordinates transportation planning for the State. The Governor appoints the Mn/DOT Commissioner who serves as the chief administrator of the Mn/DOT organization. The Mn/DOT Commissioner has responsibilities for commuter and LRT as directed by the legislature.

8.5.2 Twin Cities Metropolitan Council

The Twin Cities Metropolitan Council is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and the operator of most transit service in the region. The MPO is a council of local government agencies that directs transportation planning and programming for the urbanized area. The MPO collects data on transportation conditions, forecasts funding, and determines policies and projects for implementation. These activities are assembled into the five-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Metropolitan Council will review final recommendations for the proposed Central Corridor project, and will be responsible for adoption of any actions into the LRTP, in conjunction with the Mn/DOT Commissioner. The Metropolitan Council would be the operator of either of the build alternatives in this corridor.

8.5.3 Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA)

The RCRRA is the county agency that conducts passenger rail policy and planning for Ramsey County. RCRRA sponsored the Central Corridor Transit Study, and is responsible for overall management of the decision-making process and completion of the EIS for the proposed Central Corridor project.

8.5.4 Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA)

The HCRRA was established in 1980 to plan and design rail transit in Hennepin County. The Board of Commissioners for HCRRA consists of the seven members of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

8.5.5 Central Corridor Coordinating Committee (CCCC)

The CCCC assesses technical information and recommendations from the PMT and policy recommendations from local jurisdictions and boards. This information and advice are used to establish transit recommendations for the Metropolitan Council and the Mn/DOT Commissioner.

To ensure an inclusive, multi-jurisdictional process, the CCCC is composed of the following agencies:

- Mn/DOT (2 representatives)
- City of St. Paul
- City of Minneapolis
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County (2 representatives)
- Metropolitan Council (2 representatives)
- University of Minnesota
- Red Rock Corridor (voting on commuter rail elements)
- Northstar Corridor (non-voting member)

The CCCC conducted regularly scheduled monthly meetings during 2000 and 2001, and is scheduled to continue through 2002. Unless otherwise notified, the regular meetings begin at 3:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month and are held in the Hennepin Room at the Metro Transit Training Facility, located at 1919 University Avenue West, St. Paul. The CCCC's overall organization and functional relationships are indicated on Figure 8.5-1: Organization Chart

At a meeting on June 13, 2002 the CCCC indicated its initial preference for the LRT Alternative for the Central Corridor. A final recommendation will be made after the public comment period ends. The vote of committee members was seven in favor and three abstentions (Thakur, Zerby, and Rettman).

8.5.6 Project Management Team (PMT)

The PMT provides recommendations to the CCCC on technical information regarding transit alternatives for the Central Corridor. The role of the PMT is to assist the CCCC in making recommendations to the Mn/DOT Commissioner and the Metropolitan Council. The PMT provides technical guidance to local jurisdictions and boards, who in turn will make policy recommendations to the CCCC. The PMT is composed of the following agencies and organizations:

- Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)
- City of Minneapolis
- City of St. Paul
- Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA)
- Metro Transit
- Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT)
- Ramsey County Public Works
- Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA)
- Twin Cities Metropolitan Council
- University of Minnesota

- Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA)
- Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority (ACRRA)

The PMT meets once a month to review and comment on environmental and technical analysis and makes recommendations to the CCCC.

8.5.7 Local Jurisdictions and Boards

Local agencies, such as city and county governments, are involved at all stages of the decision-making process throughout the Transit Study and EIS for the proposed Central Corridor project. Special committees comprised of representatives of local jurisdictions have been engaged to facilitate the completion of specific tasks. An example of such a committee is the formulation of a Traffic Impact Analysis Committee comprised of representatives of local, county, regional and state governments to oversee and provide input into potential traffic mitigation measures. Meetings of stakeholder groups such as the foregoing are enumerated in Table 8.6-1: Stakeholder Meetings. Using information from the PMT, these agencies also provide advice to the CCCC.

The Metropolitan Council operates almost all of the transit service in the corridor. If a build alternative is selected as the Locally Preferred Alternative, it will be the operator. The Council will be the Federal grantee for the project. A Corridor Management Committee made up of policy level representatives of agencies along the corridor will advise the project. A staff level Project Management Team will also provide direction. Memoranda of Understanding will be developed with Mn/DOT and local jurisdictions to implement a Project Management Plan that will be developed for the project.

8.5.8 Citizen Groups

Public participation is included throughout the EIS Process from a variety of citizen group stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- Environmental Groups
- Homeowners Associations
- Business and Small Business Organizations
- Downtown Partnerships and Chambers of Commerce
- District Councils
- Neighborhood Groups

The positions of these citizen groups vis-à-vis the issues of the proposed Central Corridor project are made available to the PMT, Local Boards and Jurisdictions, the CCCC, the RCRRA, the HCRRA, the Metropolitan Council, and the Mn/DOT Commissioner throughout the EIS Process.

8.6 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

This section describes the following outreach activities that took place during the EIS Process that were used to educate and inform people about potential transit facilities in the Central Corridor and to capture their opinions for the decision-making process.

- Speakers Bureau and Business Briefings
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Community Meetings

8.6.1 Speakers Bureau

The RCRRRA Speakers Bureau was developed and trained to share Central Corridor information with the public and special interest groups and to receive feedback from them. A typical format for a Speakers Bureau presentation is in the form of a business briefing, including an informal report of the proposed project status and establishing an environment for soliciting information, feedback and ideas. The Speakers Bureau is composed of spokespeople equipped with appropriate materials, including presentation materials, audio/ visual support and informational materials to leave with audiences. Speakers Bureau speaking opportunities were sought through civic and service organizations, community events, and other public forums. Project information was made available in Amharic, Hmong, Spanish, Somali, and Vietnamese.

As indicated in Table 8.6-1: Stakeholder Meetings, and Table 8.6-2: Community Meetings, speakers bureau presentations and business briefings were provided to various public and special interest groups throughout the Transit Study and EIS Process.

8.6.2 Stakeholder Meetings

As indicated in Section 8.5: Central Corridor Committees, coordinating committees were formed to meet regularly and to provide policy direction and to assist the project team in decision-making and technical analyses. Every effort was made to incorporate other stakeholders into the decision-making process. Table 8.6-1, provides a listing of stakeholder meetings and presentations beyond those included in the regularly scheduled CCCC, PMT and WGT meetings.

Table 8.6-1: Stakeholder Meetings

Date and Time	Meeting Location	Organization/Group
February 12, 2000 1:30 p.m.	Metro Transit	Metro Transit Coordination
June 8, 2000 10:30 a.m.	1100 City Hall Annex 25 West Fourth Street St. Paul	St. Paul Planning and Economic Development
September 6, 2000		Letters requesting information from Minnegasco and NSP
September 7, 2000		Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce State and National Issues Subcommittee
September 18, 2000		University of Minnesota Capital Oversight Committee
September 28, 2000		Meeting with Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization
October 10, 2000		Meeting with Minneapolis Building Owners and Management Association

Table 8.6-1: Stakeholder Meetings (Cont.)

Date and Time	Meeting Location	Organization/Group
October 13, 2000 10:00 a.m.	RCRRA Conference Room 50 West Kellogg Boulevard St. Paul	Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board Coordination Meeting
October 13, 2000 1:00 p.m.	University of Minnesota 300 Morrill Hall	University of Minnesota Coordination Meeting
October 17, 2000		Como Community Council
October 20, 2000		St. Paul Transportation Management Organization
November 9, 2000 8:00 a.m.-9:45 p.m.		Metro Transit
December 15, 2000 8:00 a.m.	St. Paul Chamber of Commerce	Joint Minneapolis and St. Paul Transportation Management Organization
January 19, 2001		St. Paul Transportation Management Organization
February 12, 2001 1:30 p.m.		Metro Transit
March 1, 2001		St. Paul Building Owners and Managers Association
March 23, 2001, 9:00 a.m.	1500 Piper Jaffray Plaza 4444 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55101	District Energy
April 24, 2001	City Hall Annex, 8th Floor St. Paul	City of St. Paul Traffic Planning
June 12, 2001, 1:30 p.m.	City Hall Annex 25 West Fourth Street St. Paul, MN 55102	St. Paul Water
June 19, 2001 1:30 p.m.	University of Minnesota Morrill Hall	University of Minnesota Task Force
June 21, 2001	University of Minnesota Morrill Hall	University of Minnesota Task Force
June 25, 2001	University of Minnesota Morrill Hall	University of Minnesota Task Force
June 26, 2001, 11:00 a.m.	City Hall Annex 25 West Fourth Street St. Paul, MN 55102	St. Paul Sewer
June 27, 2001, 10:00 a.m.	City of Lakes Building 309 Second Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55401	Minneapolis Sewer
June 27, 2001, 1:00 p.m.	390 Commerce Drive Woodbury, MN 55125	Qwest/East Metro
June 29, 2001 7:30-10:00 a.m.	University of Minnesota Morrill Hall	University of Minnesota Task Force
July 10, 2001		Meeting with City task force on downtown alignments.
July 10, 2001, 1:00 p.m.	4300 Marshall Street NE Minneapolis, MN 55421	Minneapolis Water

Table 8.6-1: Stakeholder Meetings (Cont.)

Date and Time	Meeting Location	Organization/Group
July 11, 2001		Meeting with District Energy on utility issues.
July 11, 2001		St. Paul staff to discuss light rail transit (LRT) alignments in downtown St. Paul
July 11, 2001, 8:30 a.m.	9700 Schmidt Lake Road	Qwest/West Metro
July 16, 2001 2:00-4:00 p.m.	BRW 700 Third Street South, Minneapolis	University of Minnesota Task Force
July 25, 2001		St. Paul staff to discuss LRT alignments in downtown St. Paul
July 30, 2001		Meeting with City staff on traffic issues
August 6, 2001		Tour of Central Corridor with JD Burton, Metro Transit and Ramsey staff
August 6, 2001		St. Paul staff to discuss LRT alignments in downtown St. Paul
August 9, 2001		Meeting with City staff
August 15, 2001 2:00-4:30 p.m.	RCRRA Conference Room 50 West Kellogg Boulevard St. Paul	Downtown St. Paul Supplemental Scoping Analysis
August 17, 2001		St. Paul Transportation Management Organization and St. Paul Chamber Transportation Committee to discuss status of Central Corridor project and alignment alternatives for LRT in downtown St. Paul
August 21, 2001		Meeting with Traffic Impact Analysis Committee
August 22, 2001		St. Paul staff to discuss LRT alignments in downtown St. Paul
August 24, 2001		St. Paul Chamber, Larry Dowell, Sandra Westerman and Matt Anfang to discuss Central Corridor project and the Chamber's role
August 28, 2001		CAAPB staff and their architectural consultants to discuss LRT alignments in the capitol area
August 29, 2001		Meeting on downtown St. Paul with River Center and groups assembled by Mayor Coleman

Table 8.6-1: Stakeholder Meetings (Cont.)

Date and Time	Meeting Location	Organization/Group
August 31, 2001 9:00-11:00 a.m.	RCRRA Conference Room 50 West Kellogg Boulevard St. Paul	Downtown St. Paul Supplemental Scoping Analysis
September 7, 2001 9:00-11:00 a.m.	RCRRA Conference Room 50 West Kellogg Boulevard St. Paul	Downtown St. Paul Supplemental Scoping Analysis
September 10, 2001 10:00 a.m.	St. Paul Chamber of Commerce	St. Paul Chamber of Commerce
September 11, 2001		Meeting with District 17 Transportation Committee on downtown routing
September 20, 2001		St. Paul staff and Midway Chamber to discuss LRT alignments on University Avenue
September 18, 2001		Meeting on transit projects with business leaders.
September 19, 2001		Meeting with Chamber of Commerce on downtown routes.
September 20, 2001		Meeting with CAAPB and Department of Administration staff on downtown routings.
September 21, 2001		Meeting with CP Rail on commuter rail study.
September 26, 2001		CAAPB to discuss LRT alignments in capitol area
October 2, 2001		St. Paul Building Owners and Managers Association discuss LRT alignments in downtown St. Paul
October 4, 2001	City Hall Annex, 8th Floor St. Paul	City of St. Paul University Avenue Capacity Analysis
October 8, 2001		St. Paul Chamber to discuss LRT alignments in downtown St. Paul
October 10, 2001		Attended City Council meeting on downtown routing
October 12, 2001		Ellen Watters of Midway Chamber to review parking along University Avenue
October 18, 2001	City Hall Annex, 8th Floor St. Paul	City of St. Paul University Avenue Capacity Analysis
October 18, 2001		St. Paul staff to discuss parking along University Avenue

Table 8.6-1: Stakeholder Meetings (Cont.)

Date and Time	Meeting Location	Organization/Group
October 19, 2001		Transportation Management Organization meeting on downtown alignments and Riverview corridor.
October 19, 2001		St. Paul Transportation Management Association
October 30, 2001, 1:30 p.m.	825 Rice Street St. Paul, MN 55117	Xcel Energy
November 1, 2001 8:30 a.m.	RCRRA Conference Room 50 West Kellogg Boulevard St. Paul	City of St. Paul University Avenue Capacity Analysis
November 19, 2001		Public Art St. Paul, Update on the EIS
December 4, 2001		Thomas Dale Physical Planning Committee
December 20, 2001		St. Paul Staff
February 1, 2002		Update meeting for Paul Zerby, Gary Erickson
February 19, 2002		Meeting with Traffic Impact Analysis Committee
February 22, 2002		University Avenue meeting, Ellen Watters, Joel Spoonheim
February 27, 2002		Midway Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Committee, Joel Spoonheim
March 18, 2002		University Ave/Raymond area parking concerns meeting
March 19, 2002		University Ave/Snelling area parking concerns meeting
March 20, 2002		University Ave/Western area parking concerns meeting
March 21, 2002		University Ave/other area parking concerns meeting
November 6, 2002		Meeting with Traffic Impact Analysis Committee

8.6.3 Community Meetings

As indicated in Table 8.6-2, meetings were held with community, local business, neighborhood, community and political organizations to educate and inform people about potential transit facilities in the Central Corridor and to capture their opinions for the decision-making process.

Table 8.6-2: Community Meetings

Date and Time	Meeting Location	Organization/ Group
August 24, 2000		Asian Business Resource Partnership
September 12, 2000		Sierra Club
September 18, 2000		University Avenue Corridor Initiative
September 19, 2000		Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association
September 25, 2000		Thomas-Dale Community Council (District 7)
October 4, 2000		St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium
October 12, 2000		Dinkytown Business Association (DBA)
October 18, 2000		District 2 Community Council
October 31, 2000	Spruce Tree Center	Hmong Chamber of Commerce
November 1, 2000 Noon	Tin Cups	North End Business Association
November 1, 2000 7:00-8:30 p.m.	Hamline University Giddens Learning Center 1556 Hewitt Avenue St. Paul	Community Forum
November 2, 2000 7:00-8:30 p.m.	University of Minnesota Tate Physics Building (Room 131) 116 Church Street S.E. Minneapolis	Community Forum
November 2, 2000 4:00-5:30 p.m.	Spruce Tree Center 1600 University Avenue	Midway Area Developers & Property Owners
November 6, 2000 6:30 p.m.	Old Washington School 1021 Marion Street	North End Community Council
November 8, 2000 7:00-8:30 p.m.	Lao Family Auditorium 320 W. University Avenue St. Paul	Community Forum
November 13, 2000 8:00-9:30 a.m.	Radisson City Center 411 Minnesota St. St. Paul	Community Forum
November 14, 2000 7:00 p.m.	Timberlodge Roseville	League of Women Voters
November 15, 2000 9:30 a.m.	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Roseville	League of Women Voters

Table 8.6-2: Community Meetings (cont.)

Date and Time	Meeting Location	Organization/ Group
November 16, 2000 7:00 p.m.	Elliott Park and Recreation Center 1000 East 14th Street	Elliott Park Neighborhood
November 21, 2000 7:00 p.m.	66 Malcolm Street	Prospect Park Neighborhood
November 21, 2000 8:00 p.m.	Shalom Home 1554 Midway Parkway	Como Community Council
December 7, 2000 7:00 p.m.	Liberty State Bank 1573 Selby	Snelling-Hamline Community Council
March 25, 2001		Prospect Park-East River Road Association
September 11, 2001		Capitol River Council, District 17, Transportation Committee, Update on the EIS
October 22, 2001		Macalester Groveland Community Council, District 14, Transportation Committee
October 24, 2001		St. Anthony Park Community Council, District 12, Environment Committee
November 1, 2001		Snelling-Hamline Community Council, District 13
November 5, 2001		District 6 Planning Council (North End)
November 13, 2001		Desnoyer Park Association, District 13
November 20, 2001		Summit Hill Association, District 16
November 26, 2001		Lexington Hamline Community Council, District 13, Update on the EIS
December 10, 2001		Thomas Dale Community Council, District 7, Update on the EIS
December 11, 2001		Capitol River Council, District 17, Transportation Committee, Update on the EIS
December 12, 2001		Merriam Park Community Council, District 13, Update on the EIS
January 15, 2002		Como Community Council, District 10, Update on the EIS
January 28, 2002		Prospect Park Community Council
March 18, 2002	2383 University Ave	Raymond Area Businesses
March 19, 2002	Snelling-University	Area Businesses
March 20, 2002	839 University Ave	Western Area Businesses
March 21, 2002	1584 LaFond Ave	All other University Businesses

8.7 OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

This section describes additional outreach activities that took place during the EIS Process that were used to educate and inform people about potential transit facilities in the Central Corridor and to capture their opinions for the decision-making process.

- Mailing List
- Project Website
- “Campaign in a Box” (PowerPoint presentation)
- Public Outreach Hotline
- Media Releases and Alerts

8.7.1 Mailing list

The mailing list for the proposed Central Corridor project was initiated during the early stages of the Transit Study and updated throughout the Transit Study and EIS Process. Additional agencies, organizations, business groups, and individuals that attended project events and meetings, or those who specifically requested to be included on the mailing list, were added. The mailing list was used to notify participants of workshops, events and other activities, as well as to distribute flyers, newsletters and various other forms of information.

8.7.2 Project Website

The project website, www.centralcorridor.org provided the most current project information available. This interactive communications tool served the public with updated project-related information, alignment maps, meeting schedules, outreach efforts and public involvement opportunities.

8.7.3 Public Outreach Hotline

The RCRRA Project Manager, Steve Morris was featured in all news releases, articles, and any other publication related to the project. His phone number, (651) 266-2784, was listed to give individuals the opportunity to voice their concerns or ask specific questions about the proposed Central Corridor project. RCRRA monitored and responded to these concerns and questions and each of these were incorporated into the decision-making process.

8.7.4 Media Releases and Alerts

At the outset of the Central Corridor Transit Study, RCRRA developed a media relation strategy to define the processes for maintaining regular communication with major metro media and community news media throughout the Transit Study and EIS Process. The strategy included methods for responding to inquiries and strategies for generating on-going coverage of Central Corridor issues and events. Both graphic and narrative materials were developed to clearly communicate the process and findings of the Transit Study and EIS, including technical analysis, issues under consideration, the relative performance of the transit alternatives under consideration, and the choices and trade-off required in the decision-making process. The materials developed for release to the media were designed for easy understanding by the average

citizen, with the purpose of maintaining public awareness and fostering understanding of key issues in the proposed project development. All media contacts were coordinated through the RCRRA media consultant. Media relation materials and activities included:

- Media kits, including graphics, visuals, timelines, background information and contacts
- News releases and alerts for dissemination to the media

News releases and alerts of all technical meetings and outreach activities were also sent to local newspapers. Table 8.7-1:Media Releases and Alerts, provides a list of press releases and alerts and the date of distribution to the major metropolitan media and community news media.

Table 8.7-1: Media Releases and Alerts

Release/Alert Title	Distribution Date
CentralCorridor.org Wants to Hear from You	December 27, 2000
Public Meetings Set for Central Corridor Study	October 2001
Possible Downtown St. Paul Alignments Announced	January 19, 2001
Decision Makers Pick Best Options For More Study	February 16, 2001

8.8 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COORDINATION

A significant number of oral and written comments were received during the EIS Scoping Process. All comments from agencies, business groups, organizations and members of the public are documented in the *Central Corridor Scoping Summary Report*, under separate cover, as well as detailed information about activities, meetings and workshops held during the timeframe of the EIS Scoping Process.

In accordance with federal regulations, public hearings will be held as part of the NEPA process to disclose the potential effects of the alternatives under consideration to the public and to provide the public the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. The formal public hearings will be scheduled following the distribution of the Draft EIS, approximately two weeks after circulation of the document to the public. At the hearings, information to be presented will include the purpose and need for the project, description of the alternatives under evaluation assessment of social, economic, environmental and transportation impacts and potential mitigation measures. The public will be invited to comment on the information presented and the contents of the Draft EIS verbally or in writing. Responses to comments will be prepared and included in the Final EIS. The Final EIS will identify how comments received influenced the project outcome.

As indicated in Section 8.11, when this document is released for public comment, all comments received will be included as an appendix in the Final EIS.

8.9 PROJECT OFFICE

The project office for the proposed Central Corridor project is located at the RCRRA office located at 50 West Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 665, St. Paul, MN 55102. A St. Paul phone number and TDD was provided for public comments and questions during the EIS Scoping Process comment period. The project website, which provides access via e-mail, is another avenue to receive comments and provide informal responses. Staff, marketing materials, project handouts, and other forms of information promote the use of the RCRRA telephone number and website

address (www.centralcorridor.org) for comments and questions. Forms and telephone/ e-mail logs have been developed to account for and track incoming calls and e-mail messages to ensure proper follow-up and information dissemination.

8.10 CONTACTS

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and RCRRA may be contacted about the Draft EIS and/ or other project documents. The contact persons for each organization are listed below.

Ms. Marisol Simon
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region 5
200 West Adams Street, Suite 2410
Chicago, IL 60606-5232
Telephone: (312) 353-2789
Fax: (312) 886-0351

Stephen L. Morris, Project Manager
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA)
50 West Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 665
St. Paul, MN 55102
Telephone: (651) 266-2784
Fax: (651) 266-2761
E-mail: steve.morris@co.ramsey.mn.us
TDD: 1 (800) 627-3529

8.11 RECIPIENTS OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) AND CORRESPONDENCE

At this time the *Central Corridor Draft EIS* is being distributed as a preliminary draft for internal review only. Following review and release of the document, the Draft EIS and subsequent Final EIS will be sent to federal, state and local agencies, as well as technical committee members, stakeholders and the public for review and comment. Upon completion of internal review and prior to release of the document, Chapter 10 will be amended to provide a list of Draft EIS recipients. Records of correspondence and/or comments received from all sources in response to the Draft EIS will be included in the appendix.

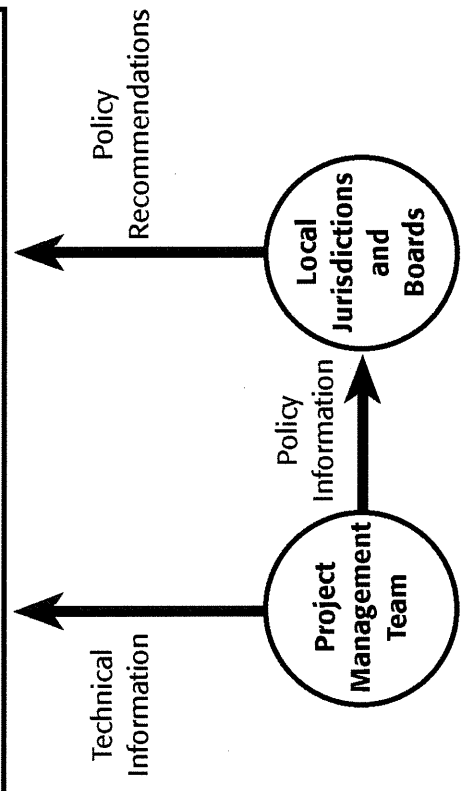
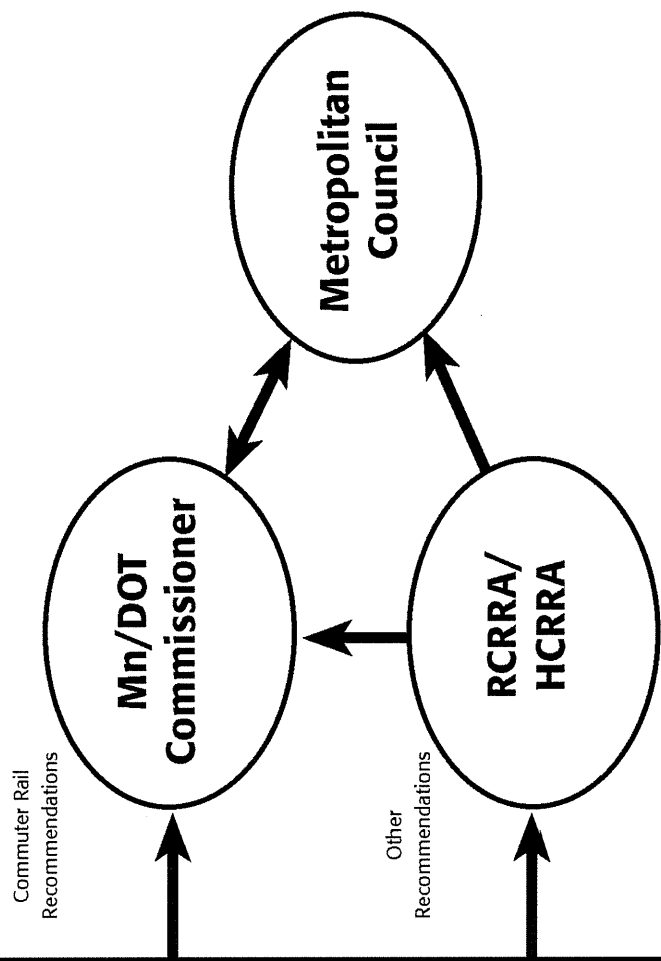
Overall Organization for the Central Corridor Transit Study

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- Mn/DOT (2)
- City of St. Paul
- City of Minneapolis
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County (2)
- Metropolitan Council (2)
- University of Minnesota
- Red Rock Corridor
- Northstar Corridor

-voting on commuter rail elements
-non-voting

Coordinating Committee membership is dictated by statute.



*Public Input is Provided Throughout the Process