

**STATUS REPORT
on the**

**Programmatic Agreement
Among
The Federal Transit Administration
The Metropolitan Council
The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
And
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Regarding the Construction of
The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project
Between Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota**

**Status Report #7
July 2011**

INTRODUCTION

The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project is an approximately 11-mile LRT line that will serve the Minneapolis and St. Paul downtown areas, as well as the University of Minnesota (U of M) and the State Capitol complex. In downtown Minneapolis, it will integrate with the Hiawatha LRT line. There will be 23 stations along the line, including five shared with the existing Hiawatha LRT and an operations and maintenance facility will be constructed as part of the project in downtown St. Paul.

This Status Report covers the period from April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011.

STIPULATION I: PROJECT DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

The obligations of Stipulation I of the CCLRT Programmatic Agreement are complete with submittal of the final set of design plans for the Operations and Maintenance Facility (as reported in Status Report #5).

STIPULATION II: DESIGN OF FUTURE STATIONS AT HAMLINE, VICTORIA AND WESTERN

The obligations of Stipulation II of the CCLRT Programmatic Agreement are complete with submittal of the final design plans for the stations at Hamline Avenue, Victorian Street, and Western Avenue (reported in Status Report #3) and MnSHPO findings that the plans were consistent with the Secretary of Interior Standards (as reported in Status Report #4).

STIPULATION III: ARCHAEOLOGY

There have been no actions pertaining to this stipulation in the reporting period.

STIPULATION IV: RESOLUTION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS

As of the date of the completion of this Status Report, MnSHPO has made adverse effects findings for four historic properties and/or districts – the St. Paul Urban Renewal Historic District, the State Capitol Mall Historic District, the St. Paul Union Depot, and the Lowertown Historic District.

St. Paul Union Depot: As previously reported, a final Mitigation Plan addressing adverse effects of the CCLRT project to the St. Paul Union Depot has been approved by MnSHPO and circulated to parties to the Programmatic Agreement. Implementation of the Mitigation Plan will occur as part of Civil East construction activities and is expected to be completed in 2013.

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State Capitol Mall Historic District: A final mitigation plan was circulated to MnSHPO and all parties on February 25, 2010. Implementation of the mitigation plans is anticipated to be complete in 2011.

St. Paul Urban Renewal Historic District: Mitigation for effects to the St. Paul Urban Renewal Historic District was documented in the Programmatic Agreement and is reported under Stipulation VII.

Lowertown Historic District: A final mitigation plan addressing adverse effects of the CCLRT Operations and Maintenance Facility to the Lowertown Historic District was circulated to parties to the Programmatic Agreement in June. Discussions will take place in July with St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission staff on the schedule for moving forward with mitigation plan implementation.

STIPULATION V: NOISE AND VIBRATION ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

The obligations of Stipulation V of the CCLRT Programmatic Agreement are complete with submittal of the final copy of the Vibration Noise Management Remediation Plan (VNMRP) as reported in Status Report #4 and completion of consultation with property owners, as reported in Status Report #5.

STIPULATION VI: PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Stipulation VI.A: There have been no actions pertaining to this stipulation in the reporting period.

Stipulation VI.B: There have been no actions pertaining to this stipulation in the reporting period.

Stipulation VI.C: CCPO outreach and public involvement staff continued to work during this reporting period with the City of St. Paul in implementing parking grant programs available through the City to small business owners along University Avenue. Reporting on the status of the implementation of parking mitigation is now taking place on a monthly basis as required by the FTA's Finding of No Significant Impacts for the Supplemental Environmental Assessment published in March 2011. A copy of the monthly business mitigation status report can be found at www.centralcorridor.org.

STIPULATION VII: RECORDATION OF CEDAR STREET AND REDEVELOPMENT DESIGN GUIDELINES

360 Cedar Street Recordation: The provisions of this stipulation were completed and documented in a letter dated January 8, 2010 from MnSHPO finding that the documentation fulfills Stipulation VII.A of the Programmatic Agreement.

Design Guidelines for 4th/5th/Minnesota/Cedar streets block: There have been no actions pertaining to this stipulation in the reporting period.

STIPULATION VIII: NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORMS

In June, CCPO staff met with staff from MnSHPO, St. Paul's Heritage Preservation Commissions, and the Minnesota Preservation Alliance to discuss advancing the timing for preparation of National Register nomination forms. Participants at the meeting advised that this was very desirable for a number of reasons, not least of which being the ability for NRHP-listed property owners to access funds to rehabilitate and improve their properties.

Subsequent to the meeting, CCPO sent a letter to MnSHPO committing to beginning this work as earlier as possible, with the goal of completing all National Register nomination forms by first quarter 2012.

STIPULATION IX: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Stipulation IX.A: There have been no actions pertaining to this stipulation in the reporting period.

Stipulation IX.B: There have been no actions pertaining to this stipulation in the reporting period.

Stipulation IX.C: In December 2009, a Scope of Work, implementing Tasks A and B of Stipulation IX was sent to MnSHPO. In their response, MnSHPO requested the scope be sent to all parties to the Programmatic Agreement with a subsequent meeting to gather input on the scope from parties. This meeting took place in mid-January. Subsequently, a final scope was issued based on comments received.

STIPULATION X: PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Stipulation X.A: All documents developed as part of implementing the stipulations in the Programmatic Agreement, copies of status reports, and other documentation are being made available at www.centralcorridor.org.

Stipulation X.B: No objections have been noted during this reporting period.

STIPULATION XI: PROTECTION MEASURES

As reported in Status Report #4, a final copy of the Construction Protection Plan (CPP) was distributed to all parties to the Programmatic Agreement in May 2010. During this reporting period, Civil East (construction of LRT tracks, reconstruction of roadways and sidewalks, LRT station construction, etc. in St. Paul) and Civil West (similar activities as Civil East, but in Minneapolis) contracts were initiated and several meetings were held with both contractors to review the measures contained in the CPP (and contained in contract specifications) (Stipulation XI.B). Vibration monitoring and reporting (on a

weekly basis) will take place throughout the duration of vibration-intensive construction activities for these construction contracts.

STIPULATION XII: PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

In early March, MnSHPO was provided notification that the CCPO was proposing temporary modifications to Pillsbury and Pleasant streets in the University of Minnesota Old Campus Historic District to facilitate bus and pedestrian detours related to CCLRT construction. This letter also informed MnSHPO that the University of Minnesota was requesting that some changes be made permanently.

MnSHPO responded on April 8, 2011 indicating that temporary improvements proposed in the Old Campus Historic District were acceptable but that permanent improvements proposed would constitute and adverse effect. Based on this finding, CCPO and University of Minnesota reconsidered proposals for permanent improvements at this location. In early June, a new proposal was sent to MnSHPO. A response was received on June 30, 2011 from MnSHPO indicating the limited scope of permanent improvements (a new traffic signal that was identical to the signal approved by MnSHPO at Arlington and Pleasant streets) will have no adverse effect on the University of Minnesota Old Campus Mall Historic District.

STIPULATION XIII: PROJECT DISCOVERY

There have been no actions pertaining to this stipulation in the reporting period.

STIPULATION XIV: QUARTERLY REPORT ON AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

This is the seventh quarterly report prepared on the status of implementation of Central Corridor LRT Programmatic Agreement stipulations.

STIPULATION XV: STANDARDS

All work carried out pursuant to the Programmatic Agreement has been carried out consistent with the requirements noted in this stipulation.

STIPULATION XVI: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

There have been no disputes requiring resolution in the reporting period.

STIPULATION XVII: AMENDMENTS

There have been no requests, nor any preparation of, amendments to the Programmatic Agreement during the reporting period.

STIPULATION XVIII: TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

There have been no requests by any party to terminate the Programmatic Agreement during the reporting period.

STIPULATION XIX: DURATION OF AGREEMENT

There has been no change to the duration of the Programmatic Agreement during the reporting period.

SCHEDULE OF ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES OVER NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

The following activities are anticipated to take place over the next reporting period, concluding September 30, 2011.

- Development of work plans for parking and traffic studies as described in Stipulations VI. A. and C. of the Programmatic Agreement.
- Preparation of National Register nomination forms for properties, as listed in Stipulation VIII.
- Implementation of mitigation plans for Union Depot and the State Capitol Mall Historic District.