

**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 #8
October 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 July 1, 2011 to September 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. The primary focus of this Plan is development of new Lowertown Historic District Guidelines administered by the St. Paul HPC. During the month of July, CCPO staff met with staff from HPC and it was determined the most advantageous means of proceeding with developing design guidelines would be for Met Council to enter into a subordinate funding agreement (SFA) with the City, allowing the City (HPC) to be the holder of the contract. A sub-recipient form was subsequently sent to HPC (July 2011) for their completion and signature prior to routing for signature through the Met Council.

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: 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 assessing impacts of CCLRT construction on businesses, which was 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

The Met Council published a Request for Proposals in late July 2011, seeking to engage a qualified consultant to prepare National Register Nomination forms for the properties listed in this stipulation of the Programmatic Agreement. Proposals were due from consultants in September 2011. Staff from HPC and MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit was invited to serve on the evaluation panel. Upon receipt of proposals and upon initial evaluation by Met Council procurement staff, it was determined that all proposals received included cost proposals that exceeded the initial cost estimate prepared by Met Council. For this reason, and under FTA procurement rules, the procurement was deemed to be a failed procurement. Met Council will have to re-initiate the procurement process, upon preparation and approval of a refined project cost estimate.

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: The obligations of Stipulation IX.C of the CCLRT Programmatic Agreement are complete with submittal of a final scope of work for public education activities in February 2010.

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

Mn/SHPO staff and other parties to the Programmatic Agreement (HPC) were notified by Met Council staff in July 2011 of a proposed change to intertrack fencing placed in the Lowertown Historic District and in the University-Raymond Commercial Historic District. At a subsequent meeting between MnSHPO and HPC, Met Council staff provided prototypes of the original bollard (as included in final design plans) and the new bollard type. After discussion of the matter, it was determined by MnSHPO staff and HPC that more review and study would be required to ensure the proposed modification would not result in adverse effects. Met Council staff subsequently determined they would not pursue further the proposed project modification, and that the intertrack fence bollards installed would be as originally planned.

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 eighth 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

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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 December 31, 2011.

- Development of a refined cost estimate for preparation of NRHP eligibility forms.