

**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 #5
November 2010**

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 August 1 to November 30, 2010.

STIPULATION I: PROJECT DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

In August, the last set of CCLRT final design plans were sent to MnSHPO for review – final design plans for the Operations and Maintenance Facility in downtown St. Paul. These final design plans reflected the same conceptual façade design selected and reported in Status Report #4 for the CCLRT Programmatic Agreement (see Adverse Effects discussion). With submittal of this final set of final design plans, the obligations of Stipulation I of the Programmatic Agreement are complete.

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.

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 during the next reporting period (through March 31, 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 Draft 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 October. Circulation of a Final Mitigation Plan is anticipated in the next reporting period.

STIPULATION V: NOISE AND VIBRATION ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

As reported in Status Report #4, a final copy of the Vibration Noise Management Remediation Plan (VNMRP) was circulated to all parties to the Programmatic Agreement in May 2010. During this reporting period, consultation with property owners along the Central Corridor regarding the provision of the VNMRP was completed (Stipulation V.C). Consultation took place by the distribution of letters to owners of historic properties advising them of the protections of the plan and follow-up, as requested, by CCLRT Community Outreach staff.

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.

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.

STIPULATIONS VIII THROUGH IX

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

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 XIV: QUARTERLY REPORT ON AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

This is the fifth 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 March 31, 2011.

- Development of work plans for parking and traffic studies as described in Stipulations VI. A. and C. of the Programmatic Agreement.
- Development of a work plan for public education, as described in Stipulation IX. of the Programmatic Agreement.