

# Making Tracks



December 2006

## FTA Gives Green Light

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has granted approval for the Metropolitan Council and its partners to begin preliminary engineering on the 11-mile Central Corridor light rail transit project. The news came in a Dec. 13 letter from Marisol R. Simon, FTA regional administrator.

“Obtaining the FTA’s blessing was more than just a formality,” said Peter Bell, chair of the Metropolitan Council. “It came after a careful review of our project application, financial and management plans, during which we responded to literally hundreds of questions. In the eyes of the FTA, we clearly have a very viable project.”

Preliminary engineering requires two years and takes the project to about 60 percent of final design.

## 40+ Apply for CAC

More than 40 groups have nominated representatives to serve on the Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC), which will be the primary avenue for corridor residents, business owners and groups to provide ideas and input on the project.

“The committee necessarily will be large and inclusive, and will provide advice and feedback on critical issues such as station placement and design, safety, parking and construction mitigation,” said Peter Bell, chair of the Metropolitan Council.

Song Lo Fawcett, a member of the Met Council, and Jerry Blakey, a former member of the St. Paul City Council, have been appointed co-chairs of the CAC. The remaining members will be named by the end of the year. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 18, 2007, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Goodwill Easter Seals building, 553 N. Fairview Ave., St. Paul.

## Members Sought for BAC

The Central Corridor Partnership, a business-led advocacy group for the LRT project, is seeking applications for the Business Advisory Council (BAC), which will provide business input on project design and construction mitigation issues.

Invitations have been mailed to more than 700 businesses located in the corridor. The deadline for submitting applications is **Jan. 19, 2007**. The BAC chair and members will be announced in February.

**For more information**, check out our website at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.htm>.

**Questions or Comments?** Call the Met Council comment line at 651-602-1500 or e-mail us at [data.center@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:data.center@metc.state.mn.us).

