

Making Tracks



February 2007

Loop proposal has serious drawbacks

A proposed change in the alignment of the Central Corridor LRT line to create a one-way loop in downtown St. Paul would increase capital costs by \$49 million, increase operating costs by \$1 million a year, increase travel times, reduce ridership and create “serious operational and reliability issues.”

These are among the conclusions of a \$40,000 study conducted for Ramsey County by the DMJM Harris consulting firm and a separate analysis by the Metropolitan Council’s transportation planning staff. Such a dramatic change in the alignment also could require re-opening the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which could delay the project by at least six months and add to its cost.

The loop idea was advanced by Ramsey County Commissioner Tony Bennett, and the county has hired an advertising firm to promote it. Met Council Chair Peter Bell, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, the Pioneer Press and the business-led Central Corridor Partnership all have expressed serious reservations. Copies of the DMJM study and the Met Council memo are posted at www.metrocouncil.org.

Central Corridor Business Advisory Council named

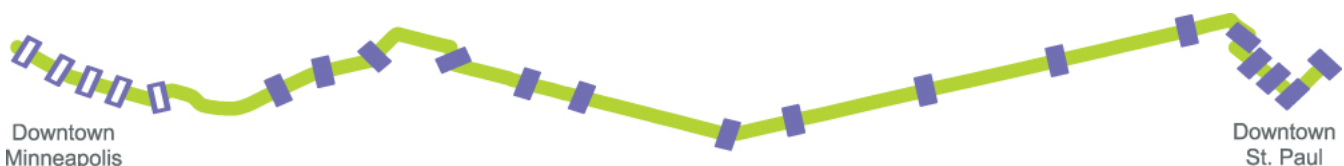
The Metropolitan Council and Central Corridor Partnership have named a 23-member Business Advisory Council (BAC) to provide input from the business community on the planning process for Central Corridor light rail transit. Members are primarily owners and managers of businesses or property along the 11-mile corridor.

The Met Council is the lead agency on the planning, design and construction of the rail project and established both the BAC and the Community Advisory Committee to advise the Council-led Corridor Management Committee on matters of community and business interest.

The BAC will hold its first meeting on March 19. Meetings will be held the third Monday of every month at the Court International Building Conference Room located at 2550 University Ave. W., St. Paul, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Committee co-chairs will be announced at the first meeting of the BAC. (See page 2 for a list of BAC members).

For more information, check out our website at: www.metrocouncil.org.

Questions or Comments? Call the Met Council comment line at 651-602-1500 or e-mail us at data.center@metc.state.mn.us.



Central Corridor Business Advisory Council Members

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Concordia University, Jeannine Kessler
Flannery Construction, Ken Hinz
Foodsmart, Chang Thao
Global Construction, David Youmans
Griggs Midway Corp., Nell McClung
Hubbard Broadcasting, David Jones
Latuff Bros, Peter Latuff
Marsden Holdings, Guy Mingo
Midway Chamber, Lori Fritts
Midwest Mountaineering, Sharon Johnson
Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, Jim Roth
Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce, Khue Yang
Minnesota Council of Non-profits, Sondra Reis
Park Midway Bank, Kathy Bjerke
Progressive Architecture, Tom Olesak
Saint Paul Port Authority, Brenda Kyle
SEBA/ SunTide Building, Denise Currie
Securian/SPACC, Julio Fesser
St. Joseph Hospital, Kay Baker
St. Paul Building & Construction Trade Council, Harry Melander
Thoemke & Sons/Midwest Staffing, Brian Thoemke
TKDA, Christine Wiegert
Wellington Management, Tanya Bell

