

Making Tracks



April 2008

Transit-pedestrian mall with buses would be more cost effective than rerouting buses

Metro Transit officials prefer to keep buses on Washington Avenue when it is converted to a transit-pedestrian mall for Central Corridor LRT because it would be more cost effective than rerouting daily all 900 of them. Buses can take riders to the heart of campus, avoiding forced transfers to rail. This would avoid the need for additional capital investments for building bus-rail transfer stations. One option studied for removing buses from Washington Avenue would terminate buses at the edge of campus, requiring riders to transfer to trains at new transit stations at each end. Two other options studied would reroute buses via University Avenue and Fourth Street to either Pleasant Street or over the 10th Avenue bridge. All options that reroute buses off of Washington Avenue would increase overall travel time for bus riders.

Cities, counties and regional rail authorities required to hold hearings on LRT plans

State law requires cities, counties and regional rail authorities to hold public hearings on preliminary engineering plans for the Central Corridor LRT Project. This is known as the municipal consent process. The state Department of Transportation and the Hennepin and Ramsey counties' regional rail authorities will hold the first hearing from 5 to 7 p.m. May 29 at Goodwill/Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., in St. Paul. The public will be able to ask questions and get answers one hour before the meeting. The hearing will be an opportunity for the public to comment. In June, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Hennepin and Ramsey counties will hold public hearings prior to their city councils and county boards approving the plans in July. All the hearings will focus on preliminary design plans for stations, tracks and electrical systems. These documents will be available for public review by May 1 in St. Paul at the Metropolitan Council's Robert Street library, the Central Corridor Project Office, Hamline-Midway Library, Merriam Park Library, Rice Street Library, Rondo Community Library, St. Paul Central Library and St. Anthony Park Branch Library and in Minneapolis at the Franklin Library, Minneapolis Central Library and Southeast. An electronic copy will be available at www.centralcorridor.org

When the other hearing dates are set, they will be posted under Meetings at www.centralcorridor.org

For more information about the project, visit: <http://www.centralcorridor.org>

Questions or comments? Call the Central Corridor LRT Project Comment Line at 651-602-1645 or email us at centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us

