

Making Tracks



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Two Pages

Three public hearings set in August on Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Metropolitan Council will hold three public hearings in August on the Central Corridor LRT Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The SDEIS discloses changes from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the impacts of those changes. After the hearings and a 45-day comment period that will end Aug. 25, the Met Council will take formal action Aug. 27 to revise the preferred alignment from the route identified in the DEIS. The hearings will be at noon Aug. 4 at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul; 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at the Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis; and 2 p.m. Aug. 9 at Goodwill/Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul. An electronic copy of the SDEIS is available in a PDF format at www.centralcorridor.org under Hot Topics where more information can be found on how to comment and where to view printed copies of the SDEIS.

Regents OK agreement for Washington Avenue transit/pedestrian mall traffic mitigation

Regents for the University of Minnesota have approved a memorandum of understanding on \$27 million in traffic mitigation, including \$11.1 million for converting Washington Avenue into a transit/pedestrian mall. The MOU also includes \$5.1 million for East Bank campus area street connections and funding for modifying some intersections. In addition to Central Corridor project funding, the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, city of Minneapolis and university agreed to seek funding outside of the project costs for these betterments. “We’re confident that with these mitigations and community betterments, this new light rail line will be a positive addition to our campus and the backbone of a modern regional transit system,” University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks said.

Preliminary design plans for Central Corridor unanimously approved

The cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Ramsey and Hennepin county boards have unanimously approved preliminary design plans for the Central Corridor LRT Project. The plans show the location of track, roads, turn lanes, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, bus stops, crosswalks, proposed on-street parking spaces, traffic signals, station platforms and existing conditions. Also shown are the typical station platform types, layout of equipment on each and the electrical and communications components.

More



Reducing University Avenue to one lane each way would worsen traffic congestion

Traffic delays during the afternoon peak period would increase greatly and 10 intersections would fail if University Avenue is reduced from two lanes to one lane in each direction as part of the Central Corridor LRT Project, a study concluded. The Central Corridor LRT Project office conducted the study at the request of the city of St. Paul to see if there was a way to add bicycle lanes, increase sidewalk width or retain on-street parking and still keep vehicle traffic flowing well with the advent of light rail. The analysis found there would be significant vehicle back ups and delays at intersections by reducing University to one lane in each direction. The average travel speed for the afternoon peak hour would be 5 mph eastbound and 10 mph westbound, compared with the current 18 mph eastbound and 19 mph westbound. Besides 10 intersections failing, three others would drop in the afternoon peak hour to a level of service rating of E, which is marginally functional. A failure is when vehicles have to wait through more than one light cycle.

Familiar face returns to the Central Corridor LRT Project

Eve Vang, who was a community outreach intern in the summer of 2007, has rejoined the Central Corridor LRT Project as an associate outreach coordinator. Vang, a 2007 graduate of the College of St. Benedict, left last fall to spend six months in Thailand teaching English on a Fulbright scholarship. The U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program is the U.S. government's flagship program in international educational exchange. Vang, who grew up in St. Paul, speaks Hmong and Thai in addition to English. She can be reached at eve.vang@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1968.

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

Questions or Comments? Call the Central Corridor LRT Project's Comment Line at 651-602-1645 or e-mail us at centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us

