

Making Tracks



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Traffic engineers study adding signals along University Avenue for LRT

Traffic engineers are studying adding seven traffic signals and removing one along University Avenue where there are already 22 signals. The new signals would be added to accommodate crossings for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians, and lights would be spaced one-quarter mile apart. The additions would be needed because the LRT line would close unsignalized median crossings to prevent vehicle traffic from crossing in front of trains. As a safety precaution, left turns would be allowed only on green arrows. In addition to having pedestrian crossings at traffic signals, project planners also are studying adding unsignalized pedestrian crossings to improve pedestrian circulation.

Rice Street station proposed for south side of University, east of Rice

Planners propose locating the Rice Street station on the south side of University Avenue east of Rice Street. The location would minimize the taking of private property on the southwest side of the intersection, would cause less traffic congestion because the tracks would be on the south side of the street instead of down the middle of the street and the station would be more attractive because it would be adjacent to green space. The location also would provide good north/south bus connections for Routes 3, 62, 262 and others and accommodate thousands of employees in the area, including in state offices. Project staffers developed this proposed station location after several meetings with the Capitol Area Architecture Planning Board, community groups, business owners and others.

University Avenue reconstruction costs could be lower than expected

The condition of University Avenue's roadway is so much better than expected that the Central Corridor LRT Project may be able to save \$24 million to \$27 million on its reconstruction. Less reconstruction would reduce construction time and its impact on residents, businesses and traffic. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement had assumed a full reconstruction of University, including a new street, curb and sidewalk. The project proposes keeping the existing roadbed, but resurfacing the street and replacing the curb and gutter and most of the sidewalk.

Project office offers another avenue for public feedback

If members of the public are unable to attend a public meeting, they are invited to submit comments and questions to the project's new email address. It is centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us

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

Questions or Comments? Call the Central Corridor LRT Project main number at 651-602-1940 and ask for an outreach

