

Making Tracks



April 2009

Three Pages



Artist Seitu Jones in his Frogtown studio where he will design the artwork to be incorporated into the designs of the Lexington Parkway, Dale Street and Rice Street stations for the Central Corridor LRT line. [Artists to present design concepts for Central Corridor stations - news release](#) (pdf). The schedule of the meetings where the artists will present their design concepts is online at: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/CCcalendar.htm>

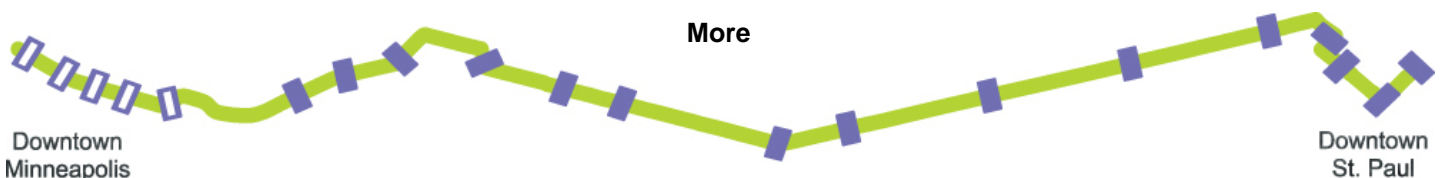
Team offers site-specific, corridor-wide solutions for lost parking spaces

Corridor-wide and site-specific solutions will offset the loss of parking on University Avenue that will occur when two Central Corridor LRT tracks are constructed, says a report by the city of St. Paul and the Central Corridor LRT Project.

To read the report, visit <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/ReportsPresentations/ParkingSolutionsApr09.pdf>

To view a videotaped presentation on the report, watch "Update on Central Corridor Parking" under Featured Videos at: http://metrocouncil.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

The 560 parking spaces on north-south cross streets within a block of the corridor and the 25,000 spaces in underutilized private lots within a quarter mile of LRT stations could compensate for much of the 975 lost parking spaces, the report concluded. With LRT, 175 on-street parking spaces will remain on University Avenue.



Team offers site-specific...

Some corridor-wide solutions and the entities responsible for their implementation include:

- Installing parking meters – St. Paul Department of Public Works
- Implementing permit parking zones – City of St. Paul
- Using parking enforcement technology – St Paul Police Department, business/property owners and residents
- Implementing parking signage – City of St. Paul, Central Corridor LRT Project
- Encouraging use of mass transit – Metro Transit, St. Paul Smart Trips, City of St. Paul, Central Corridor Project Office's community outreach coordinators
- Establishing grant program to improve private parking resources – St. Paul Planning and Economic Development Department
- Seeking funding for capital and operating costs – St. Paul Planning and Economic Development Department

Some site-specific solutions include:

- Using cross-streets for parking and loading
- Maximizing existing investment in parking
- Centralizing refuse and recycling
- Scheduling non-peak deliveries and loading
- Sharing the use and cost of parking
- Utilizing vacated streets or alleys
- Facilitating parking workshops

The city of St. Paul and the Central Corridor Project Office will meet this spring and summer with businesses in each of 11 critical areas identified along University to develop a parking mitigation plan. The plan may include shared parking, meters, better design of existing parking and improved access.

Questions can be addressed to community outreach coordinators Shoua Lee, Hue Pham and Rita Rodriguez at the 602-651-1645 comment line or centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us or Craig Blakely and Christina Morrison with the city of St. Paul at Craig.Blakely@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-266-6697 or Christina.Morrison@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-266-6546.

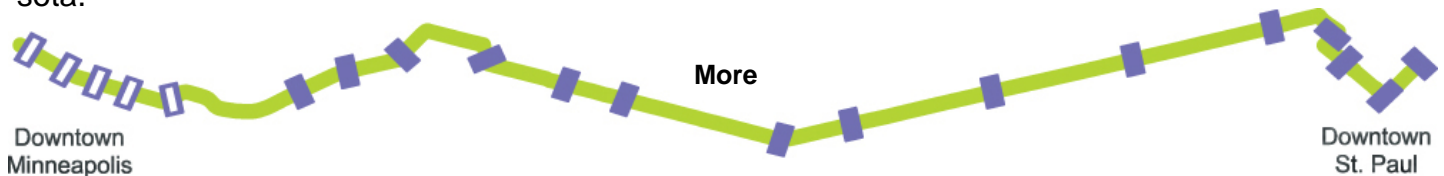
Met Council says no room for delays in project schedule

Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell is asking stakeholders to work with the regional planning agency to help the Central Corridor LRT Project stay on schedule so heavy construction can begin as planned in late summer 2010.

Advanced utility relocation work on Fourth Street in downtown St. Paul must begin this summer to enable the heavy construction work to proceed upon receipt of the Full Funding Grant Agreement in 2010 and to stay on schedule for a 2014 service start, he said.

Any delay in the project at this point could cause it to miss its scheduled 2010 construction start and raise the project's nearly \$914 million cost by \$30 million a year due to inflation, Bell said.

Other risks to the project include unresolved issues, such as property acquisition for the St. Paul diagonal station at Fourth and Cedar streets, University of Minnesota mitigation costs and betterments desired by project partners for University Avenue, the state Capitol area and University of Minnesota.



Three groups working to help businesses cope during LRT construction

The Central Corridor Partnership, Central Corridor Funders Collaborative and Learning Network and the University Avenue Business Preparation Collaborative are working to help businesses weather the construction of the Central Corridor LRT Project.

Karri Plowman, director of the Central Corridor Partnership, has helped bring in experts from other cities with LRT lines to share business tips for preparing for construction. He is reachable at karri@saintpaulchamber.com or 651-265-2782.

Jonathan Sage-Martinson, director of the funders collaborative, seeks to maximize the benefit of the LRT investment for the people and places adjacent to the line by forming multi-sector partnerships focusing on affordable housing, business mitigation and land acquisition for transit-oriented development. The funders collaborative is made up of several foundations. For more information, visit www.centralcorridorfunders.org or contact Sage-Martinson at jbs@centralcorridorfunders.org or 651-280-2384.

Mike Temali is president and chief executive officer of the Neighborhood Development Center, which is part of the University Avenue Business Preparation Collaborative. The collaborative will provide one-on-one technical support and provide small business and real estate loans and matching grants to small businesses along University Avenue. He is reachable at mtemali@ndc-mn.org or 651-379-8426.

About the Central Corridor LRT Project

The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project will link downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis along Washington and University avenues via the state Capitol and University of Minnesota. Construction will begin in 2010 on the planned 11-mile Central Corridor line, with service beginning in 2014. The line will connect with the Hiawatha LRT line at the Metrodome station in Minneapolis and the soon-to-be built Northstar commuter rail line at the new Minneapolis Multimodal Station. The Metropolitan Council will be the grantee of federal funds. The regional government agency is charged with building the line in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Central Corridor Management Committee, which includes the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis, commissioners from Ramsey and Hennepin counties and the University of Minnesota, provides advice and oversight.

Questions or comments? Call 651-602-1645 or email centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us

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

