



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: August 12, 2008

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Comments on Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS)
for Central Corridor LRT**

Recommendation:

Approve the SDEIS comments for the Central Corridor LRT project and direct the Public Works Department to submit the comments to the Metropolitan Council.

Previous Directives:

- July 11, 2008 Authorize execution of a MOU defining the scope and commitment of Central Corridor Project mitigation issues.
- June 20, 2008: Approval of Preliminary Design Plans
- June 16, 2006: Resolution 2006R-342, Recommending Light Rail Transit for the Central Corridor.
- June 16, 2006: Approve summary comments and final detailed comments on the draft EIS regarding the Central Corridor Project.

Prepared by: Kelly Moriarity, P.E., Project Manager, 673-3617
Heidi Hamilton, P.E., Deputy Director of Public Works

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Kelly Moriarity, P.E., Project Manager, Transportation Planning and Engineering

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Approval	NA	Date
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves

___ Business Plan: X Action is within the plan. ___ Action requires a change to plan.
___ Other financial impact (Explain):
___ Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the
Committee Coordinator

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: The Central Corridor Project Office is working regularly with the neighborhoods impacted by the project through a Community Advisory Committee, and a Business Advisory Committee, as well by holding various meetings with individual neighborhoods, residents and business groups.

City Goals: A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME: the city's infrastructure will be well-maintained, people will feel safe in the city.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: Connected network of Transportation Options.

Comprehensive Plan: The Comprehensive Plan is being met.

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project is an 11-mile LRT line connecting Downtown Minneapolis and Downtown St Paul and linking with the Hiawatha LRT line and the new Northstar Commuter Rail line.

The Metropolitan Council has prepared a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) to disclose changes from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) completed in 2006. The SDEIS was released for public comment on July 11, 2008 and the 45 day comment period will conclude on August 25, 2008.

The key changes that the SDEIS discloses include:

1. Revised Connection of the Central Corridor to the Hiawatha LRT in Minneapolis.
2. Transit/pedestrian Mall at the University of Minnesota with LRT running at-grade on Washington Avenue.
3. Potential additional stations at Hamline Avenue, Victoria Street or Western Avenue in St Paul.
4. Changes to the LRT alignment and location of stations within the Capital area.
5. Changes to the LRT alignment and locations of Stations in downtown St. Paul, including a diagonal alignment through the 4th Street and Cedar streets block and the consolidation of two stations into one on that block.
6. Preliminary locations for traction power substations needed to power the LRT trains.
7. Impact of potential three-car-train operations on the Central Corridor.
8. Need for and impacts of constructing a storage and maintenance facility in downtown St.Paul.
9. Need for and impacts of modifications and/or improvements required to the Washington Avenue Bridge for LRT purposes.

The purpose of the SDEIS is to explore impacts of the project's key change elements. Potential impacts are evaluated for both short-term construction and long-term operational effects. After

the SDEIS is completed, a Final EIS will be prepared that will address impacts at a higher level of detail and will identify mitigation activities.

Recommended Action:

Approve the SDEIS comments for the Central Corridor LRT project and direct the Public Works Department to submit the comments to the Metropolitan Council.

Attachments

SDEIS Comments

Cc: Council Member Gordon, Ward 2
Council Member Hofstede, Ward 3
Council Member Goodman, Ward 7
Peter Wagenius, Mayor's Office
Steve Kotke, Public Works
Heidi Hamilton, Public Works
Jon Wertjes, Public Works
Don Elwood, Public Works
Lisa Cerney, Public Works
Kelly Moriarity, Public Works