Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Communicating to the Public During Major Construction

May 25, 2011

Improving mobility
Easing congestion
Strengthening our communities
Central Corridor
Light Rail Transit

Regional Transit System

Important link in the regional transit network

(Adopted 2008)
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Route and Stations

- 18 new stations
- 9.8 miles of new double track
- 31 new Light Rail Vehicles
- 40,940 average weekday ridership in 2030
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Timeline

- 2007: Preliminary Engineering (PE)
- 2009: Environmental Documentation
- 2010: Final Design
- 2011: Start heavy construction
- 2014: Start operation

Metropolitan Council
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Total Budget
$957 Million

Federal
50%
$479 million

State $92 million, 9%

County Transit Improvement Board $284 million, 30%

Hennepin County $28 million, 3%

Ramsey Co. $66 million, 7%

St. Paul $5 million, <1%

Met Council $3 million, <1%,
Setting up an Outreach Plan
Consider the Community

- Communication preferences
- Cultural norms and traditions
- Meetings
  - Proximity to targeted community
  - ADA accessible
  - Reachable by transit
  - Convenient for targeted audience
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
Know the Community
Minority Population
Know the Community
Foreign Born Population

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Africa

Asia

Latin America

Foreign Born Population
as % total population
- 0% - 5%
- 5.01% - 13%
- 13.01% - 25%
- 25.01% - 47.49%

2000 US Census by Tract
Know the Community
People in Poverty
Know the Community Population ≤ 18 Years Old
Know the Community Stakeholders

• Identify organizations that represent stakeholders
  – Neighborhood groups
  – Chambers of Commerce
  – Faith based organizations
  – Ethnic groups
  – Social services

• Community media
Community Outreach Coordinators
Central Corridor LRT

Minneapolis: The purpose of the outreach team is to be an intermediary for the Metropolitan Council and the community on the Central Corridor LRT project. We will do this by building relationships with the public by informing, listening, and gathering feedback throughout engineering, construction and operation.

Minneapolis, Downtown to Emerald
New Stations: West Bank, East Bank, Stadium Village, 29th Ave.

St. Paul West: Emerald to Griggs
Stations: Westgate, Raymond Ave., Fairview Ave., Snelling Ave., Hamline Ave.

St. Paul East: Griggs to I-94
Stations: Lexington Pike, Victoria St., Dale St., Western Ave., Rice St., Capitol East

Downtown St. Paul: I-94 to Downtown
Stations: 10th St., 4th & Cedar St., Union Depot

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Outreach During Design/Engineering
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Use Variety of Strategies

- Distribute monthly newsletters
- Maintain a website
- Hold public meetings
- Provide tours
- Attend community events
- Meet individually with businesses
- Translate important information
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Form Advisory Committees

• Community Advisory Committee
• Business Advisory Committee
• Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee
• Artist Selection and Station Art Committees
• Topic specific task forces
Outreach and Communication During Construction
Use Variety of Strategies

- 24-hour construction hotline
- Public meetings
- Construction tours
- Neighborhood updates
- Media
- Website
- Weekly construction update
- Use graphics and photos

Central Corridor
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Central Corridor
Light Rail Transit
Construction
Hotline
651-602-1404
www.centralcorridor.org

Metropolitan Council
Central Corridor
Light Rail Transit

Use Graphics
Construction Stage 1

Work starts on first 2/3 of street
- Maintain pedestrian access by keeping at least 4-5’ of sidewalk open, providing temporary walkways
- Maintain one lane of traffic in each direction
- Restore road within 150 days
- Rebuild sidewalk within 15 days after it is removed for replacement
- Work with businesses and property owners to maintain access
Work shifts to the other side of the street

- Maintain pedestrian access by keeping at least 4-5’ of sidewalk open, providing temporary walkways
- Maintain one lane of traffic in each direction
- Restore road within 150 days
- Rebuild sidewalk within 15 days after it is removed for replacement
- Work with businesses and property owners to maintain access
Work continues in the middle of the right-of-way after road and sidewalk are restored

- Construct stations
- Install systems and OCS poles
- Lay and weld track
- Conduct integrated testing
Provide Notifications

- 30-day construction notice, schedule
- Weekly construction updates
- 72-hour notice for road, driveway closures
- Notice for utility shut off
  - 72-hours for businesses
  - 48-hours for residents
Contractor Incentive Program

- Construction Communication Committees (CCCs) evaluate contractors' performance on a quarterly basis
  - Information distribution
  - Responsiveness to community concerns
  - Maintenance of access
  - Safety
  - Site cleanliness
Partner with other Organizations
City of St. Paul
Development Strategy, Parking and Zoning

What’s the City of Saint Paul doing about Central Corridor parking?

Here’s a “top ten list” of projects to help mitigate the loss of parking due to the introduction of light rail transit.

1. Meet and share information between the city, business and property owners, and residents. Over the past three years, city staff have hosted twelve design workshops and numerous meetings, and have talked to hundreds of corridor stakeholders to solicit specific feedback and solutions. We continue to work daily to respond to concerns and incorporate public input.

2. Implement the Neighborhood Commercial Parking Program. We funded $1.325 million in off-street parking improvements after working cooperatively with over fifty applicants along University Avenue. The awarded projects will improve the quality, efficiency, safety, and accessibility of commercial parking at 24 locations throughout the corridor, and will encourage the use of shared parking.

3. Pilot a Parking Improvement District. We are currently facilitating discussions between business owners on the northwest corner of Snelling and University to design and fund parking improvements that would serve businesses on the block.

4. Manage side street parking. In anticipation of LRT construction in March 2011, we have proposed a simplified, corridor-wide approach to time-limited parking that would better serve visitors to the avenue. The proposal for two-hour parking, 8 am to 6 pm, will help customers know where to find convenient parking.
www.ReadyForRail.net
Business Resources Collaborative

Central Corridor Light Rail Line will link Minneapolis and Saint Paul in 2014, and construction is underway. Go from here to find resources that will help you get your business ready for rail.

ReadyForRail.net is a Central Corridor information hub provided by the Business Resources Collaborative. The BRC is a partnership of business coalitions, nonprofit community developers, and local governments that bridges various community-led planning efforts addressing business and community needs in the corridor.

CONSTRUCTION INFO

- Call the construction hotline with construction-related comments or to report an incident: 651-602-1404
- Sign up to get Central Corridor project updates from the Metropolitan Council
- Outreach Coordinators: Your direct contacts for the construction project
- Schedules & Updates

BUSINESS RESOURCES

- Business Consultants: One-on-one help to strengthen your business
- Minneapolis Small Business Support Services: See help for Minneapolis businesses
- Saint Paul Small Business Support Services: See help for Saint Paul businesses
- Small Business Loan Program

Internet Explorer window open to www.ReadyForRail.net.
WHAT IS THE DISCOVER CAMPAIGN?

The Discover Central Corridor Campaign is a corridor wide "buy local" initiative that helps connect the community to businesses impacted by light rail construction. Here both businesses and consumers can access and download a variety of materials that can easily be used to promote and support corridor businesses.

Click to Enlarge
Check out our website:

• [www.centralcorridor.org](http://www.centralcorridor.org)

Contact the Central Corridor Project Office:

• 540 Fairview Avenue North
  St. Paul, MN 55104
• Construction Hotline: 651-602-1404
• Comment Line: 651-602-1645
• Email: centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us