

T Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 12, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: December 4, 2007

Subject: Preparation of a Supplemental Draft Environmental Statement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to prepare and publish a Notice of Intent, for publication in the *Federal Register* and a Notice of Preparation, for publication in the State EQB *Monitor* notifying interested agencies and the general public of the Metropolitan Council's intent to prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) as part of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project development process.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann. He reviewed the eight areas anticipated to be covered in the DEIS and indicated that FTA was evaluating whether a ninth item (the Washington Avenue Bridge) might also benefit from being included in the DEIS. Staff will advise members before the Council meeting if that should occur.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 26, 2007

For the Metropolitan Council meeting December 12, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 19, 2007
Subject:	Preparation of a Supplemental Draft Environmental Statement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project
District(s), Member(s)	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Federal Title 23 CFR, Part 771, Minnesota Statutes 4410.3000
Staff Prepared/Presented	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942 Rich Rovang, Deputy Project Director, 651-602-1941 Kathryn O'Brien, Principal Contract Administrator, 651-602-1927
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to prepare and publish a Notice of Intent, for publication in the *Federal Register* and a Notice of Preparation, for publication in the *State EQB Monitor* notifying interested agencies and the general public of the Metropolitan Council's intent to prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) as part of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project development process.

Issue(s)

The FTA has indicated that, in order to document and disclose unresolved issues contained in the DEIS published in April 2006, an SDEIS should be prepared at this time.

The SDEIS will be limited in scope and will focus on changes and new information from the DEIS. For each of the changes from the DEIS, the SDEIS will describe the change and the reasons for the change and compare the impacts to those of the original proposal.

Key elements to be addressed in the SDEIS will include, at a minimum, the following issues:

1. Hiawatha / Central Connection
2. University of Minnesota alignment (tunnel vs. at-grade and stations)
3. Potential Added Station at: Western, Victoria or Hamline
4. Capitol Area Alignment/Station Modifications
5. Downtown St. Paul Alignment/Station Modifications
6. Right-of-Way for Systems Components – traction power substations
7. Design for 2- or 3-Car Trains / Platforms
8. Maintenance and Storage Facility Needs

FTA will provide final direction regarding the key issues for analysis in the SDEIS no later than December 5, 2007. Any adjustment will be presented to Metropolitan Council on December 12, 2007, following which publication of a federal Notice of Intent and a State Notice of Preparation would take place.

Overview and Funding

There are no funding considerations to publish the required notices.