

**T** Transportation Committee  
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 8, 2009

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date Prepared:** March 24, 2009

**Subject:** **Central Corridor Light Rail Transit – Programmatic Agreement between the Metropolitan Council, the Federal Transit Administration, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**

**Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to sign the Programmatic Agreement, developed jointly between the Central Corridor Project Office, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, the Federal Transit Administration and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation pursuant to federal regulations.

**Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

Rich Rovang presented the item. Rovang answered a question from Councilmember Leppik on whether the University of Minnesota (U of MN) needs to be included in the agreement. Rovang responded that the U of MN is a consulting party to the agreement, and we are in constant contact/meeting with U of MN. (Rovang subsequently learned that the U of MN was invited to be a consulting party, but it decided not to request official consulting party status.)

Motion was made by Councilmember Hilker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilmember Leppik & passed.

# T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 23, 2009

For Metropolitan Council: April 8, 2009

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

<b>Date:</b>	March 13, 2009
<b>Subject:</b>	Central Corridor Light Rail Transit – Programmatic Agreement between the Metropolitan Council, the Federal Transit Administration, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	16 U.S.C. Section 470(f)
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942 Rich Rovang, AGM – Transit Systems Development, 651-602-1941 Kathryn O'Brien, Principal Contract Administrator, 651-602-1927
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit / Central Corridor Project Office

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to sign the Programmatic Agreement, developed jointly between the Central Corridor Project Office, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, the Federal Transit Administration and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation pursuant to federal regulations.

### Background

Consultation regarding potential effects of the Central Corridor project regarding the preservation of historic and cultural resources has been ongoing since project inception. As an outcome of this process, the Federal Transit Administration determined that the project may have an adverse effect upon properties included, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. In consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other local consulting parties, a Programmatic Agreement has been developed committing the Metropolitan Council to continue the process of consultation through final design to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties resulting from the Central Corridor project, while effectively meeting the project purpose and need. A Programmatic Agreement needs to be executed prior to publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

### Rationale

Developing and executing a Programmatic Agreement is a statutory requirement as part of implementing the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project pursuant to federal regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. Section 470f), as amended.

### Funding

All funding required to implement the stipulations of the Programmatic Agreement are consistent with commitments that will be contained in the Final Environmental impact Statement. Examples would include pre-construction surveys and monitoring during construction of potentially sensitive historic properties such as Central Presbyterian Church, the Church of St. Louis King of France, and the Minnesota State Capitol. These commitments have been identified and are included in the overall budget for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to this action.