

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102Telephone: 651-266-6700
Facsimile: 651-228-3220

September 7, 2007

Dear Central Corridor Community Members:

In mid-2006, Mayor Coleman asked the Planning Commission to establish two community task forces to prepare a *Central Corridor Development Strategy*, a vision and strategy for how University Avenue and the downtown area should grow and change in response to the planned investment in the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) line. The task forces have completed their work, and the Planning Commission today recommended adoption of the *Central Corridor Development Strategy* to the Mayor and City Council as a chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The *Central Corridor Development Strategy* provides a solid foundation for more detailed planning around proposed station areas, and recommends station area planning as a next step to further plan for desired development along the Central Corridor. The station area planning process will look at land use issues such as density and form of development, pedestrian and bicycle network, parking management, streetscape, parks and open spaces. Station area planning will be started in the fall of 2007 for the following stations: Westgate, Raymond, Fairview, Snelling, Lexington, Dale, and Rice; and will be started in early 2008 for the remaining Capitol and downtown stations.

The Planning Commission will establish a Central Corridor Station Area Steering Committee to oversee the station area planning process, with members appointed by the Planning Commission chair, including a co-chair who is a Planning Commission member. The Steering Committee will be representative of the affected areas in terms of geography, constituencies, and areas of expertise. The purpose of the Steering Committee will be to oversee the process, and to ensure consistency in approach between station areas and with the *Central Corridor Development Strategy* (and with other chapters of the Comprehensive Plan). The intent is to develop station area plans that will be adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan as addenda to the *Central Corridor Development Strategy*.

The bulk of the work to develop the station area plans will be done through an open public process using a combination of focus groups, public roundtables, design workshops or charrettes, and open houses. The anticipated schedule and process are attached. As they did with the Central Corridor Development Strategy work, Urban Strategies, Inc. will be assisting the community and City staff with the station area planning work.

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I am looking for individuals who have been engaged in the Central Corridor planning process in some capacity, and have knowledge of the community discussion and work that resulted in the *Central Corridor Development Strategy*. **I invite organizations or individuals to submit nominations by Monday, Oct. 1st to:**

Brian Alton, Chair
Saint Paul Planning Commission
25 West Fourth Street, Suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Fax: 651-228-3220

Your nomination letter (1-2 pages maximum) should describe this person's background and experience, and why he or she would be a good choice for the steering committee. Please include information on this person's areas of interest or knowledge, such as particular station areas or specific issues (e.g. parking, business development, parks and open space, etc.). Individuals who are interested in serving should review the attached schedule to determine if this volunteer commitment will work for his or her schedule.

Please contact Donna Drummond of the Department of Planning & Economic Development if you have questions or need more information. She can be reached at 651-266-6556 or donna.drummond@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Brian Alton, Chair
Saint Paul Planning Commission