

# SAINT PAUL CENTRAL CORRIDOR STATION AREA PLANNING FALL 2007- SPRING 2008



## The Planning Process:

Over the past several months the City of Saint Paul has undertaken an extensive planning process for the future Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line, a \$1 billion public investment that will transform University Avenue. The City along with its planning consultant, Urban Strategies, organized a series of roundtable discussions, workshops and open houses around the seven planned stations along University Avenue, which include Westgate, Raymond, Fairview, Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Rice.

The purpose of these events was to engage community members, including business and property owners, residents, and institutional and management representatives in a dialogue about how each station area (approximately 1/4 mile around each proposed station) should grow and change in the future. This information will be used in the development of station area plans that will guide future development around the proposed light rail stations. The plans will build on the work of the *Central Corridor Development Strategy* (CCDS), which establishes a vision and set of strategies for how the Corridor should grow and change in response to the LRT investment.

The CCDS was developed by two citizen task forces between summer 2006 and spring 2007; the document was recently adopted as part of the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan. The station area plans now being developed will be adopted as addenda to the CCDS.



## Public Roundtables - October 2007:

- Roundtables took place on three separate evenings in October and were open to the public.
- Each evening began with an overview of the *Central Corridor Development Strategy* and a presentation by the Metropolitan Council on station location, configuration and engineering details.
- Participants chose a station area of interest and joined others in a facilitated discussion of the challenges and opportunities associated with the chosen station area.

## Workshops and Open Houses - Nov/Dec 2007:

- Workshops took place in late November and early December.
- The day-long workshops took place on seven different days (each day focused on a different station area) with the open houses taking place in the evening, following the workshop.
- Discussion was concentrated around five themes including land use and development, public realm, the station, movement, and built form.
- Result was the identification of topics and concepts on which the station area plans will focus, as well as the construction of a 1:50 scale 3D model of possible future development in the Corridor between the Capitol area and the City's western boarder.

## Community Review of Draft Plans - Spring 2008:

- A steering committee of community representatives is overseeing the station area planning process. The steering committee will begin review of draft station area plans in late February, based on community input from the roundtables and workshops.
- A community open house will be held on Sat., March 29 to present the draft plans and facilitate input from the broader community.
- Following recommendation of the steering committee, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and forward the plans to the Mayor and City Council for final adoption as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.