



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION
MEETING DATE	SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

ITEM:	Resolution No. 2026-056, Approving Municipal Consent to the Minnesota Department of Transportation Final Layout for Central Avenue (Trunk Highway 65) Improvement Project.		
<i>Presenting Item: Kelly Monahan, Assistant City Engineer</i>			
DEPARTMENT: Engineering		BY/DATE: Rochelle Widmer / September 10, 2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>			
X Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		_ Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_ High Quality Public Spaces		_ Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
X Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		_ Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

The Central Ave Improvements project includes reconstruction of the 2-mile stretch of Central Ave (TH 65) between 37th Ave and 53rd Ave. This project will look to address safety concerns through the corridor while enhancing the connectivity and quality of life for the residents that live along and use the corridor. The project will benefit all travelers by reconstructing the road, upgrading pedestrian crossings, improving sidewalks and pathways, managing speed, expanding multimodal options, and improving transit access.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

On April 17, 2026, MnDOT submitted the proposed final layout for Central Avenue for Municipal Consent. The City of Columbia Heights is currently in the Municipal Consent review process. Approval or disapproval of the final layout is by resolution of the City Council. However, if the City neither approves nor disapproves the final layout within 90 days of the public hearing, the layout is deemed approved (per MN Statute 161.164). Since the public hearing was held on June 16, 2026, the deadline for approval or disapproval is September 16, 2026. City Council is voting on the approval or denial of the Municipal Consent layout at today's Council meeting. Additional project details will be negotiated through an memorandum of understanding (MOU) that is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the approval of Resolution No. 2026-056, Approving Municipal Consent to the Minnesota Department of Transportation Final Layout for Central Avenue (Trunk Highway 65) Improvement Project.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-056, there being ample copies available to the public.
MOTION: Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-056, approving Municipal Consent to the Minnesota Department of Transportation Final Layout for Central Avenue (Trunk Highway 65) Improvement Project

ATTACHMENT(S)

Resolution No. 2026-056

Relevant Minnesota State Statutes