



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

<b>AGENDA SECTION</b>	WORK SESSION
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	MONTH DAY, 2026

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>Municipal Consent for MnDOT Central Avenue Reconstruction Project. (30 Minutes)</b>							
<i>Presenting Item: Rochelle Widmer, Director of Engineering and Facilities</i>								
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Engineering	<b>BY/DATE:</b> Rochelle Widmer / April 29, 2026							
<p><b>CORE CITY STRATEGIES:</b> <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">_Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">_Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">_High Quality Public Spaces</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">_Resilient and Prosperous Economy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">X Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">_Inclusive and Connected Community</td> </tr> </table>			_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
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### BACKGROUND

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has presented the preferred layout for Central Avenue (TH 65) from 37<sup>th</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. MnDOT has been reviewed this layout with the Council at the April, May, June, and December 2025 and January 2026 City Council Work Sessions.

### SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

On April 17, 2026, MnDOT submitted the proposed layout for Central Avenue for Municipal Consent. The submittal from MnDOT provided the following information to City staff:

- Submittal letter
- Example resolution
- Good faith cost estimate
- Engagement summary of MnDOT’s outreach efforts since 2020
- Relevant statutes around Municipal Consent
- Proposed layout

Municipal Consent by the City Council is required on the Central Avenue Reconstruction project since it:

- Alters access by removing the connection of Central Avenue and Reservoir Boulevard and several other locations.
- Reduces highway traffic capacity by removing a general purpose through lane in each direction north of 39th St. to a point approximately 450 feet south of the intersection with 49th Avenue.
- Requires acquisition of permanent right-of-way, including potential acquisition of parcels currently owned by the City of Columbia Heights. MnDOT also plans partial acquisition of several additional parcels to acquire small amounts of permanent right-of-way from other parcels.

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).

The deadlines (per MN Statute 161.164) for the City's responsibilities regarding Municipal Consent of the proposed layout are as follows:

- Within 15 days of receiving the final layout, schedule a public hearing (by May 5, 2026).
- Within 60 days of receiving the final layout, conduct the public hearing (by June 16, 2026).
- Provide at least 30 days' notice of the public hearing.
- Within 90 days of the public hearing, approve or disapprove the layout by resolution (by September 14, 2026).

MnDOT will attend the public hearing to present the final layout to the public and answer questions, as required by statute.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Requested Council Action/ Discussion Topics / Key Questions**

*(Briefly state the specific action staff is requesting of the City Council, if any. For example: provide direction, discuss options, or review information.)*

Staff requests that Council have a brief discussion regarding MnDOT's municipal consent submittal for the Central Avenue Reconstruction project and set a date for the public hearing that satisfies relevant state statutes.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

MnDOT Submittal Letter

MnDOT Good Faith Cost Estimate

MnDOT Example Resolution for Municipal Consent

MnDOT Timelapse Engagement Summary

MnDOT Proposed Layout

Relevant MN State Statutes