



**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING**

<b>AGENDA SECTION</b>	WORK SESSION
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	JANUARY 5, 2026

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>MnDOT: Layout Recommendations for Central Avenue Corridor (Continued from April, May, June and December 2025 Work Sessions). (30 Minutes)</b>		
<i>Presenting Item:</i> Rochelle Widmer, City Engineer			
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Engineering		<b>BY/DATE:</b> City Engineer / December 23, 2025	
<b>CORE CITY STRATEGIES:</b> <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>			
_Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		_Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_High Quality Public Spaces		_Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
XSafe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		_Inclusive and Connected Community	

**BACKGROUND**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has recommendations on the preferred layout for Central Avenue from 37<sup>th</sup> to 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenues and has been reviewing those with the Council at the April, May, June, and December 2025 City Council Work Sessions. The preliminary and final design phases of the Central Avenue project have been initiated by MnDOT and they have asked for continued discussion on the Central Avenue corridor.

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS**

At the April 7, 2025, City Council Work Session, MnDOT began sharing proposed designs and seeking feedback and recommendations for the Central Avenue corridor. Part of this process was to check in with the Council based on agency, public, and council feedback to make sure the project is headed in the right direction. The main purpose of these ongoing reviews with the council is to capture recommendations, present questions, issues, or concerns as MnDOT would like to proactively address these items by the time Municipal Consent is considered by the Council in early 2026. Chris Bower and Mathew Thibert of MnDOT will be in attendance to facilitate the conversation with the council, and Alicia Valenti from Metro Transit will also be in attendance to coordinate information and concerns related to bus lanes on the corridor.

Items Resolved

- Full closure of Reservoir Blvd.
- Added signal at 43rd Ave in preparation of new development.
- Substantial work related to reconstruction of 5.5 miles of a critical urban corridor.

Items that Need Discussion

- Roundabouts.
- Added pedestrian signals at 50th Ave & 52nd Ave.
- Northbound bus lane.
- Median closure at 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

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Stormwater treatment.  
Cooperative construction agreement.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

<b>Requested Council Action/ Discussion Topics / Key Questions</b>
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Staff requests that council receive updates on the status of the Central Ave redesign. MnDOT would like feedback from council on roundabouts, added pedestrian signals at 50th Ave & 52nd Ave, northbound bus lane, median closure at 42 <sup>nd</sup> Ave, stormwater treatment, and the cooperative construction agreement.
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**ATTACHMENT(S)**

MnDOT PowerPoint.