



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	PRESENTATIONS
MEETING DATE	JUNE 16, 2026

ITEM:	Central Ave Reconstruction Municipal Consent Public Hearing Agenda and MnDOT Presentation.		
<i>Presenting Item: Rochelle Widmer, City Engineer</i>			
DEPARTMENT: Engineering		BY/DATE: Rochelle Widmer / June 9, 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 Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has presented the preferred layout for Central Avenue (TH 65) from 37th to 53rd Avenues. This project includes reconstruction of the two-mile stretch of Central Ave (TH 65) between 37th Avenue to 53rd Avenue. This project will look to address safety concerns along this corridor while enhancing the connectivity and quality of life for the residents that live 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.

MnDOT is also coordinating with Metro Transit to install improved transit stations and with the cities of Fridley, Columbia Heights, and Hilltop to replace local utilities along the corridor. This hearing fulfills the legal requirement under Minnesota Statute §161.164 following the City's receipt of the official layout on April 14, 2026. The purpose of this public hearing is to gather public feedback, review the proposed infrastructure adjustments and officially enter the final layout into the public record before City Council takes legislative action. The public hearing was advertised in accordance with statutory requirements and officially published in The Life on May 15, 2026, satisfying the required 30-day publication window before the hearing date.

During the hearing, MnDOT representatives will give a technical presentation detailing the final layout and construction impacts. The proposed layout focuses on the reconstruction of the Central Avenue corridor to integrate the upcoming METRO F Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) infrastructure and improve regional safety. Because these improvements alter existing property access, expand transit capacity, and require permanent easements, they trigger the formal municipal consent process under state law.

The hearing opens a 90-day statutory window during which the Council must pass a resolution to either approve or disapprove the final layout. If the Council fails to take formal action by September 14, 2026, the project is legally deemed approved by default under Minnesota law. Staff requests for consideration including input and information received at the public hearing.

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).

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

The agenda for the public hearing will be as follows:

- Project purpose/need
- Project background
- Municipal Consent process
- Project overview
- Stormwater treatment
- Budget and maintenance
- Visual Quality
- Public engagement
- Public Hearing questions

MnDOT will attend the public hearing to present the final layout and answer questions, as required by statute. A printed copy of the proposed design will be available at City Hall for review. MnDOT's presentation will begin at 6:10 pm and public comments will begin at approximately 6:30 pm. Comments are limited to 5 minutes.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Public Hearing Meeting Agenda

Public Hearing MnDOT Presentation