



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	WORK SESSION
MEETING DATE	JULY 6, 2026

ITEM:	Recap of Municipal Consent Public Hearing on MnDOT's Central Avenue Improvements Project. (30 Minutes)		
Presenting Item: Rochelle Widmer, Director of Engineering and Facilities			
DEPARTMENT: Engineering		BY/DATE: Rochelle Widmer / July 1, 2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: (please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)			
☐ Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		☐ Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
☐ High Quality Public Spaces		☐ Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
☒ 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.

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.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

MnDOT attended the public hearing to present the final layout to the public and listen to questions, as required by statute. MnDOT compiled a log of the questions and comments introduced by the public at the hearing. This log was reviewed by MnDOT, Metro Transit, and City staff for completeness.

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 whether the questions and comments brought forward by the public were captured correctly in the attached log and if any additional comments have been brought forward since the public hearing.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Municipal Consent Public Hearing – Public Questions and Comments Log