

Mayor Coleman Announces Release of Central Corridor Development Strategy

(Saint Paul) -- Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman today announced the release of the final *Central Corridor Development Strategy*. Mayor Coleman made the announcement Monday night at a Central Corridor Development Strategy Presentation to policy makers at Minnesota Public Radio headquarters in downtown Saint Paul.

"This demonstrates what we can do when we work together toward a shared goal," said Mayor Coleman. "Thanks to the work of the task forces, we are turning the page in our city's history. Beyond constructing a light-rail line from the Union Depot to downtown Minneapolis, the Central Corridor represents an opportunity to transform the City of Saint Paul and its place in the region. The *Central Corridor Development Strategy* gives shape and direction to that opportunity. I thank residents for making their voices heard, and I encourage more to get involved in the process as we move forward."

In his 2006 State of the City address, Mayor Coleman called upon the Central Corridor Task Forces to produce a comprehensive development strategy to shape development of the corridor over the next two decades.

The *Development Strategy* is organized around a vision that the Central Corridor from the Union Depot to the city's western border will become one of the region's primary activity centers. An overview of market conditions suggests that the Central Corridor will be home to 20,000-30,000 more people by 2030 and 11,000-14,000 new housing units, in addition to 9 million square feet of office space and 750,000 square feet of additional retail space. The *Development Strategy* outlines how those spaces should be integrated into the corridor in ways that both strengthen the character of the surrounding neighborhoods and support the transit investment. By creating a template for development in the corridor, the *Development Strategy* will serve as a guide for both public and private investment for the next 20-30 years.

The Central Corridor task forces emphasized several key recommendations before transmitting the *Development Strategy* to the Planning Commission:

1. Developing mixed-income housing in the corridor.
2. Making safe, convenient, aesthetically-pleasing pedestrian connections between the LRT line and key destinations in downtown.
3. Including bicycle and pedestrian traffic in overall traffic modeling to ensure integrated planning across modes.
4. North-south bus lines connecting with the LRT line at places designed for convenient and safe movement between the two modes.
5. The World Cultural Heritage District at the east end of University Avenue and support for small businesses in the area.
6. Finding resources for implementation of Strategy recommendations.

