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## **East Metro Leaders Announce Historic Agreement on Central Corridor**

*Compromise puts 80 percent of the total project in line with federal funding guidelines*

(Saint Paul) - Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman announced a historic agreement today to move the Central Corridor forward on time and on budget. The Mayor made the announcement at an afternoon news conference with Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough and Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Chair Mark Mishek.

“This is a historic moment for the City of Saint Paul. Bringing light rail to the Central Corridor is the opportunity of a lifetime and will forever change the face our city,” said Mayor Chris Coleman. “I am proud to stand with our partners at Ramsey County as we speak with one voice on the urgency of getting this project done on time and on budget.

The agreement came out of a working partnership between the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and a coalition of community partners including the Chamber of Commerce and the Saint Paul Trades and Labor Assembly. Key components of the agreement are:

- 1) Maintain the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) line with the addition of the 4<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street Option in downtown Saint Paul.
- 2) Maintain the Alignment station stop in front of the Union Depot and build the most cost effective maintenance facility on currently held public land that would complement a future expansion to the concourse level of the Union Depot.
- 3) Support and advocacy for the construction of three additional stations at Hamline, Victoria, and Western whether they are built in the first phase or “roughed in” so they can be added as resources become available.

The Central Corridor will serve as the spine of an East Metro multi-modal transit system. With more than \$1 billion dollars in possible investment, development is already occurring in anticipation of the Central Corridor line, including Carleton Lofts, Memorial Blood Center headquarters, the new Wilder Center offices, and SuperTarget.

The City of Saint Paul, along with the Chamber and the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority will forward the recommendations to the Metropolitan Council prior to the Council’s Feb. 27 vote

on the alignment.

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