

The Central Corridor Project Office distributed a business survey in 2008 to get input in helping project engineers design the LRT line as well as developing construction and business mitigation programs. I and my colleagues on the community outreach team went door to door in 2008 to talk to businesses about Central Corridor LRT and their concerns. The information received from the surveys <#Survey> was useful in identifying transportation needs, including parking concerns <#Parking> of businesses along the corridor.

There were 271 respondents. Below is a summary of the survey results:

**Survey Results** (Note: Due to respondents identifying numerous options for some questions, percentages add up to greater than 100 percent).

#### Business

- 58 percent of respondents indicated that they lease their existing space
- 42 percent indicated they own their building
- A majority of the survey respondents along the corridor are well established at their current location:
  - 43 percent have been at their current location for more than 11 years
  - 65 percent have been at their current location for more than six years
  - 35 percent have been at their current location for less than five years
- Many of the businesses and organizations along the corridor are small; 60% indicated they have fewer than 10 employees

#### Transportation

- Business and organizations
  - 89 percent have employees who drive
  - 46 percent have employees who take the bus
  - 59 percent have employees who walk or bike
- Customers
  - 85 percent have customers who arrive by car
  - 59 percent have customers who use the bus
  - 76 percent have customers who walk, bike or arrive by other modes.

Note: About 60 percent of surveys indicated that customers travel more than three miles to get to their businesses.

#### Parking

- 76 percent of respondents reported having off-street parking available.
- 58 percent of respondents indicated that customers use on-street parking
- 36 percent indicated that employees use on-street parking.

#### Parking

The loss of parking is among the major concerns based on the information obtained through surveying individual businesses and organizations. University Avenue from Highway 280 to Rice Street will retain about 15 percent of its existing on-street parking with the implementation of Central Corridor LRT. However, the impact will be less significant on the eastern end of University Avenue, where environmental justice concerns have been raised. This area, from Lexington to Rice Street, will retain about 25 percent of its parking. In fact, some blocks will see an increase in parking options due to the closure of existing or vacated parking lot access points, a decision that was made in conjunction with the affected property owners.

In September 2008, the Central Corridor Project Office and city of St. Paul, which has jurisdiction over parking standards and policies, created a Parking Solution Team that is identifying critical areas and developing solutions to address business and residential parking concerns. The

Metropolitan Council and the city intend to work with affected property owners and tenants to address parking on and near University Avenue. This team of Central Corridor Project Office outreach and engineering staff and city planning and public works officials is working on a comprehensive report to identify critical areas in relation to parking concerns and will develop site specific appropriate parking solutions.

The Metropolitan Council outreach staff has also heard concerns from residents and community organizations related to residential parking. The city of St. Paul is looking at different strategies for addressing the concerns related to parking in residential areas. The city of St. Paul developed a summary of strategies <<http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/ParkingStrategies.pdf>> that it is considering to address the on-street parking issues:

Thanks again for your continued support of our project. I will be your primary contact for sharing construction information through 2014 when the line is expected to begin service. However, there is still time to provide meaningful input because construction won't begin until late summer 2010. If you know of a business or individual who did not participate in the survey or has questions about the project, please encourage them to contact me. We are still accepting surveys even if you did not complete one in 2008. The survey is available online <<http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/CCDoingBusiness.htm>> at by contacting me at 651-602-1014 or [shoua.lee@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:shoua.lee@metc.state.mn.us).

For more information about the project, see [www.centralcorridor.org](http://www.centralcorridor.org) <<http://www.centralcorridor.org/>>