



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mayor Coleman, Senator Klobuchar Announce \$1 Million for Environmental Testing of Brownfields along Central Corridor to Facilitate Future Development

Grant will enable assessment of 20+ sites along University Avenue

SAINT PAUL – Today Mayor Chris Coleman, United States Senator Amy Klobuchar and local officials announced a \$1 million grant from the EPA to local property owners to identify possible contamination in sites along Central Corridor.

The grant will be awarded in technical assistance for investigation of potential contamination and/or hazardous materials in structures, soil or groundwater along Central Corridor. The program is made possible through grants awarded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Program to a City of Saint Paul, Metropolitan Council and Ramsey County coalition.

“Environmental investigation is the first step towards transforming underutilized sites into the type of transit-oriented development envisioned for Central Corridor. This program will enhance one of Saint Paul’s most iconic streets and strengthen the communities that surround it,” said Mayor Chris Coleman.

“We are seeing the future of Saint Paul today,” Senator Klobuchar said. “This environmental testing is the result of a unique partnership between private and public agencies that is absolutely essential to creating a safe and vibrant community along the Central Corridor.”

"Local, regional, state and federal partners are making Central Corridor Light Rail Transit a reality. Now, local, regional and federal partners are again coming together to help catalyze investment, redevelopment and reuse of land made more accessible by Light Rail Transit. We need these partnerships to create jobs, economic strength and opportunity for all of us," said Jon Commers, Metropolitan Council Member from District 14 and Planning Commissioner for the City of Saint Paul.

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"These funds will be a catalyst for new private investment along Central Corridor, and we encourage property owners to take advantage of this great opportunity," said Councilmember Russ Stark, Ward Four.

"Real or perceived contamination represents potential costs and unknown challenges that can stifle redevelopment on brownfield sites. This grant is another example of real solutions we are providing to create jobs and encourage development along University Avenue," said Councilmember Melvin Carter III, Ward One.

This grant will allow 10 property owners to identify levels of contamination, if any, and then move forward with development or begin site clean up. The grant is expected to assist at least 20 properties along Central Corridor.

Funds will be available to the first 10 qualifying applicants on a first come, first served basis. Additional applications will be accepted for a second round of funding in July and will be awarded on a competitive basis. To be eligible for technical assistance, properties must be identified as a "brownfield property" by the EPA and located within the designated project area within the City of Saint Paul.

For more information or to apply for the grant, please visit www.stpaul.gov/brownfield.

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