

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Draft Southwest LRT DEIS Comment Letter

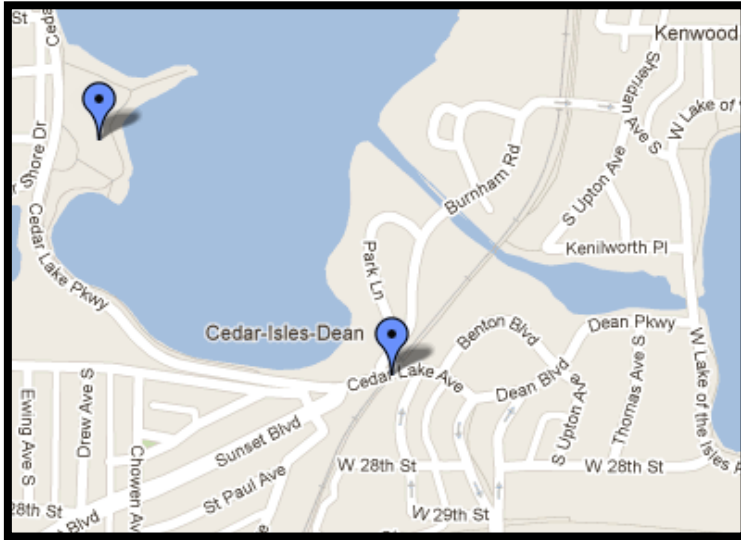
Current to: September 6, 2012

This document is organized by location as shown in the brief Table of Contents below. For more information contact Jennifer Ringold at jringold@minneapolisparcs.org.

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DRAFT

1 Cedar Lake Parkway-Grand Rounds



1 Cedar Lake Parkway-Grand Rounds and Cedar Lake South Beach

1.1 DEIS References

- +++
- +++
- +++

1.2 Location

See map on this page and [photos](#) below.

1.3 Description

At this location the LRT intersects with actively used Cedar Lake Parkway, which is an essential section of the [Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway](#) (see Grand Rounds map). The State Historic Preservation Office has nominated the Grand Rounds for listing on the National Register of Historic

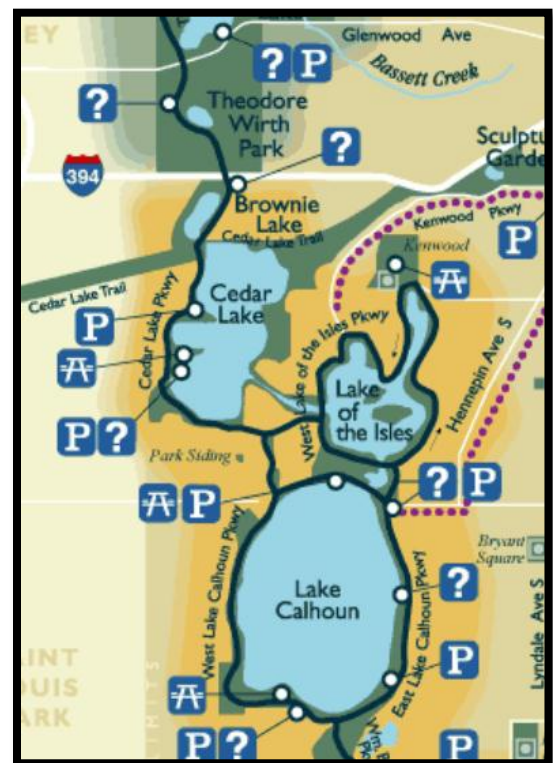
Places. In addition, directly to the west of this location is Cedar Lake South Beach.

1.4 Critical Issues, Desired Outcomes

- ++ *consider laying out aligned w/DEIS structure*
- ++ *perhaps outcomes could be called out the way “solutions” currently are (graphically)*
- ++ *what about leading with desired outcomes, and then drawing from the DEIS, identify the issues? (and refer to “desired outcomes” vs. just “outcomes”); then if there were solutions, those could be attached to the set of desired outcomes and issues*
- ++ *concerned that preliminary engineering will begin very soon, and we have to provide specific guidance about solutions so we can “negotiate” with the engineers during that preliminary engineering phase*
- ++ *perhaps we provide specific solutions to the Pk Bd itself, separately from this issues and outcomes document, for them to use through the design process – perhaps as an addendum to the Board (and could include supporting visuals from various sources)*
- ++ *there are “big” solutions and then lesser ones; hope we come up with some clear positions on things like co-location and grade separation*

1.4.1 Issue: Grand Rounds Integrity, Flow, and Safety

- Congestion and stoppages on the Grand Rounds caused by LRT/freight crossings violate MPRB policy regarding providing a continuous parkway system
- LRT/freight crossings and the resulting backups at this complex intersection directly conflict with heavy use of Grand Rounds by cars, bicyclists, and pedestrians



2 Cedar Lake Section of Grand Rounds

- Trail use and access will be disrupted along Cedar Lake and the Kenilworth Trail, as will connections to other MPRB trails
- Emergency vehicle access will be impeded to the Cedar Lake South Beach <++ verify that east to west is the normal or required direction of emergency vehicle access to the beach>
- +++ find a way to sub-number the outcomes.... **Outcome:** The integrity and intention of the Grand Rounds is maintained
- **Outcome:** Continuous, calm and safe flow of motorized and nonmotorized vehicles and pedestrians along the Grand Rounds and chain of lakes connecting trails

1.4.2 Issue: Noise and Air Pollution

- Noise impacts from the LRT and at this intersection will reduce people’s enjoyment and use of the park and Grand Rounds
- Air pollution will increase substantially from many cars idling while waiting to cross the LRT line, and would harm users of the park, trails, Grand Rounds, and Cedar Lake South Beach
- **Outcome:** Noise levels will meet state and federal standards for park and trail users < special citations, although not necessary for typical/standard regs>
- **Outcome:** Air quality will meet state and federal standards for park and trail users, including any subsequent impact on water quality < special citations, although not necessary for typical/standard regs>
- **Outcome:** LRT and crossing-related noise will not diminish people’s enjoyment and use of the park, trails, Grand Rounds, and beach

Potential Solutions

+++ how to tie this to issues or outcomes?? An LRT crossing that combines putting the LRT line in a depression and bridging the parkway address the majority of critical issues and meet most

1.4.3 Issue: Visual Appeal

- The views along the Grand Rounds and of Cedar Lake and parkland would be impeded by an at-grade LRT train, tracks, and power infrastructure
- **Outcome:** The view of and from Cedar Lake and surrounding parkland is preserved
- **Outcome:** The parkland around Cedar Lake remains the natural visual buffer between Cedar Lake and the Southwest LRT Corridor <How does this relate to MPRB and city plans?>

1.5 Photos ++ only use photos with users...or that otherwise illustrate the issue being identified; CAC members, please check with your orgs and send Jennifer and Anne any relevant photos or videos – make sure to identify location and provide anything else you have/know about the photo – also in the email please formally grant permission to use the photo for a public purpose



3 Looking south along corridor and across Cedar Lake Parkway-Grand Rounds; Cedar Lake at right



4 Looking north along the corridor and across Cedar Lake Parkway-Grand Rounds; Cedar Lake at left