

## Judge hears arguments over St. Paul light-rail construction

impact study.

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After hearing arguments Friday, U.S. District Judge Donovan Frank said he will issue a ruling within 60 days on whether construction on the Central Corridor light-rail line along University Avenue in St. Paul will continue as planned or be stopped in its tracks for a while.

In January, a coalition of businesses, nonprofits and residents sued the federal Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration and the Metropolitan Council, which is leading the nearly \$941 million project.

The suit alleges that the agencies have not adequately analyzed the decreased business revenues that are likely to result from the construction and the possible displacement of residents, some of whom were forced to move when Interstate 94 was built straight through the old Rondo neighborhood in the 1960s.

Attorney Tom Devincke, who represents the plaintiffs, told Frank the project would have direct impact on businesses rather than be a "mere inconvenience," as stated in the defendants' record.

David Fuller, attorney for the two federal agencies, said they concede that there is a "very real possibility" of some lost business revenues but that those were "clearly implied" in the environmental

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