



Ron Sears

A warm seasonal greeting awaits university passers-by on 87th Avenue.

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I wanna brand-new LRT for Christmas, Santa

by Lisa Hall

The plans are all set for the construction of the university LRT station.

Final designs were presented to the university's Facilities Development Committee on Tuesday.

Contract bids will be taken until mid-December, and once the contractor is chosen, work is set to start in February.

The closing of the 89th Avenue bus loop will occur in the last week of January. Although LRT construction will not have begun, buses will start dropping passengers off by the Jubilee Auditorium on January 28.

According to Rod Heise, the LRT project manager, the station has

been designed keeping in mind that it would be used as both an LRT entrance and for campus circulation.

The station will start just west of the south end of HUB International Mall and end by the existing bus shelter north of the Education Building. Entrance buildings will be located at both ends of the station.

An entrance in front of Dentistry-Pharmacy will also provide access to the station via an underground pedway.

People will be able to travel from one end of the station to the other without having to pass through the pay area.

Heise said that when the planners

realized that the university station would be used as a public thoroughfare, they knew it required special attention. "It set us back a year to redesign the station to provide a public corridor," he noted.

It has also been decided to build an overpass from HUB to the upper level of the station entrance next to the mall.

Student access is only one of the factors which have become issues during planning for the construction and use of the LRT. Much concern has been expressed over safety and noise problems during construction.

Heise admitted that "for up to a year we could have a lot of noise



Artist's rendition of the LRT entrance by HUB. We're not sure what the artist did with Rutherford Library and Dentistry-Pharmacy, which should be in the background.