

Making Tracks



July 2009

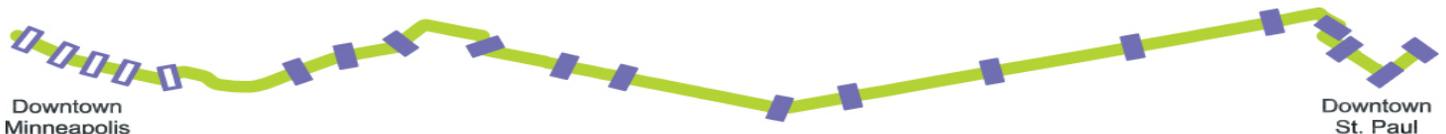
Five Pages



Kwame Collins (left) of Minneapolis and **Jazlyn Bradley** of St. Paul talk with **Hue Pham** (right), a community outreach coordinator for the Central Corridor LRT Project, on July 18 at Rondo Days where the project office staffed a booth for the second year to help spread the word about the project. At this event and other recent community gatherings, Pham and her five fellow outreach coordinators worked to counter misinformation about the project. They explained:

- Little property will be taken for the line
- Two vehicle lanes in each direction will remain on University Avenue after LRT is in place
- Route 16 bus service will be reduced in frequency but not eliminated and north-south bus service will be added to bring people to the corridor
- Central Corridor LRT trains will have signal prioritization to maintain good vehicle traffic flow because these trains will be running in the street, unlike the Hiawatha LRT trains that operate mostly on dedicated right-of-way and have authority to pre-empt traffic signals.

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Meeting at Lao Family will focus on LRT construction jobs

In August, the Metropolitan Council and three Hmong organizations will hold a business and workforce opportunity session featuring the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project.

This is the Met Council’s fourth large community meeting in less than a year for minority-owned, women-owned and small businesses or job seekers to learn about job opportunities on the biggest public works project in state history.

The latest session is targeted at Hmong business owners and Hmong workforce advocates who have an interest in ensuring Hmong inclusion in the Central Corridor LRT line’s construction, which will begin in late summer 2010.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Aug. 12 at Lao Family Community of Minnesota Inc. at 320 W. University Ave. in St. Paul. To register, contact Lu Hang at the Hmong Chamber of Commerce by Aug. 6 at lu.hang@hmongchamber.com or 651-645-6777.

The Hmong Chamber of Commerce, the Hmong American Partnership and Lao Family Community of Minnesota Inc. are sponsoring the event with the Met Council.

The session will highlight what the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program is and how firms may become DBE certified, the construction bid packages that will be forthcoming and the range of construction trades that will be used on the project.

“The inclusion of Hmong business owners and construction workers on the project is vital particularly given their significant role in the revitalization of University Avenue. This offers us an opportunity to directly engage business owners about the role that they want to play in the project’s construction,” said Roderic Southall, lead staff on the Central Corridor LRT Project for the Met Council’s Office of Diversity.

The Met Council’s Office of Diversity plans to conduct more specialized and workforce opportunity sessions with various communities in the near future.

The Met Council held meetings in September 2008 for minority-owned, women-owned and small businesses to learn what they need to do to qualify for project construction work. In February, the Met Council held a meeting for general contractors and DBEs to learn about the construction bidding schedule. In May, the Met Council and other governmental agencies held a Construction Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Mixer for people to meet representatives from 22 construction training and apprenticeship programs and learn about construction opportunities on this project and other upcoming public projects.

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Construction communication plans released year in advance of work

Before construction begins in earnest next summer on the Central Corridor LRT Project, the public will receive a 30-day schedule notice, with weekly updates.

To begin learning now about progress on the largest public works project in state history, the public is encouraged to join the mailing list for the project's monthly newsletter, Making Tracks.

To subscribe to the newsletter and the weekly construction updates, go to: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/CCLRTSubscribe.htm> and enter your email address in the box provided. The project office will not use subscribers' email addresses for any other purpose or share them with others.

Other notifications will include:

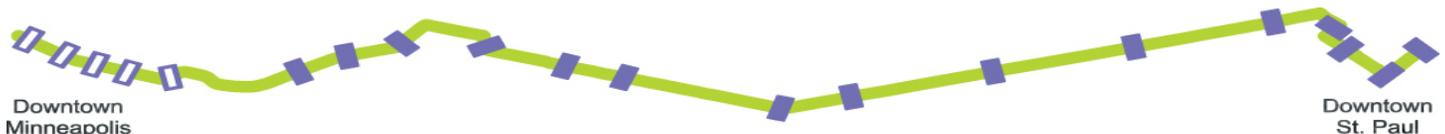
- 72-hour notice for road and driveway closures
- Notice for utility shutoffs (72 hours for businesses, 48 hours for residents)
- Emergencies, as needed

Besides the monthly newsletter and other updates, communications will be handled by a variety of means, including:

- Hotline – 651-602-1645
- Complaint forms or email: centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us
- Public meetings with contractors' outreach point person to provide construction updates. See: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/CCcalendar.htm>
- Construction tours
- District Council updates
- Media
- Website, www.centralcorridor.org
- Weekly construction updates at: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.htm>

Metropolitan Council staffers at the Central Corridor LRT Project office will lead the outreach and communication efforts through construction.

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Construction Communication plans . . .

Multilingual community outreach coordinators are assigned to two-mile segments to work with businesses and property owners, residents and other stakeholders.

The outreach coordinators are:

- Joey Browner, who is assigned to downtown Minneapolis and greater metro area. Contact: joey.browner@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1953.
- Dana Happel, who is assigned to downtown St. Paul. Speaks Spanish. Contact: dana.happel@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1954.
- Jessica Hill, who is assigned to Stadium Village, West and East banks, University of Minnesota's Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses. Speaks some French and American Sign Language. Contact: Jessica.hill@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1840.
- Shoua Lee, who is assigned to Dale, Rice and Capitol East. Speaks Hmong. Contact: shoua.lee@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1014.
- Hue Pham, who is assigned to Snelling and Lexington. Speaks Vietnamese. Contact: hue.pham@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1559.
- Rita Rodriguez, who is assigned to Fairview, Raymond and Westgate. Speaks some Spanish. Contact: rita.rodriguez@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1805.

For their photos and more information about them, visit:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/CCstaff.htm>

