

Making Tracks



March
2010

Project poised to begin traffic improvements around U of M

The Metropolitan Council voted March 24 to authorize the regional administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Graham Construction Services, out of seven bidders for advanced traffic improvements in Minneapolis at a cost of \$3.6 million.

Award of this contract, though, is contingent upon the University of Minnesota granting a temporary construction easement to enable the contractor to construct some of the advanced traffic improvements on university property. If the required easement has not been provided, the regional administrator is directed not to award and execute the contract without direction from the Met Council. The contract award is also contingent upon receipt of approval from the Federal Transit Administration for the work to begin. The FTA granted approval prior to Council action in late March.

The Met Council also expects the FTA to approve shortly the project's entry into final design. Upon this approval, the Met Council will formally apply for the Full Funding Grant Agreement, the federal government's promise to reimburse project partners for half the \$957 million cost of building the line.

The advanced traffic improvements contract in Minneapolis on and surrounding the university's East Bank campus can begin before an FFGA because sufficient funding from local sources is available. The FTA's approval to start this work before execution of an FFGA ensures the eligibility of these expenditures for future federal funding participation. The contract includes:

- Installing traffic control signals and interconnections
- Removing, milling and overlaying the roadway
- Replacing sidewalks, curbs, gutters, retaining walls and landscaping
- Installing signs, pavement marking, traffic control equipment and related utilities



Civil East DBE/prime contractors' meet-and-greet event



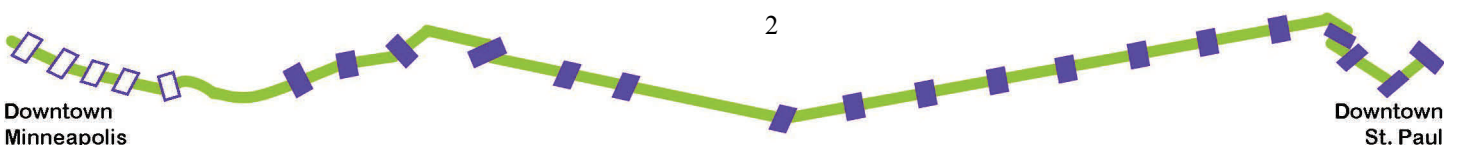
A member (left) of Walsh Construction talks with a participant at a March 18 meet-and-greet attended by more than 150 people. It was a chance for contractors to meet Disadvantaged Business Enterprises that they could hire as sub-contractors on Central Corridor LRT Civil East construction.

Six prime contractors attended the DBE/Prime Contractors' Meet-and-Greet. The Metropolitan Council will select one of the six in late June to construct the eastern half of the Central Corridor line. The DBE goal on this contract is 15 percent.



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Civil East DBE/prime contractors' meet & greet drew 150-plus

More than 150 people attended a face-to-face meeting for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and the six prime contractors that were prequalified to bid on the Central Corridor LRT Civil East construction package.

The Metropolitan Council arranged the March 18 meet-and-greet and invited the DBE/small business community to come and build a relationship that could result in their companies becoming a part of the prime contractors' teams.

The six prime contractors who participated were:

- C.S. McCrossan and Ames Construction (joint venture)
- Graham Construction Services and Kraus-Anderson (joint venture)
- Kiewit Western Co.
- PCL Construction Services
- Walsh Construction
- Granite Construction Co.

The Met Council will select one of the six this summer to construct the eastern seven miles of the Central Corridor line. The DBE participation goal on this contract is 15 percent.





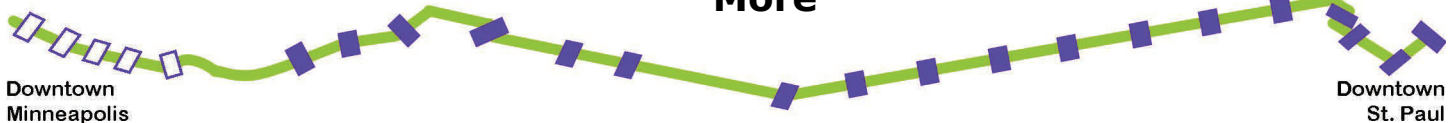
**Good-bye,
CAC and BAC.**

Hello, CCCs

WHO WANTS CAKE? — Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota vice president of development and marketing **Jim Thalhuber** and **Kirstin Sersland Beach**, Community Advisory Committee chair and Met Council member, celebrated the last CAC meeting March 18 with a cake. The CAC and Business Advisory Council are transitioning to Construction Communication Committees that the Central Corridor Project Office is creating. The outreach staff is seeking nominations this spring and will hold a joint kickoff meeting this summer to develop a contractor incentive program evaluation worksheet for the new committees. The key evaluation categories are information distribution, responsiveness to community concerns, maintenance of access, safety and site cleanliness. Met Council Chair **Peter Bell** attended the last meeting and thanked CAC members for their work.



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Central Corridor Project Office accommodates community events, such as St. Patrick's Day Parade

Robin Caufman (left), Central Corridor manager of public involvement, and **Kevin Ryan**, manager of transitways construction, were honored as grand marshals of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Paul for their work reopening Fourth Street for one day during utility relocation to accommodate the parade. Revelers (below) surround the green Pedestrian Access Open to All Businesses construction sign.



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Hortencia and Miguel Lopez of Homi Mexican Restaurant at 864 University Avenue West in St. Paul are getting ready for LRT construction by updating their menu and planning some marketing to attract more customers. Homi opened over the winter.

About the project: The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project will link downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis along Washington and University avenues via the state Capitol and the University of Minnesota. Construction would begin in 2010 on the planned 11-mile Central Corridor line, with service beginning in 2014. The line would connect with the Hiawatha LRT line at the Metrodome station in Minneapolis and the Northstar commuter rail line at the Target Field Station. The Metropolitan Council will be the grantee of federal funds. The regional government agency is charged with building the line in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Central Corridor Management Committee, which includes commissioners from Ramsey and Hennepin counties, the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota, provides advice and oversight.

Questions or comments? Call 651-602-1645 or email centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us

For more information, visit: www.centralcorridor.org

