

Making Tracks

May 2011

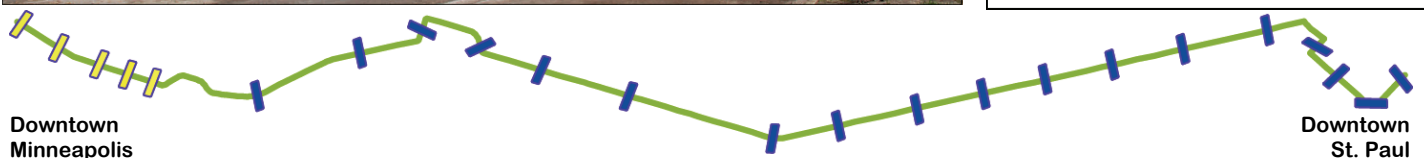


Out with the old, in with the new

Crews (top photo) this spring are removing the old streetcar rails in the middle of University Avenue where LRT tracks will replace them. Streetcar service ended in the Twin Cities on June 18, 1954. The old rail can't be re-used for light-rail transit but will be recycled.



In mid-May, crews (bottom photo) delivered new rail to University Avenue just east of Snelling Avenue where they will weld them together end to end.



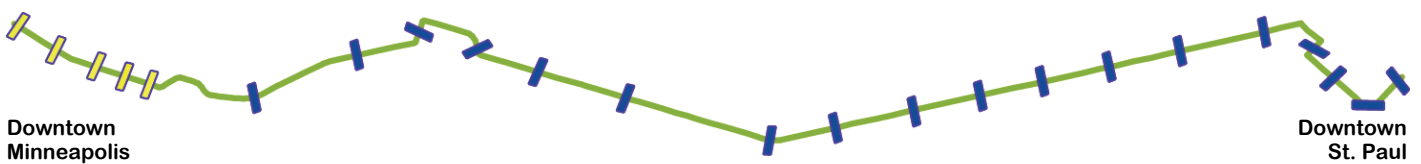
Downtown Minneapolis

Downtown St. Paul

Where Central Corridor LRT tracks will join Hiawatha LRT



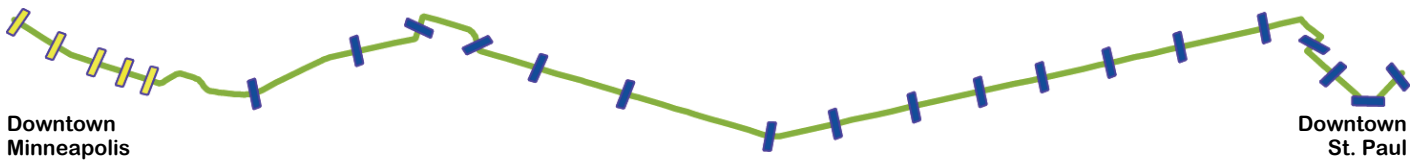
Central Corridor LRT tracks will connect with Hiawatha LRT tracks behind the lead car shown in the top photo. Workers build a column (bottom photo) for a flyover or bridge that will carry Central Corridor trains over Interstate 35W to make the connection.



Cedar Avenue ramps being reconstructed on West Bank



Ramps to and from Cedar Avenue on the north side of Washington Avenue closed May 16 to allow for their reconfiguration. Traffic was rerouted to the ramps on the south side (both photos) of Washington that have been converted into a temporary two-way street.



West Bank faces and places

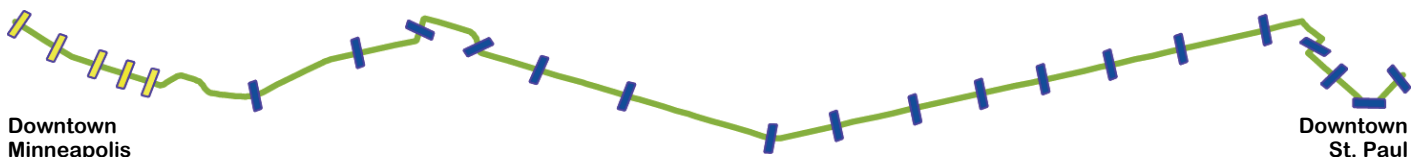
West Bank 2011 construction overview

http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/newsAlerts/WestBank_Construction2011.pdf

For directions to get around the West Bank during construction, see the Minneapolis update at: <http://tinyurl.com/2fmh255>



Sinan Cingillia (left) works at Mapps Coffee & Tea; Anna Maurizi (bottom right) bartends at the 400 Bar and Sunny Kwan (bottom left) operates Keeper Court Bakery & Café. The Cedar-Riverside businesses are open during construction.



East Bank, Stadium Village

For the East Bank, Stadium Village 2011 construction overview, visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/439o9rq>

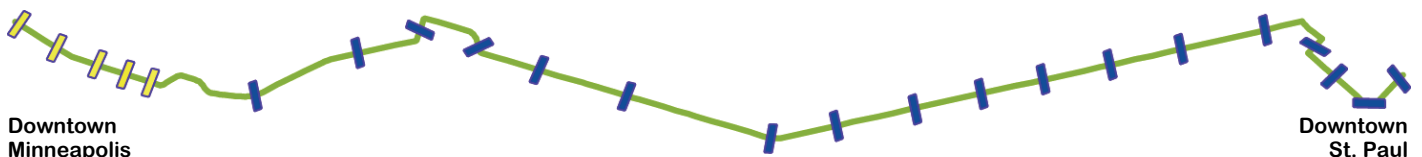
For how to get around the West Bank, East Bank & Stadium Village during construction, see the Minneapolis construction update at:
<http://tinyurl.com/2fmh255>



Crews (top photo) get right to work in the intersection of Harvard Street and Washington Avenue on May 16, the first day of a two-season project to convert Washington between Pleasant and Walnut streets into a transit-pedestrian mall. Harvard remains open to two-way traffic across Washington.



Metro Transit buses and other vehicles (bottom photo) must exit onto Pleasant Street when they cross the Washington Avenue Bridge from the West Bank to the East Bank. For bus detour details, see: metrotransit.org/construction

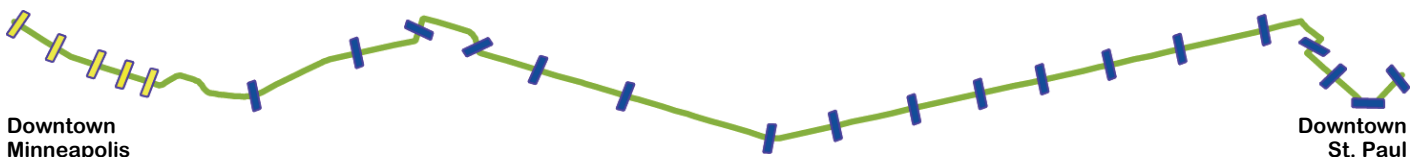


East Bank, Stadium Village



The party is still at Sally's

Yes, you can still get to Sally's and other East Bank and Stadium Village businesses on foot (top photo) and by car from the south on Walnut Street via Fulton Street and Huron Boulevard (bottom photo). These photos were taken May 18, two days after the closure of Washington Avenue from Pleasant to Oak streets for its conversion into a transit-pedestrian mall.



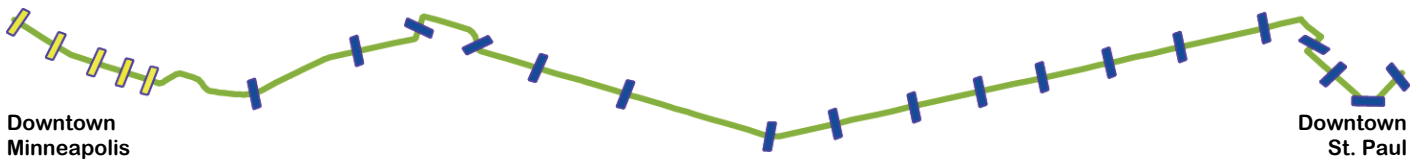
Downtown
Minneapolis

Downtown
St. Paul

St. Paul—University Avenue West (Emerald to Hamline)



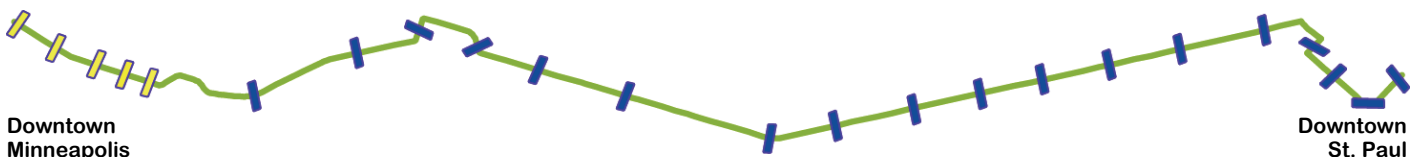
Crews began welding rail sticks end to end May 20 on University Avenue east of Snelling where they will operate a “weld shop” in the street before installing them along the avenue. A guideway has to be constructed before the rails can be put in place. See the 2011 construction overview for University from Emerald Street to Hamline Avenue at: <http://tinyurl.com/3k2kyl3>



University Ave. West—St. Paul Faces & Places



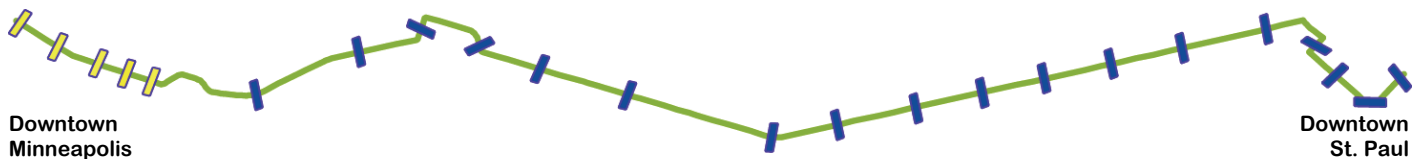
Clockwise from top left: America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses, 1360 University Ave. W., in the Midway Marketplace; artistic director Peter Hansen of the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. W.; Udo's African Food & Convenience Store, 1459 University Ave. W., and businesses in the Midway area that share parking want the public to know they are open during construction. For details on how to get there, see: <http://tinyurl.com/436ka2p>



Capitol area



These three students (top photo) from Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis participated in a weeklong LRT Works Youth Career Exploration program in mid-May. The week included tours of Central Corridor LRT construction sites, such as this one above in front of the Orville Freeman State Office Building on Robert Street in the state Capitol area in St. Paul. For details on getting around during construction, see the weekly Capitol update at: <http://tinyurl.com/3wdqvtx>

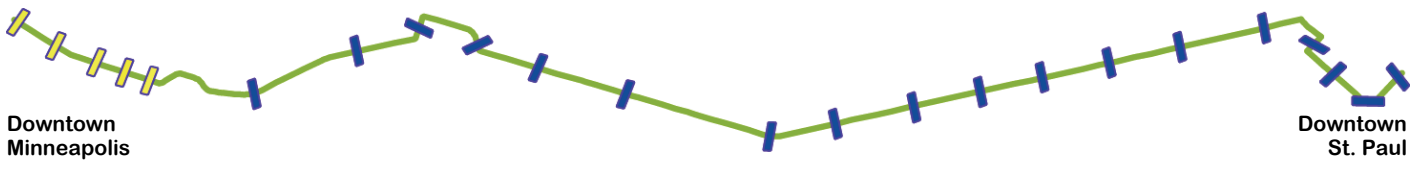


.....>>>

Cedar Street in St. Paul



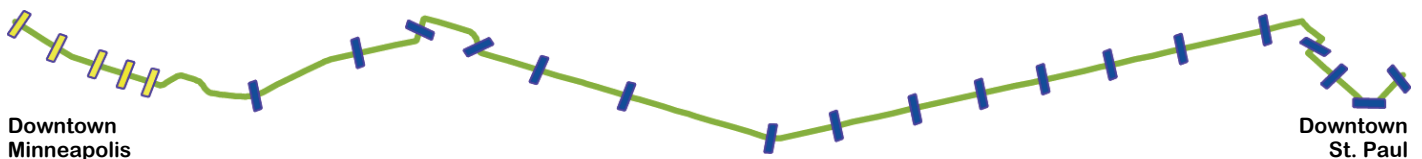
A worker installs a temporary traffic signal at Fifth and Cedar streets in preparation for heavy utility relocation beginning in June on Cedar between Seventh and Fifth. For details, see **Cedar Street—What to Expect from Construction** at: <http://tinyurl.com/3mg2e94>



Fourth Street in St. Paul



Vehicles have resumed using newly paved Fourth Street between Broadway and Wacouta streets (top photo). Construction has moved to between Sibley and Robert streets. Access is maintained to the Sibley Square parking ramp at the right of the bottom photo. To get around during the work, see the weekly downtown St. Paul update at: <http://tinyurl.com/2eaucu2>





Bus on-time performance solid in construction zone

On-time performance remains solid for the Metro Transit bus routes most affected by Central Corridor LRT construction.

Here are the routes and their latest on-time performance percentages from April 21 through May 5:

[Route 16](#) – 87.7. Route 16 runs between the downtowns – mostly on University Avenue.

[Route 50](#) – 84.3. Route 50 is a limited-stop version of Route 16 with fewer stops and a faster travel time.

[Route 21](#) – 89.4. Route 21 passes through construction at the intersection of University and Snelling avenues.

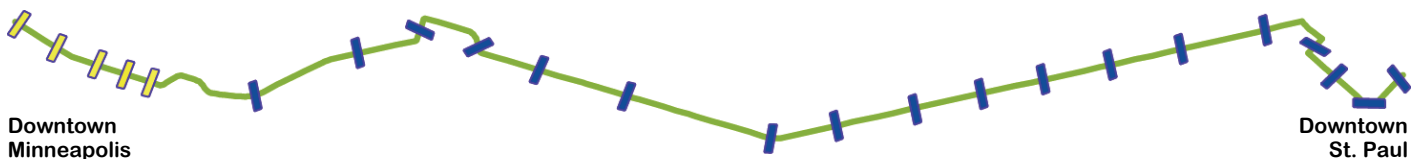
On-time performance for the Metro Transit bus system April 21 through May 5 was 89.1 percent.

Bus information—Visit www.metrotransit.org/construction for construction-related bus detours and bus stop closures during construction.

Weekly construction updates—Learn how to get around during construction by entering your email address in the yellow box at the top right of the www.centralcorridor.org homepage. Addressees will receive updates every Friday for the sections of the corridor they choose. The updates provide a look at the week ahead with details on lane shifts, crosswalk and sidewalk closures and alternate routes and relocated bus stops. The public also can sign up to receive project newsletters such as Making Tracks and DBE News about Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and workforce participation on this project.

Construction Hotline - 651-602-1404.

For general questions or comments - Call 651-602-1645 or email centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us





Metro Transit bus sports an ad for DiscoverCentralCorridor.com, <http://tinyurl.com/4x6gdvx> encouraging people to patronize corridor businesses during construction.

About the project: The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project will link downtown Saint Paul and downtown Minneapolis along Washington and University avenues via the state Capitol and the University of Minnesota. Construction began in late summer 2010 on the planned 11-mile Central Corridor line, and service will begin in 2014. The line will 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 is 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. Funding is provided by the Federal Transit Administration, Counties Transit Improvement Board, state of Minnesota, Ramsey and Hennepin counties' regional railroad authorities, city of Saint Paul, Metropolitan Council and the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative.

