

Making Tracks



October
2010

Met Council awards half a billion dollars worth of Central Corridor contracts

The Metropolitan Council has awarded \$517.2 million worth of Central Corridor Light Rail Transit construction and vehicle contracts in 2010.

"The Central Corridor Project Office had made tremendous progress this year assembling construction packages and inviting contractors to bid. Throughout it all, we've enjoyed strong competition and positive contract awards," said Mark Fuhrmann, program director of Metro Transit's New Starts rail projects. Metro Transit is an operating agency of the Metropolitan Council.

Here's the contracting tally:

- Walsh Construction, \$194.7 million, to build the eastern seven miles
- Ames/McCrossan, \$112.8 million, to build the western three miles
- Siemens Transportation, \$120.2 million, to construct light-rail vehicles
- Aldridge/Collisys, \$85.9 million, for systems work
- Graham Construction Services, \$3.6 million, for road improvements around the East Bank

The \$957 million project has one remaining major contract award this year, the operation and maintenance facility contract. This contract will convert the vacant Diamond Products south building, a former Gillette Co. facility, into the operations hub for Central Corridor LRT with 150 new employees working in downtown St. Paul.

To date, construction has employed 40 Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. The project is expected to provide for 800 direct construction and management jobs annually over the project. There will be many other ancillary impacts from the project, such as precast and ready-mix concrete jobs, shop labor, etc.



LRT maintenance facility, Lafayette bridge work to be done in coordination

The Central Corridor Project Office and the state Department of Transportation are co-ordinating the design and construction of the LRT line's operation and maintenance facility and the adjacent Lafayette freeway bridge construction in St. Paul.

The bridge will be above the operation and maintenance facility's yard, which will be constructed outside the building's east end. The Metropolitan Council and MnDOT have executed an agreement which identifies each party's responsibility for the cost of removing contaminated soils in the area, managing storm water, improving the maintenance building's façade and designing the yard surcharge.

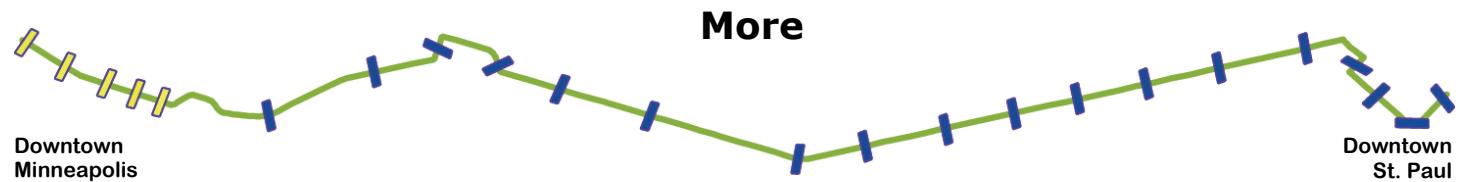
Crews will begin yard site prep work this fall on the maintenance facility and building renovations in early 2011 on the vacant former Gillette Co. warehouse. Meanwhile, MnDOT plans in January to start constructing the northbound bridge over the Mississippi River. MnDOT will start work on a southbound bridge in 2013 and remove the existing structure, which opened to traffic in 1968. The bridge is to be finished at the end of 2014, the same year that the LRT line is to begin service.



Vacant former Gillette Co. warehouse at Broadway and Prince streets in St. Paul



Current Lafayette freeway bridge.



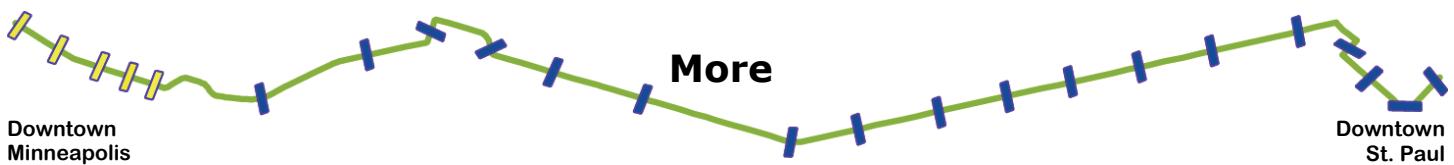


Fourth Street utility relocation, downtown St. Paul



Top photo— Crews pour a new sidewalk in front of the federal courthouse at Fourth and Robert streets.

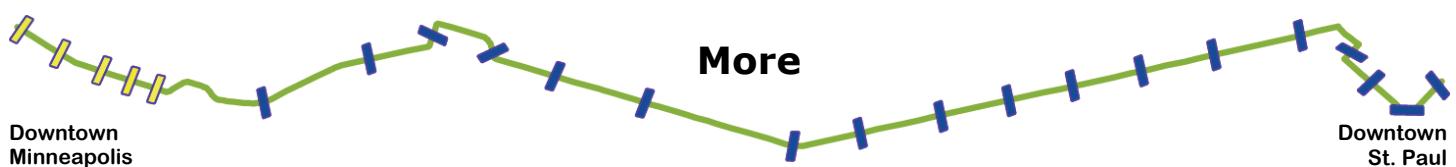
Bottom photo — Sidewalks are repaved on the north side of Fourth Street between Robert and mid-block to Minnesota Street where people can enter and leave the First National Bank Building.





Xcel Energy began relocating underground utilities in early October on Washington Avenue between the Cedar Avenue bridge pictured here and the 19th Avenue bridge. The work is in advance of Central Corridor LRT construction on the West Bank in 2011.

**Read about construction plans for
the University of Minnesota and
the Washington Avenue bridge at
<http://tinyurl.com/238y4x8>**





Top right photo—Walsh Construction crews set a manhole on Robert Street.

Bottom photo—Construction is underway in front of the Orville Freeman State Office Building on Robert Street, site of the future Capitol East Station.



More





New outreach intern is battle tested

New outreach intern Dan Pfeiffer feels his military experience in Iraq prepared him well for the challenges of his new job.

As an Army infantryman, Pfeiffer was stationed in Mosul in northern Iraq in 2004-2005 during the provisional government period and the first democratic vote after Saddam Hussein was ousted from power. He participated in night missions to capture suspected insurgents and daytime patrols to increase security around polling sites.

The experiences made him decide to return to the University of Minnesota to earn his undergraduate degree in political science and study Arabic. Now a master's degree student in public policy at the University of St. Thomas, Pfeiffer will be helping Minneapolis lead outreach coordinator Jessica Hill. His email address is Daniel.pfeiffer@metc.state.mn.us



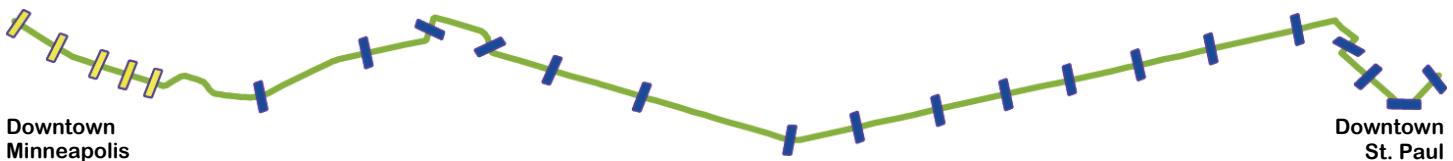
Community outreach intern Dan Pfeiffer will work in Minneapolis.

Twin Cities high schoolers will learn about construction careers

One hundred sixty Twin Cities high school freshmen and sophomores will attend LRT Works Youth Career Exploration sessions in late October at the Minnesota Transportation Museum in the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul.

The four four-hour sessions Oct. 25, 26, 28 and 29 are for students from Gordon Parks High School and Johnson High School in St. Paul and Roosevelt High School and the Minnesota Transitions Charter School in Minneapolis. These schools were selected because they have robust technical career programs. The sessions will introduce the students to transportation/transit history, careers in construction/engineering and construction progress on the Central Corridor LRT Project.

The program's early proponents are the Metropolitan Council, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Walsh Construction, Ames/McCrossan, the local unions for electricians, laborers and operating engineers and the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council.





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 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 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. Funding is provided by the Federal Transit Administration, Counties Transit Improvement Board, state of Minnesota, Ramsey and Hennepin counties' regional railroad authorities, city of St. Paul, Metropolitan Council and the Central Corridor Funders' Collaborative.

Construction hotline is 651-602-1404. **For general questions or comments,** call 651-602-1645 or email centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us

For more information, visit: www.centralcorridor.org

