

# Making Tracks



Sept. 2009

Five Pages



## WORKING ON A NEW RAILROAD

Contractor Carl Bolander & Sons began public utility relocation in September on Fourth Street east of the intersection with Robert Street. Underground utilities are being relocated in advance of Central LRT construction late summer 2010. Meanwhile, pedestrians go on about their business in downtown St. Paul. To sign up to get construction updates via email, go to [www.centralcorridor.org](http://www.centralcorridor.org) and click on Construction overview. Look for the gray box on the right.

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Lu Hang of the Hmong Chamber of Commerce addresses a business and workforce opportunity session featuring the Central Corridor LRT Project on Aug. 12 at Lao Family Community of Minnesota. The Metropolitan Council and three Hmong community organizations held the meeting for minority- and women-owned small businesses and job seekers to learn about job opportunities on the LRT project.

### **Hallie Q. Brown Center workshop to focus on LRT building jobs**

In October, the Metropolitan Council and five African-American organizations will hold a business and employment workshop featuring the Central Corridor LRT Project.

This will be the Met Council's fifth large community meeting in a year for minority- and women-owned small businesses or job seekers to learn about job opportunities on the biggest public works project in state history. More than 300 people have attended the first four meetings.





**Hallie Q. Brown continued....**

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

The meeting will be held twice on Oct. 14, running from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center at 270 N. Kent St. in St. Paul. To register, contact Jackie Becker at [Jackie.becker@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jackie.becker@metc.state.mn.us) or 651-602-1940 by Oct. 8.

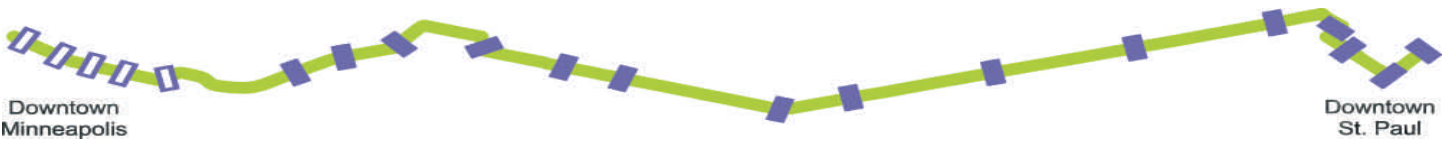
Besides the Met Council, the other sponsors are the Council on Black Minnesotans, Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corp., Selby Area Community Development Corp., African Economic Development Solutions and the St. Paul branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The two sessions will highlight what the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise 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 African-American community has been a staple of the area surrounding the Central Corridor route. As such, it only makes sense that the businesses and workers of that community participate in the construction of the line which will usher in a new phase of development and sense of community for the area,” said Roderic Southall, lead staff on the Central Corridor project for the Met Council’s Office of Diversity. “There are many African American construction-related companies that have already expressed interest in working on the project. They are seeking more information on how and when the construction projects will roll out.”

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

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Roderic Southall (left), lead staff on the Central Corridor project from the Met Council's Office of Diversity, and Wanda Kirkpatrick, director of the Office of Diversity, outside the historic Jackson Street roundhouse.

### Historic roundhouse setting for bid opportunity info exchange

The Minnesota Transportation Museum at the Great Northern Railway's historic Jackson Street roundhouse will be the setting in November for a Central Corridor bid opportunity information exchange.

The Nov. 9 mixer will be from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Minnesota Transportation Museum located at 193 Pennsylvania Ave. E. in St. Paul.

The goal is to give interested construction firms a preview of the primary construction contracts that will be let in 2010. Attendees will have a chance to meet with owners of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and discuss potential partnerships.

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### Historic roundhouse continued...

“We thought that it would be both fun and important to host this event at the museum, which provides a glimpse into our transportation past whilst planning for its future,” said Roderic Southall, lead staff on the Central Corridor project for the Met Council’s Office of Diversity. “The attendees are sure to have an appreciation for the role of construction in making both past and future transportation plans a reality.”

The former steam engine maintenance facility houses an operating roundhouse turntable and exhibits featuring local and regional railway history and restores historic railway equipment. The museum also owns and operates several vintage buses, many of which are original Twin City Line coaches.

To register, businesses need to contact Jackie Becker by Nov. 1 at [Jackie.becker@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jackie.becker@metc.state.mn.us) or 651-602-1940.

**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, which will begin operation in late 2009, at the new 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.

**For questions or comments,** email [centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us) or call 651-602-1645. For more information, visit: [www.centralcorridor.org](http://www.centralcorridor.org)

