

Making Tracks

Nov. 2009



Five Pages



Construction manager Kevin Ryan addresses about 350 contractors and subcontractors at a bid opportunity information exchange Nov. 9 at the Minnesota Transportation Museum. The workshop offered an opportunity for the group to ask questions related to construction bid packages and to learn about the procurement approach for the Central Corridor LRT Project.

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Pat Calder of the Metropolitan Council’s Office of Diversity talks with Eric Schneider of Siemens about the project’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program at the bid opportunity information exchange for contractors and subcontractors. The attendees visited stations located throughout the former Great Northern Railway’s Jackson Street Roundhouse to learn about Central Corridor LRT bid packages. Schneider was interested in learning about the systems contract for work on train signal and communications systems and traction power/electrical systems.

Roundhouse meeting explains bidding, construction schedules

The Central Corridor Project Office will begin advertising invitations for bids and requests for qualifications in December for contractors who want a chance to help build the line.

The project will advertise invitations for bids on advanced roadway improvements and requests for qualifications on the civil east construction package. The project is split into east and west at the city/county boundary in front of KSTP-TV for track, station and roadway work, which is known as civil construction.

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Roundhouse meeting (continued)...

The project office will advertise in December and open bids in January for the advanced roadway improvements contract and start the work in spring 2010. Also in January, the office will complete the pre-qualifications for the civil east construction bids.

Pre-qualifications are based on:

- Transit experience
- Technical competence
- Capability to perform
- DBE/Workforce inclusion
- Key personnel

The project office then will open bids for the civil east construction contract in April and start construction in July.

For the civil west construction package and Washington Avenue bridge package, the office will advertise requests for qualifications in February, complete the pre-qualifications in March, open bids in June and start construction in August.

The schedules for all of the contracts are below and on the next page:

Bidding Schedule* Invitation for Bid (IFB)

	Anticipated IFB Advertisement	Bid Opening	Construction Starts
4 th Street Advanced Utility Relocations	Complete	Complete	Underway
Advanced Roadway Improvements	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	Spring 2010
Operations and Maintenance Facility	March 2010	April 2010	Aug 2010
Fare Collection	July 2011	Aug 2011	Fall 2011

* Assumes FTA awards Full Funding Grant Agreement in Q2 - 2010

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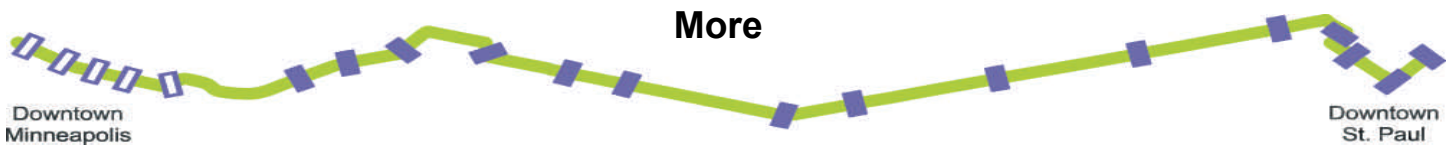
Roundhouse meeting (continued)...

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

	Anticipated RFQ Advertisement	Pre-Qual Complete	Bid Opening	Construction Starts
Civil East Construction	Dec 2009	Jan 2010	April 2010	July 2010
Civil West Construction & Washington Ave Bridge	Feb 2010	March 2010	June 2010	Aug 2010
Systems	Feb 2010	April 2010	July 2010	Aug 2010



Gary Geppert (above at left) of Walsh Construction and Bill Breen of Mass Electric Construction chat next to a locomotive replica during the contractors' workshop at the Minnesota Transportation Museum. Workshop scene (left) taken through a boxcab window.





Two Asian Employment & Business Opportunity sessions set for Dec. 2

Two Asian Employment and Business Opportunity sessions will be held Dec. 2 featuring the Central Corridor LRT Project to highlight what the Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) program is and how firms may become DBE certified.

The sessions also are a chance for minority-owned businesses and job seekers to learn how to obtain a role in the project's construction, which will begin in late summer 2010.

The Metropolitan Council has an 18 percent workforce goal for hiring minorities and a 6 percent workforce goal for hiring women interested in construction and the building trades. The Met Council will be setting DBE goals by contract for the project's construction phase. The project has a 17 percent goal for the engineering and environmental phases.

The first event on Dec. 2 will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vietnamese Social Services at 1159 University Ave. in St. Paul. Lunch will be served. The evening session is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hoa Bien Restaurant at 1129 University Ave. in St. Paul. Dinner will be served.

The Metropolitan Council, Vietnamese Social Services, Center for Asian Pacific Islanders, Southeast Asian Refugee Community Home Center, Chinese American Business Association Minnesota, Lao Family Center and United Cambodian Association of Minnesota are sponsoring the sessions.

To register, contact Hue Pham at hue.pham@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1559.

FTA leader tours Central Corridor LRT

Administrator Peter Rogoff of the Federal Transit Administration toured the Central Corridor and the project office when he visited the Twin Cities for Northstar commuter rail's opening weekend.

Project staffers emphasized that their schedule to start heavy construction in late summer 2010 is based on a limited construction season due to the long Minnesota winters.

A bus tour highlighted:

- Fourth Street advanced utility relocation progress
- Location of potential infill stations
- St. Paul's development strategy
- Recent economic development on the line, including Rondo Library, the Amherst H, Wilder Foundation's headquarters and **affordable, market rate and student housing**

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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 will 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 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 or call 651-602-1645. For more information, visit: www.centralcorridor.org

