

# 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 coordinating 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.

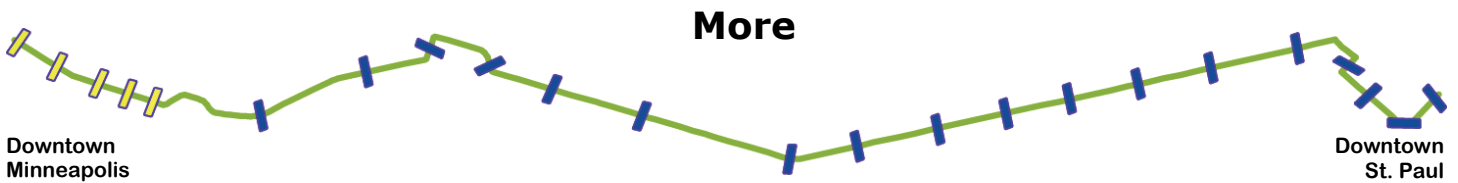
Crews will begin yard site prep work this fall on the maintenance facility and building renovations in early 2011 on the vacant former Gillette Co. warehouse. Meanwhile, MnDOT plans in January to start constructing the northbound bridge over the Mississippi River. MnDOT will start work on a southbound 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.

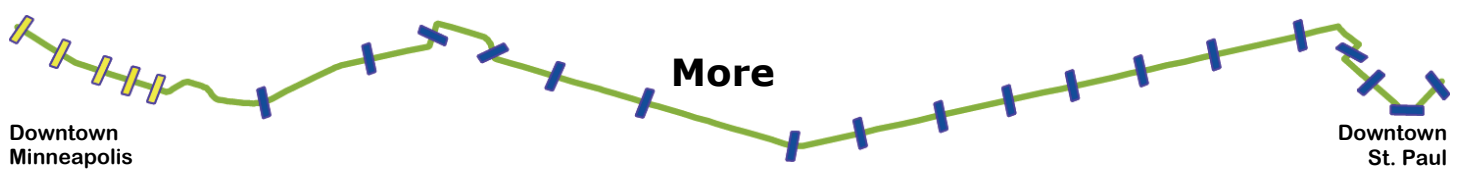




**Fourth Street utility relocation, downtown St. Paul**



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.

