

Making Tracks



January 2009

Three Pages

Noise and vibration impacts can be mitigated at MPR, historic churches

Vibration impacts will be less than they are today after proposed mitigation measures are employed by the Central Corridor LRT Project along Cedar Street in front of Minnesota Public Radio in St. Paul. Vibration mitigation measures will include installation of a 700-foot-long concrete “floating” slab under the track on Cedar Street to isolate vibration away from the MPR building, the Church of St. Louis King of France, Central Presbyterian Church, McNally Smith Recording Studios and the Fitzgerald Theater. Project engineers already have relocated a track crossover previously sited on Cedar Street in front of MPR to a location north of Interstate 94 where it will not affect noise and vibration sensitive or historic buildings. A crossover is a track structure that allows continuous passage between two nearby and generally parallel tracks. The proximity of the tracks, which are 14 feet from the closest point of MPR’s new building, makes vibration mitigation necessary.



Engineers put a Hiawatha LRT horn and bell system on the back of a pickup to test noise impacts to Cedar Street buildings.

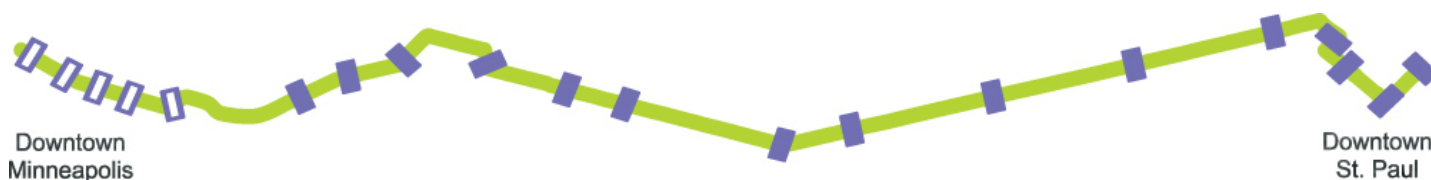
Noise mitigation will include on-site modifications to MPR Studios M and P to mitigate the transmission of outdoor noise and create more acoustically isolated recording studios. Metro Transit also will modify its practice of activating horns each time trains meet at grade crossings, such as the intersection of Seventh and Cedar streets.

Project engineers are working with MPR’s noise and vibration experts to develop additional mitigation details that would be acceptable to MPR.

Elsewhere on the Central Corridor route, resilient track fasteners will be installed on Washington Avenue through the East Bank of the University of Minnesota, where several sensitive laboratories are located.

The start of LRT heavy construction will be delayed from early summer to late summer 2010 because the Federal Transit Administration told project officials to address MPR’s concerns about noise and vibration impacts in greater detail and because the FTA will need more time to complete its risk assessment of the project. The delay, though, won’t affect the projected start of service on the line in 2014.

More





Informational session, mixer next month for general contractors, local DBEs

The Central Corridor LRT Project invites general contractors to an informational session from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., in St. Paul to learn details about the construction bidding schedule for the Central Corridor LRT line and about working with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and WorkForce programs. From 3:30 to 5 p.m., the project office will hold a mixer for interested general contractors and local DBEs to meet and exchange information about project-related opportunities and DBEs’ capacity, availability and skills.

The purpose of the Feb. 25 meetings is to get contractors interested in bidding on the biggest public works project in state history, said Roderic Southall, the Metropolitan Council Office of Diversity’s lead staffer on the Central Corridor LRT Project. The detailed construction schedule will be determined with contractors’ input after bids are awarded in 2010. Heavy construction will begin in late summer 2010.



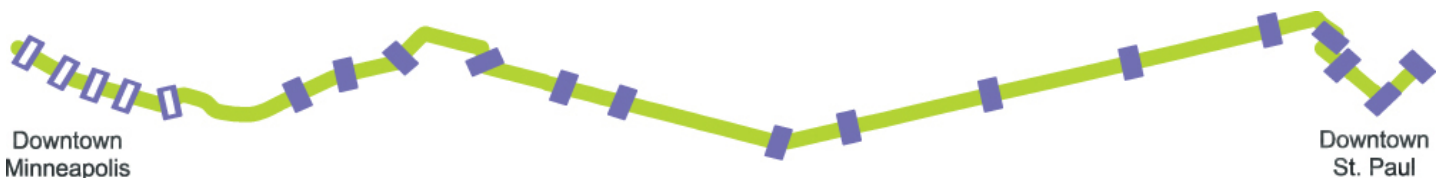
Roderic Southall is the Metropolitan Council Office of Diversity lead staffer to the Central Corridor LRT Project.

Opportunities exist for building track, bridges, retaining walls, stations, electrical systems, roadways, curbs, gutters and sidewalks and installing traffic signals, striping and signage. A vacant former factory in St. Paul will need to be converted into an operation and maintenance facility. Retrofitting the Washington Avenue Bridge for LRT will involve structural steel work and replacing the roadway deck. Other work will involve furnishing and installing train signal systems, communications and traction power/electrical systems.

The project’s first DBE mixer on Sept. 25, 2008, drew 135 people who learned about Central Corridor LRT construction job opportunities for women-owned, minority-owned and small businesses and what they need to do to qualify for the work. Sixteen DBEs already work on the engineering and environmental analysis phase.

To register, contact Mary Richardson by Feb. 20 at mary.richardson@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1925.

More



Central Corridor LRT Project’s outreach staff recognized for diversity

Community outreach staffers of the Central Corridor LRT Project are the recipients of the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award from the Minnesota chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar.

“We were impressed by the community outreach team’s commitment to communicating effectively with the broad range of stakeholders within the project area, from residents and small business owners to large institutions,” wrote Kristin Thompson, the chapter’s scholarships and recognitions director.

She cited two examples of the outreach staff’s commitment to diversity. They are the languages spoken and signed by the staff (Hmong, Thai, Vietnamese, Spanish, French, American Sign Language and some Somali, in addition to English) and efforts made to hold public meetings at times and locations accessible to stakeholders who are transit-dependent or have nontraditional work schedules.

The nomination will be forwarded to the international organization. Selection of the international winners will be in late March. Founded in 1977, Women’s Transportation Seminar is an international organization dedicated to the professional advancement of women in transportation. Boasting roughly 4,400 members - both men and women - WTS is helping women find opportunity and recognition in the transportation industry.

CORRECTION: In the December Making Tracks story, “Met Council OKs money for affordable housing, multi-tenant office building on University Avenue,” the office space at 2700 The Avenue was incorrectly given as 10,000 square feet. It is 100,000 square feet.

For more information, visit: <http://www.centralcorridor.org/>

Questions or comments? Call 651-602-1645 or email centralcorridor@metc.state.mn.us



Members of the Central Corridor LRT Project community outreach staff are (left to right): Jessica Hill, Eve Vang, Joey Browner, Rita Rodriguez, Dana Happel, Shoua Lee, Robin Caufman (manager of public involvement) and Kent Hranicka, former intern.



Most recent addition to the outreach team, Hue Pham.

