

Making Tracks



August
2010

Contractors to be recommended for line's western 3 miles, LRVs

Staff will recommend on Aug. 25 to the Metropolitan Council a contractor to build the line's western three miles and strengthen the Washington Avenue bridge and another contractor to build 41 low-floor light-rail vehicles.

Staffers are evaluating bids submitted by five companies for the project's second big civil engineering contract. Its budget is \$126.1 million, which includes betterments sought by the University of Minnesota and the city of Minneapolis. The bidders and their apparent bids are: Ames Construction/C.S. McCrossan, \$113.8 million; Graham Construction, \$122.3 million; Granite Construction Co., \$127.2 million; PCL Construction Services Inc., \$117.6 million; and Walsh Construction, \$130.8 million.

For the 41-LRV contract, staff recommends Siemens Transportation Systems Inc. Thirty-one of the vehicles are required for the Central Corridor project to provide for two-car operations when revenue service begins in 2014. The remaining 10 cars are needed to accommodate plans for the Hiawatha Line's three-car train program.

An evaluation panel determined that Siemens provided the strongest technical proposal along with the lowest cost of the proposals received, New Starts Program Director Mark Fuhrmann said. Total cost of Siemens' proposed contract is not to exceed \$153 million, contingent on satisfactory results from the Pre-Award Buy America Audit.

The proposed contract also includes an option to purchase up to 58 additional vehicles for future fleet expansion for Central Corridor, Hiawatha and Southwest lines should the need and funding be identified.

The vehicles would be built at the Siemens plant in Sacramento, Calif. The proposed contract includes LRV production along with spare parts to support testing and initial operations.

Engineering and testing of the LRVs requires two years prior to the arrival of the first vehicle, which is expected at the end of 2012. After that, delivery is expected at a rate of two to four cars per month.



Fourth Street utility relocation work in St. Paul

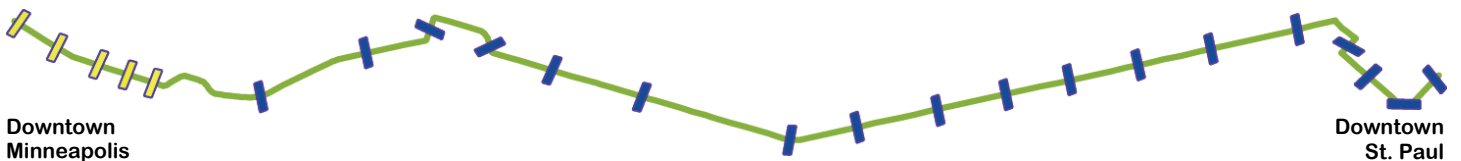


Contractor crews (top) finish installing a water main earlier this month at Fourth and Wacouta streets.

Crews (bottom) work at Fourth and Wall streets. Access is maintained to the Farmers' Market on the weekends.



More



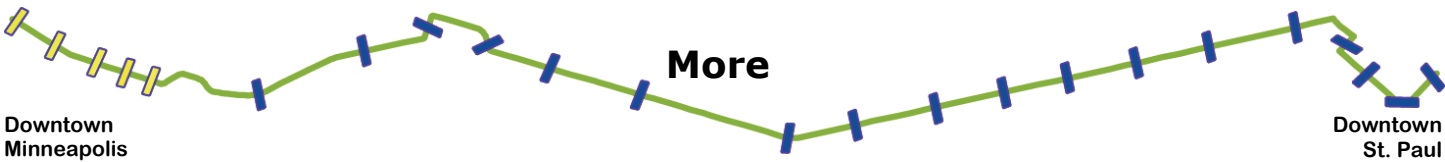
Downtown
Minneapolis

Downtown
St. Paul

Capitol-area utility relocation began this summer in advance of a planned late summer construction start



Private utility crews (top) at work at Robert Street and University Avenue and 12th and Minnesota streets (bottom).



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University of Minnesota advanced traffic improvements



Crews are extending Beacon Street (top) and Fulton Street (below) so they are ready to handle more traffic when Washington Avenue is closed to autos after the spring semester 2011 to begin its conversion into a transit-pedestrian mall from Pleasant to Walnut streets.



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





Nkongo Cigolo returns as outreach coordinator

Central Corridor LRT watchers will recognize Nkongo Cigolo's name and face from the project office's early days.

The former community outreach coordinator rejoins the team after leaving in early 2008 to return to Africa to help his family after an earthquake destroyed their home and malaria vaccine production business.

Cigolo will help support outreach coordinators Dana Happel in downtown St. Paul and Shoua Lee in her territory that stretches from Capitol East to Griggs Street, which is halfway between Hamline Avenue and Lexington Parkway.

In addition to English, Cigolo speaks a couple of African languages and French.

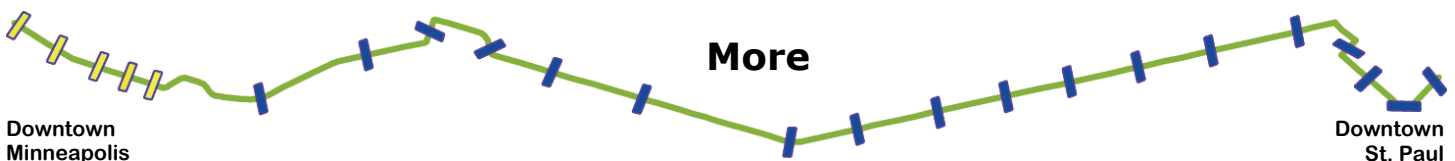
His first day in the office will be Aug. 24. His email address is nkongo.cigolo@metc.state.mn.us and his phone will be 651-602-1559.

New animation shows LRT on eastern end of University Avenue

A new animated video shows a Central Corridor LRT train in operation from the Victoria Street Station to the Capitol East Station in St. Paul.

It can be viewed online at: <http://tinyurl.com/23ez3zw>

Two additional videos to be produced later this year will show the train in operation through the University of Minnesota and downtown St. Paul.



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At-a-glance schedule of construction work by segments

Western three miles from anticipated start to substantially complete

Hiawatha LRT tie-in to Pleasant Street — Jan. 2011 to Nov. 2012
West Bank and Washington Avenue Bridge — Sept. 2010 to Nov. 2012
Transit mall — May 2011 to Aug. 2012
Oak Street — May 2011 to Nov. 2011
Oak to Emerald Street — March 2012 to Nov. 2012
Transitway reconstruction — May 2011 to Aug. 2011

Eastern seven miles from anticipated start to roadway substantially complete

University Avenue from Emerald to Hamline Avenue — March 2011 to Nov. 2011
University from Hamline to Robert Street — March 2012 to Nov. 2012
Robert to 12th Street, 12th to Cedar Street — Aug. 2010 to Nov. 2010
Cedar Street — June 2011 to Nov. 2012
Bremer Bank — April 2011 to Nov. 2011
Fourth Street — Aug. 2009 to Nov. 2010

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 late summer 2010 on the planned 11-mile Central Corridor line, with service beginning 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.

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

