

# Making Tracks



April 2007

## Central Corridor LRT Adding Staff

Mark Fuhrmann, director of the Central Corridor LRT project, is assembling staffers and consultants to form the project office.

These new positions include a communications manager; a manager for project controls; two engineers; an architect; three community outreach coordinators and several administrative specialists. Consultants will be hired for engineering services, environmental services, Phase I environmental and bridge engineering.

For the communications manager, we have hired Laura Baenen, who was Midwest communications manager for Canadian Pacific Railway and previously was a reporter for The Associated Press. Media can reach her at [laura.baenen@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:laura.baenen@metc.state.mn.us) or 651-602-1797.

For now, communications and outreach staff will be located in the Metropolitan Council offices in downtown St. Paul. Later this year, we plan to establish a Central Corridor project office along the route.

## They Walk The Line

Staffers are busy preparing for the Central Corridor line connecting downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis via Washington and University avenues, even though light-rail construction won't begin until 2010.

On April 16, a contingent of Metropolitan Council executives walked and drove the eastern end of the route to better understand the challenges faced by project engineers as they study alternative routes that might one day serve the Union Depot.

Three days later, more than 40 community leaders took a bus tour of the entire line with Arlene McCarthy, director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, and Robin Caufman, the Council's manager of public involvement for the project. McCarthy and Caufman identified station areas, highlighted engineering issues and pointed out historic buildings.

Several members of the Community Advisory Committee, including Doug Hennes of the University of St. Thomas, said they gained "a greater appreciation for the size and scope of the project."

**For more information about the project**, check out our website at: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.htm>.

**Questions or Comments?** Call the Met Council comment line at 651-602-1500 or e-mail us at [data.center@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:data.center@metc.state.mn.us).

