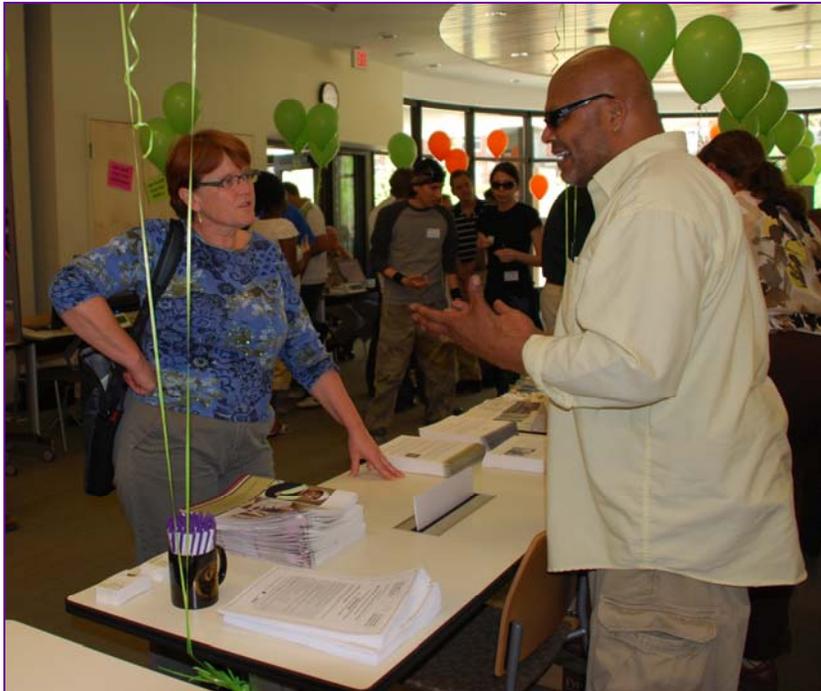


Making Tracks



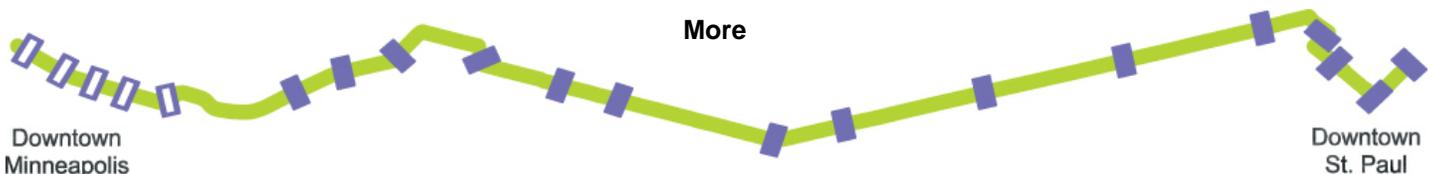
May 2009

Three Pages



Ann Stewart of Minneapolis talked with Earl Rogers, recruiter for Summit Academy OIC, at the Construction Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Mixer on May 20 at the Wilder Center. Stewart has a background in estimating commercial painting and wall covering projects for union shops. The purpose of the mixer was to give the public a chance to meet representatives from 22 construction training and apprenticeship programs and learn about construction opportunities on the Central Corridor LRT Project and other upcoming public projects. About 250 people signed up to learn about construction trades.

Mark Vargas (left) of Minneapolis tells Gary Lindblad, director of IUOE Local 49 Training Center in Hinckley, that he and other land surveyors possess skills that could aid a variety of projects. The two spoke about job opportunities during the Construction Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Mixer on May 20 at the Wilder Center. Representatives from 27 construction and building trade firms attended.



Station art concepts celebrate history, immigrants, wildlife

Native flora and fauna. Immigrants' brightly colored clothing. Railroad history. Winter Carnival ice palaces. St. Paul's history and geology.

These are some of the images and themes found in early concepts for station art developed by five artist teams for the 15 Central Corridor LRT stations.

The artists and Central Corridor LRT Project staff held open houses in mid-May to present the concepts to the public for feedback following visioning sessions over the winter where residents suggested themes to the artists.

The final plans will be shared over the summer with the public. The Metropolitan Council will give preliminary approval before the designs are advanced in the fall.

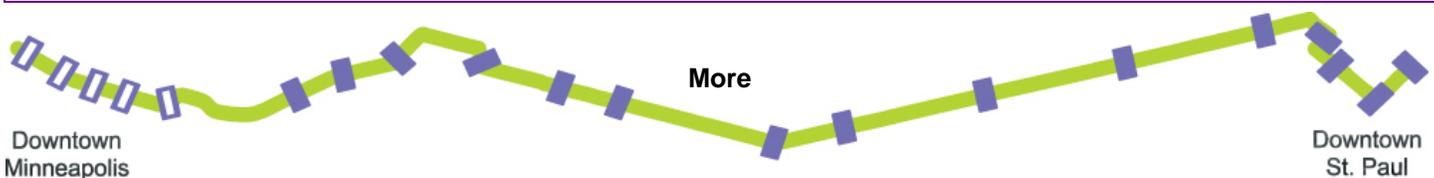
The artwork will be incorporated into the stations at a cost of \$2.8 million or \$187,000 per station. The stations will be made of durable materials, such as copper, steel, metals, brick and concrete able to withstand the elements. The stations will have a consistent footprint to ensure ease of use by visitors, infrequent users and people with disabilities, as well as commuters in a hurry.

Stations will be of three varieties: center platforms, split side platforms for use when a station straddles an intersection and side platforms.

For art details, see: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/StationArtConcepts.htm>



West Bank business owner and resident Dan Prozinski talks with artist Nancy Blum about her designs for the West Bank Station on the Central Corridor LRT line during a May open house where she presented her early design concepts to the public.



Grant will fund environmental assessments of potential redevelopment sites on LRT route

The city of St. Paul, Metropolitan Council and Ramsey County have received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct environmental assessments on a voluntary basis on properties that are considered redevelopment opportunities near the Central Corridor LRT line.

"I think the availability of the funding could be a good incentive for current property owners along the corridor who would like to redevelop. Understanding obstacles to redevelopment -- like hidden pollution -- are an important step toward starting or expanding a business in that area," said Marcus Martin, senior planner in the Metropolitan Council's Livable Communities Program, which applied for the grant as part of a coalition.

The funds will be used to conduct environmental site assessments of redevelopment sites with hazardous substances of petroleum or petroleum contamination along University Avenue between Rice Street and the western edge of St. Paul. Grant funds also will be used for clean-up planning, public health monitoring and community outreach activities.

Robin Caufman (left), manager of public involvement on the Central Corridor LRT Project; Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell and Mary Gute, immediate past president of the Minnesota chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar. At the May Central Corridor Management Committee meeting, Gute presented Caufman with the chapter's Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award for her staff's community outreach work on the Central Corridor LRT Project.



About the Central Corridor LRT 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 University of Minnesota. Construction will begin in 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 soon-to-be built Northstar commuter rail line at the new Minneapolis Multimodal 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 the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis, commissioners from Ramsey and Hennepin counties and the University of Minnesota, provides advice and oversight.

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

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

