

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

DBE Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program

Metropolitan Council
Office of Diversity
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 Metropolitan Council

DBE

What is the purpose of a DBE program?

The purpose of the DBE program is to ensure **nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federally funded transit-related contracts.**

What is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)?

A for-profit, small business that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are socially and economically disadvantaged may qualify as a DBE. Stock in the firm must be at least 51 percent owned by one or more such individuals. The owners must have a personal net worth of less than \$750,000.

How does a firm achieve DBE certification?

To become certified as a DBE a firm must be certified by Minnesota's Unified Certification Program. To start the certification process, obtain and complete the DBE application by:

- Downloading the form from the Metropolitan Council's website at http://www.metrocouncil.org/doing_business/dbeinfo.htm
- Contact the Metropolitan Council's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity at **651-602-1769** (St. Paul office) or **612-349-7683** (Minneapolis office,)
- Calling the Central Corridor Project Office DBE staff at **651-602-1415**.

Details about the Central Corridor LRT Project

The Central Corridor LRT line will connect downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul along University and Washington avenues through the state Capitol complex, Midway area and University of Minnesota.

The Central Corridor project is part of the Metropolitan Council's transportation plan for a network of rail and bus "transitways" to serve heavily traveled corridors in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The plan is intended to improve mobility, build transit ridership and slow the growth in traffic congestion.

Central Corridor connects 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, the grantee of federal funds which make up 50 percent of the project's capital cost, is charged with leading the design and building of the line in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Central Corridor Management Committee, which includes the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis and commissioners from Ramsey and Hennepin counties, provides advice and guidance to the Metropolitan Council. The Central Corridor LRT Project Website is www.centralcorridor.org

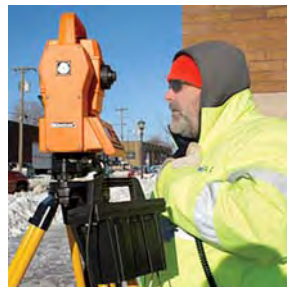


Susan Rani, president of Rani Engineering, is among 16 minority-owned and women-owned DBEs working on the preliminary engineering phase of the project .

"You need to have experience to get a job. Hiawatha broke at least one of those logjams for me," said Susan Rani. "It gave us good experience in working on large projects in terms of quality control, importance of meeting the schedule and the interdisciplinary nature of a large, complex moving project."

"We'll have something to crow about when we are done," Rani said proudly of her firm's current surveying work for the Central Corridor LRT Project.

"This kind of project provides a lot of opportunities for young, minority and women engineers," she said.



John Jackson of Rani Engineering surveys University Avenue as part of Rani Engineering's contract to do the center line survey along the entire 11-mile Central Corridor LRT route.

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Who are the lead consultants on the Central Corridor LRT Project?

The Central Corridor LRT Project has two principal phases – engineering and construction.

In 2007, DMJM Harris was selected as the lead consultant for preliminary engineering, final design and design support services. DMJM Harris has a DBE participation rate of 17 percent, which meets the goal established by the Metropolitan Council's Office of Diversity. The other primary technical consultant to the Central Corridor LRT Project is HDR.

The construction phase will begin in 2010. At that time, the Metropolitan Council will recruit a lead construction partner.

The Metropolitan Council's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity encourages construction firms that may qualify for the DBE program and wish to work on the Central Corridor LRT to become certified.



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Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity ■ 651-602-1769