

## Target Field Station: From transit line to transit system

Written by

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Target Field Station opened last week creating a central, multi-modal transportation hub and community gathering space in downtown Minneapolis.

According to Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, widely viewed as a regional transportation visionary, Target Field Station embodies the principles of open transit by integrating all modes of transit within a strategy of economic development which focuses on architecture that creates iconic indoor and outdoor spaces, appeals to passengers, residents, office workers and visitors alike, as well as integrating culture with transit.

McLaughlin told owners of Twin Cities ethnic media during a guided tour of Target Field Station just days before the May 17 formal opening, "This is the moment of change. We are shifting from being a Light Rail Transit (LRT) line to becoming a regional transit system."



Led by Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium (MMM) chair, Richard Aguilar, president of Aguilar Productions and publisher of Latino American Today, the tour group included Wameng Moua, publisher of Hmong Today, Tom Gitaa, publisher of Mshale, Pete Rhodes, president of Urban Mass Media Group and BMA Channel 937 Television, and Al McFarlane, MMMC president and Insight News, editor.

McLaughlin said Knutson Company and Hennepin County exceeded all goals for workforce participation and contracts mandated to ensure workers and businesses from communities of color benefitted from the \$80 million project.

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At the May 17th ceremony, 5th District U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison, (D-MN) acknowledged the presence and contributions of an African American woman who worked as a carpenter on the project. He asked Katrina Smith to take a bow to the rousing applause of people assembled to witness the Target Field Station grand opening. "At the end of the day it's not only about numbers and percentages, it's about workers like Katrina and her family who are proud to help build the future of transportation for our region, and who are able to earn living wages as part of the skilled workforce," he said.



The total cost of Target Field Station came in at \$79.3 million, with funding (44 percent) coming from local sources. The remaining funding came from state (22 percent) and federal (34 percent) sources.

### Cost breakdown:

Hennepin County, \$21.4 million

Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, \$10.8 million

TIGER III Grant, \$10 million

Federal Highway Administration, \$6.9 million

Federal Transportation Administration Grant, \$500,000

Minnesota State Bonds

2009 appropriation, \$3.7 million

2011 appropriation, \$11 million

2012 appropriation, \$2.5 million

Metropolitan Council Formula Funds, \$10 million

Minnesota Ballpark Authority, \$1.5 million

City of Minneapolis, \$500,000

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, \$500,000

Additional funding was provided by Target, Minnesota Twins and United Properties.

Located next to Target Field, connected to the North Loop neighborhood and adjacent to the historic Warehouse District, Target Field Station connects communities by linking the region's growing light and commuter rail transit network, and miles of bike and walking trails as well as daily bus operations that connect the Twin Cities Metropolitan area.

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Envisioned as one of Minneapolis' foremost gathering spaces, Target Field Station broadens the connections between the North Loop and surrounding neighborhoods to downtown Minneapolis. Because thousands of people will pass through Target Field Station each day, the facility opens the door to redevelopment opportunities that complement the station, Target Field, Minneapolis Farmers Market and the surrounding area.

Target Field Station is a project of Hennepin County, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, and the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and has been a continual collaborative effort between Hennepin County, Knutson Construction, and Perkins Eastman.

### Connecting Transit

Target Field Station connects communities throughout the region through the Hiawatha LRT (the METRO Blue Line), Northstar Commuter Rail, and the Central Corridor LRT (the METRO Green Line), which will open just prior to the All Star Baseball Game next month. The proposed Southwest and Bottineau Transitways will also stop at Target Field Station destination.