



## Scholarships Awarded to Central Corridor Light Rail Stakeholders

25 Individuals from Twin Cities to Attend Rail ~Volution Conference  
October 29 – November 1,  
Boston, Massachusetts

**September 25, 2009**

**ST. PAUL** \_ Twenty-five full scholarships to the nation's preeminent transportation and land use conference, Rail~Volution, were awarded today to a broad cross-section of individuals from the Twin Cities who are interested in helping neighborhoods benefit from the Central Corridor Light Rail Line.

Created by The Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities with support from the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, the scholarship program will enable a group of 25 individuals to learn from, and collaborate together, at the conference. To be held in Boston, Massachusetts Oct. 29 – Nov. 1, 2009, Rail~Volution showcases transportation projects, practices and policies from regions throughout the country and offers a forum for learning, networking and the exchange of ideas.

The group includes community organizers from neighborhoods directly impacted by the new light rail line, elected officials from the county and city levels, business consultants who are working to help local businesses weather light rail construction, along with environmental leaders, land use planners and historic preservation advocates, among others.

Scholarship recipients will gather together as a group before, during, and after the Rail~Volution conference. The aim is to use the conference as a tool for creating new alliances and strategies that help maximize local benefit from the Central Corridor project.

For more information on the conference, please visit the website at [www.railvolution.com](http://www.railvolution.com).

For more information on the scholarship program, please contact Diana Williams, of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, at [dmewilliams@hotmail.com](mailto:dmewilliams@hotmail.com) or (510) 872-5551.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Paul Burns** - Manager, Livable Communities Program, Metropolitan Council

**Veronica Burt** - Cultural Organizer, Preserve and Benefit Historic Rondo

**Jackie Cooper** - Principal Assistant, Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter

**Charles A. Ellis** - Project Manager, Aurora Saint Anthony NDC / Frogtown – Rondo Action Network (FRAN)

**James Erkel** - Attorney & Program Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

**Greg Finzel** – Executive Director, The Rondo Community Land Trust

**Metric Giles** – Organizer and Policy Advocate, Community Stabilization Project

**Richard L. Gilyard** – Chair, University District Alliance Vision and Planning Task Force; Chair of PPERIA Master Plan Committee; Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association

**Steven Hay** – Principal Transportation Planner, City of Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development

**Acoa Lee** - Ward One City Council Legislative Aide, City of Saint Paul

**Sia Lo** – Small Business Consultant, Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation

**Peter McLaughlin** - Commissioner, 4<sup>th</sup> District & Chair, Hennepin Regional Rail Authority, Hennepin County

**Marilyn J. Porter** - Small Business Consultant, University Avenue Business Preparation Collaborative (U7); Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation

**Jim Roth** - Executive Director, Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers

**Hussein Samatar** - Executive Director, African Development Center of Minnesota

**Terry Speiker** - Director of Public Affairs and Special Initiatives, Ramsey County

**Jonathan Stanley** - Senior Housing Program Professional, Minnesota Housing

**Russ Stark** – Ward Four City Council Member, City of Saint Paul

**Carol Swenson** - Executive Director, District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

**Lucy Thompson** - Senior Planner, City of Saint Paul Department of Planning & Economic Development

**Tim Thompson** - President, Housing Preservation Project

**Theodore Tucker** - Planning Commissioner, Minneapolis Planning Commission

**Joan Vanhalla** – Coalition Organizer, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability

**Linda Winsor** - Executive Director, University Avenue Business Association (UABA)

**ThaoMee Xiong** - Central Corridor Hmong Organizing Team Leader, TakeAction Minnesota