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Work continues along the six miles of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension as the project advances toward its scheduled opening date of late 2009. View of the Atlantic Station looks west along 3rd Street. The future train control room is in the foreground.



Photo by Ned Racine

Eastside Construction Team Counts Newest Safety Record

- 1,000 days without a lost-time accident

By NED RACINE

(April 5, 2007) The Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension contractor continues to set safety records as it works toward the light-rail line's scheduled 2009 opening.

Since construction began, Eastside LRT Constructors has worked approximately 1.75 million hours without a lost-time incident, a key measure of workplace safety. Put another way, the contractor has worked 1,000 days without a lost-time incident.

James Brown, construction safety manager for the Eastside Extension project, believes there are four reasons for the safety milestone.

"One is a consequence of the technology, particularly the tunnel boring machines," Brown said. "Technology has removed a lot of the hazards. I've never seen anything like it."

Brown also cites the fact that the contractor supplies the construction insurance, giving Eastside LRT Constructors a strong incentive to reduce any loss on the job. The third factor he cites is Metro.

Unprecedented safety record

“Metro has a proactive safety program. So, we tell the contractor how to conduct a safety program.” Brown believes the fourth factor in the unprecedented safety record is the Metro project management team’s strong commitment to safety.

Making the 1.75 million man hours particularly impressive is the complex heavy underground work needed to build the Eastside Extension. This accomplishment, a record for a Metro construction project, is also probably a nationwide record.

If the team continues to work as safely, Eastside LRT Constructors will likely reach 2 million work hours in July 2007.

The contractor will celebrate the workers’ current safety accomplishment on April 11, 2007.