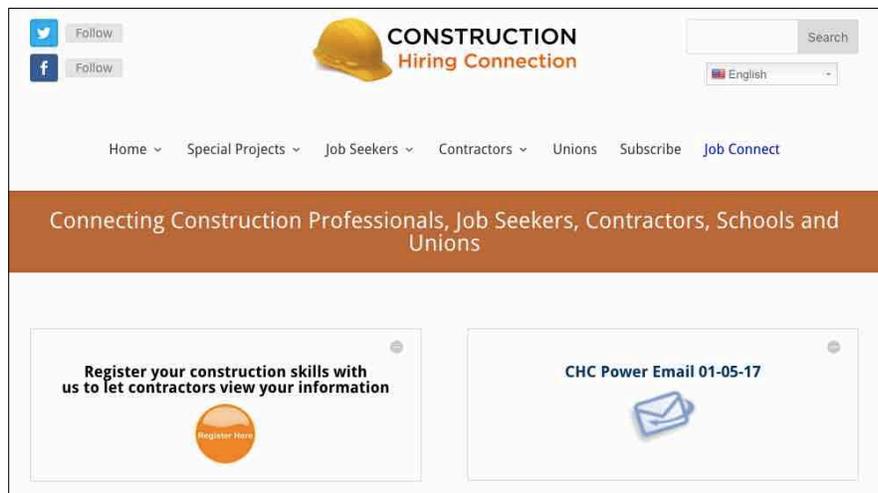


DALE STREET LEADERSHIP CIRCLE · MEETING 5  
November 17, 2016 · Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Dale Street  
**JOBS, TRAINING, AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Funding for community engagement activities is provided by the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.



**Ramsey County Workforce Solutions website**  
<http://jobconnectmn.com/construction-hiring-connection-wpartners/>

### Dale Street Bridge and Roadway Project

The Dale Street Project is a joint initiative to improve pedestrian safety, walkability, accessibility, and traffic safety on Dale Street by replacing the bridge over I-94 and making improvements from the bridge to University Avenue. Ramsey County is the lead organization and works in collaboration with a community-based coalition led by Summit-University Planning Council to implement an inclusive and meaningful community engagement process.

### Session Focus

Employment and training opportunities and local hiring along with meaningful goals for minority and women workforce hiring and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise contracting are long-standing community priorities for this project. Information sharing and discussion about community-level work being done on this issue and Ramsey County assets and resources was the focal point of this meeting.

### Session Snapshot

Tia Williams, Frogtown Neighborhood Association organizer, and Patricia Brady, Director of Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, each gave a presentation. Ms. Williams presented first. Her talk highlighted research she has been doing to gather information about job opportunities and programs through government agencies and her

### PARTICIPANTS (from Sign-up Sheets)

Community  
Yeng Callahan  
Gloria Carter  
Lerris Cooper  
Thelma Daniels  
Sally Heuer  
Irene Markley  
Gloria Massey  
James Milsap  
Lyle Nelson  
Jeremy Ransom  
Rebecca Ryan  
Marvin Scroggins  
Dawn Selle  
Floyd Smaller  
Rev Stacey Smith  
Mary Walker  
Tia Williams  
Ruth L. Wilson  
Julia Wolfe  
Carol Zierman

Ramsey County  
Jim Tolaas, Public Works  
Erin Laberee, Public Works  
Joe Lux, Public Works  
Patricia Brady,  
Workforce Solutions  
Hua Moua, Workforce Solutions  
Kathy Hedin, Public Health

Mn Dept. of Transportation  
Dale Gade, Engineer, Metro Div.

City of St. Paul  
Jeannette Rebar, Public Works

Community Engagement Team\*  
Tia Williams, Frogtown  
Neighborhood Association  
Jens Werner, Summit-University  
Planning Council (SUPC)  
Carol Swenson, SUPC  
Michael Huber, Blue Cross

outreach to community members seeking jobs. Her presentation generated significant discussion among community members and staff from Ramsey County and the Minnesota Depart. of Transportation. Ms. Brady's presented on resources and opportunities available through Ramsey County Workforce Solutions.

## Notes and Observations

Tia Williams' reported on outreach to government agencies and advocacy organization to learn about options, opportunities, and tools available to create employment opportunities for Frogtown and Summit-University residents.

- Immediate employment needs were identified as a community priority when Frogtown Neighborhood Association (FNA) organizers were door knocking for Promise Neighborhood. In response, FNA secured funding to offer lead abatement training and access to jobs. The program was successful and there is demonstrated need for more opportunities that would lead directly to employment.
- Tia has met with several agency staff at all levels of government to explore options and opportunities to bring resources and jobs to Frogtown and Rondo residents. While there are many programs available, there are often many constraints and barriers that limit their immediate use as part of the Dale Street Project. Among those she met are:
  - Patricia Brady and John O'Phallen, Workforce Solutions
  - Shawntera Hardy, Mn Dept. of Employment and Economic Development
  - St Paul Port Authority
- Tia also reported meeting with advocacy organizations to learn about laws, regulations, and tools to ensure access to job opportunities and trainings, especially when federal funding is involved. Among those she's met with are:
  - Jim Milsap, Organizing for Equal Opportunity
  - Pam James, Wellness Center
  - Pastor Newell
- Current organizing is focused on forming a core group of 20 people who commit to supporting each other as they complete construction training and apply for jobs, ideally building the Dale Street Project and other construction projects in the Frogtown and Rondo neighborhoods. As part of this initiative, participants will be engaged in identifying the barriers to participating in training programs and securing employment. All of this is being done with an eye toward long-term systems change and reducing racial disparities in employment.
- Tia's presentation generated a great deal of discussion and information exchange. Topics included:
  - Applicability of the Civil Rights Act "Section 3" requirements to transportation infrastructure projects.
  - How will minority/women hiring and DBE contracting goals be established and who will monitor progress?
  - Local hiring requirements and/or goals
  - US Dept. of Transportation open bid requirements on projects they fund.
  - Identification of Summit Academy OIC and Goodwill Easter Seals construction training resources
  - Realities of racial discrimination in employment; the need to confront racism directly as well as examine and change systems and policies that contribute to institutional racism

- Identification of barriers to employment

Patricia Brady presented information about Workforce Solutions programs and resources. She reviewed the programs, how they are organized, and how they can be accessed.

- Ramsey County has identified four priority employment sectors: construction, health, hospitality, and financial.
- A majority of services are delivered at walk-in Comprehensive Workforce Centers and affiliated sites. Centers have staff who are able to assist with computer and internet access, job searches, resume writing, and interview skill building. Workshops on various topics are also offered. There are additional supports for program eligible residents.
- How Workforce Solutions can help Frogtown and Rondo residents prepare for the work on the Dale Street Project and other similar projects:
  - Taking the long view — the Dale Street Project is just one of many opportunities
  - Understanding the industry — Workforce Solutions can help
  - Deciding what you want to do — type of job, career focus
  - Finding short term and long term training opportunities
  - Training resources
- Ms. Brady's presentation concluded toward the end of meeting and there were only a few questions and discussion items.