



Central Corridor to create 800 jobs

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Each day the Central Corridor Light Rail gets thousands of people to work and soon it could help 800 unemployed Minnesotans find work.

The Metropolitan Council wants to expand the light rail to downtown Saint Paul but can't do it without the right people.

That's where the men and the women at Summit Academy in Minneapolis come in. Many of the people who seek the non-profit organization's help have been unemployed for sometime and are looking to re-train. Summit Academy is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Met Council to make sure some of their students get in on the light rail expansion.

"What we're going to see is hopefully some great opportunities coming forth with the cement work, electricians, heavy equipment operator," Alex Tittle, education director for Summit said.

Floyd Cotton has been out of work for five years. He has eight kids he has to raise and said he hopes to be one of the cement masons who get to work on the Central Corridor Line.

"That's the foundation of the beginning of a new life for me," Cotton said.

Met Council workforce coordinator Lucas Miller said while they will help create lots of jobs the competition for the jobs will remain the same. Miller said the best thing a job candidate can do is build their resume if they want to help build the light rail.

The Met Council is hosting a career expo Nov. 12 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 110 Train Facility located at 1330 Conway St. in Saint Paul. The expo runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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