

The Skilled Construction Craft UNION

LABORER

Promoting the benefits of Union construction in MN & ND



LIUNA members casting bridge segments for the new St. Croix River Crossing project.

▶ Legislators Considering Transportation Funding as a Top Issue

Minnesota's transportation issue will again be primed as a top issue at the state capitol, but this time around there are indicators that something substantial could happen as legislators consider a deal to better fund Minnesota roads, bridges and transportation and transit essentials.

Report Shows Bigger Gap

In a November, 2015 news release the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) reported a \$16.3 billion funding shortfall in the 20 year period of 2018 to 2037. Per the report, the funding necessary to provide Minnesotans with an economically competitive transportation system over the next 20 years has increased significantly.¹ "Our planning process is thorough and objective," said MN DOT Commissioner Charlie Zelle in the report. "It is clearly indicating that the growth will not meet what we need to spend to provide a competitive system by 2037."

Half of Minnesota's Highways at Age 50

With one of the largest transportation systems in the nation, and very high rankings in commerce to uphold, the state has much to consider as half of its highways and one third of its bridges have reached an age of 50 years old. Per MN DOT, this managed inventory of aging roads and bridges faces more serious exponential deterioration, if projects are delayed or deferred. This delay can make repairs or improvements more costly and complex. Bridges built in the 1950's to the 1970's are often classified as structurally deficient, as they were relatively cheap and easy to build. But now, they have exceeded their designed life expectancy.

MN DOT Manages Efficiently

The Minnesota Department of Transportation continues doing admirable work in managing construction of the transportation system. The Department has been innovative and thorough in its research and planning and in putting forth innovative construction methods, such as the Union contractor-led Maryland

Ave. Bridge replacement project over Interstate 35E that was built adjacent to the site and rolled into place and installed.

Going forward however, MN DOT is faced with a couple of major concerns. One is the forecasted reduction of dollars available for the basic construction program which shows steep declines in the 2017-19 era. The other worry is what it takes to preserve and rebuild a more aged system. Can the department continue to do the important work of meeting the needs of a growing economy and transportation system with current revenue models? Industry advocates believe that new sources of sustained and dedicated funding are needed so that MN DOT can continue on the successful path of improving traveler safety and managing a growing system to compete in a more worldwide economy.

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March 2016 ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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Welcome New Contractors!

Emerge Construction
Fridley, MN

Prime Construction Solutions
Eden Prairie, MN

V E C Inc
Girard, OH

Window Man Service Co
Maplewood, MN

Union Contractor Milestones

- **Adolfson & Peterson Co.** recently announced that it had achieved 200 days without a lost time accident at Minnesota Security Hospital project in St. Peter, MN.
- **Bituminous Roadways, Inc.** will Celebrate their 70th Anniversary with an event on May 20, 2016.
- **Corval Group** has now reached 6 million hours without a lost time injury.
- **Ryan Companies US, Inc.** received a Teamwork, Opportunity and Partnering with Subcontractors (TOPS) award from the Minnesota Subcontractors Association.
- **Thomas and Sons Construction Inc.** and **Warning Lites of Minnesota** received the MnDOT 2015 Work Zone Safety Award in the Dynamic High Volume category for work on TH 51 and TH94.

Share your contractor milestones with Minnesota LECET today.

LECET Mission

The Minnesota Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust (LECET) fund was created in 1992 as a non-profit joint Labor/Management cooperation effort affiliated with the Minnesota Laborers Union. LECET aims to promote the many benefits of Union construction while addressing a number of initiatives that are of mutual benefit to both signatory Union Contractors and LiUNA members.

Progress in Motion Group Launches Ads

A coalition of more than 200 organizations, including the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota and the Minnesota Laborers Union, known as Progress in Motion, is advocating for the safety and effectiveness of Minnesota's transportation system through new public outreach efforts in the state. "In 2016, we are hopeful that party politics will not get in the way of supporting important new revenue that is needed for something that is so critical to Minnesota's economy and the safety of the state's drivers," said Margaret Donahoe, Executive Director of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance and co-chair of the coalition. "We have primed this issued with solid research that we need more funding for roads, bridges and transportation in general," added Donahoe. "The construction industry professionals who have the equipment and skilled Labor force are located here and ready to continue to keep Minnesota great."

Neighboring States Look to the Gas Tax

In the past three years, over 10 states have enacted gas tax increases to help pay for transportation initiatives. Area states like Iowa, South Dakota and Michigan all have approved essentially from 2 to 10 cent tax increases. The new congressional transportation bill

approved last December is a definite upgrade from the previous bill, which had been one largely made up of extensions, however the funding is likely not enough of a boost to make a significant dent in the state's projects and maintenance needs. Concerns by states over what will be made available for them from the federal government is what has led many to implement gas tax increases in the first place.

Workers and Contractors Concerns

As the industry begins recruiting the next generation work force, a lack of projects and jobs will not help the matter. Fewer projects for contractors in the heavy and highway industry, means fewer opportunities for workers as they ponder stability as an important factor when making career decisions. David Semerad, CEO of the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota, weighed in on the topic. "Contractors need a steady flow of work opportunities to help them sustain their business model," said Semerad. "Lack of revenue for a particular sector, forces contractors to look elsewhere, relocate, downsize or limit hiring and all these things are bad for the industry."

¹ *Minnesota Department of Transportation, "MnDOT reports an increase in transportation funding gap" Nov. 5, 2015.*

Water Concerns For Land of 10,000 Lakes

In a news release on January 14, 2016, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton announced a long term plan to begin the modernization of Minnesota's aging wastewater and drinking water infrastructure and also to protect groundwater from contamination.

Much like the transportation issues facing the state in regards to age and deterioration, Minnesota's precious water resources are also

an area of concern, much as the issue is nationally. Under the ground in both rural and urban communities are miles and miles of water utility infrastructure that will need improvements over the next two decades. If approved by the legislature, these are good work opportunities for Union contractors and the skilled Laborers Union members who will go in the trenches.

ANNUAL CONTRACTOR APPRECIATION

OPEN HOUSE



- Celebrating Safety and Training
- Safety Driven Contractor Awards
- Laborers Annual Award Random Drawing
- Learning and Networking Opportunity
Safety Seminar, Tours and Luncheon

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016 – 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Who will win the Arctic Cat ATV?

Seven Minnesota Laborers union member Finalists as nominated by their Union contractor employers will be invited to attend and participate in an exciting random drawing ceremony to see who will win the grand prize! All Annual Award prizes provided by Minnesota LECET in part by proceeds from the LECET Safety Driven Golf Classic. For eligibility and program rules visit: www.mnlecet.org. Open House event is for signatory Union contractor representatives and invited guests only.

Minnesota LECET Announces Scholarship/Leadership Grant Program for 2016

Minnesota Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust (LECET) is proudly providing financial assistance programs to help individuals working in or seeking a career in the construction industry.

Academic Scholarship Program Leadership Grant Program

- Scholarship Value: up to \$1,000
- Applicants must be in their second year or more at an approved institution and program with a declared major in a construction related program.
- Academic Year: 2016
- Leadership Grant Value: up to \$1,000
- Applicants must use grant assistance to further his/her leadership development training through academic course work outside of training provided by the Minnesota Laborers Training Center relating to construction management and construction site leadership.
- Applicable Period: 2016

Visit the official program website at www.mnlecet.org for more information and applications.

Applications due: May 9, 2016

Safety Driven

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

NAME	CONTRACTOR NAME
Travis Betterman	Adolfson & Peterson
John Wobschall	Alvin E Benike Inc
Jason Dvorak	Ames Construction Inc
Andy Trisco	Carl Bolander & Sons
Mike Kleinbrook	CBI Services
Patrick Ruettimann	Custom Drywall Inc
John Schleper	Donlar Construction Company
Gary King	Four Star Construction
Rashawn Cooper	Gopher State Cleaning
Michael Cherney	Jorgenson Construction Inc

Safety Driven Quarterly Award Winners 4th Quarter 2015

NAME	CONTRACTOR NAME
Sergey Kretsu	Kellington Construction Inc
Oscar Horton	Lakehead Constructors Inc
Eric Ahlstrom	Mortenson Construction
Brian Glesner	Northland Constructors
Dave Nelmark	Oscar J Boldt Construction
Louis Marcil	Ryan Companies US Inc
Johnny Fitzpatrick	S R Weidema Inc
Jeff Betow	St Paul Utilities Inc
David Kozlowski	Veit & Company Inc
Laura Morgan	Xcel Energy, Special Construction

The Many Skills of Construction

Skilled Construction Craft Laborers Union Members of MN & ND are often the first to leave because of their highly valued skills needed for the project. Laborers provide many skills for Construction, Environmental, Energy Infrastructure, High Rise Residential, Light Rail Construction and more.



Clean/General Labor



Concrete Cutting & Practices



Concrete Placement



Equipment



Fence



Flagging



Line/Grade



Mason Tending



Pipelaying



Rigging/Signaling



Scaffold Erecting



Sewer/Water

Not Shown: Asphalt placement, Abatement, Concrete Plant Worker, Erosion Control, Excavation, Fireproofing, Final Clean, Hole Watch, Material Handling, Pipe Fusion, Retaining Wall, Sound Barrier, Storm Water Pollution Prevention/SWPP, Traffic Control, Utility Installation and more.

Craft Laborers Union Members

Construction workers of the Building Trades to enter on a construction site and the last many skills in these construction sectors: Building Sector, Heavy & Highway, Industrial Construction, Concrete Plants (Precast), Pipeline, Maintenance, Public Employees and more.



Concrete Restoration



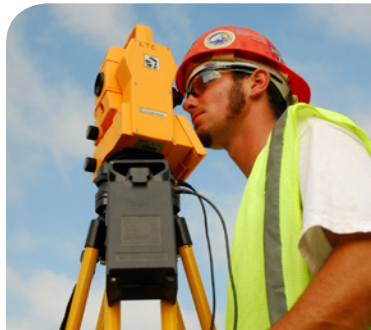
Demolition



Environmental



Foreman/Supt.



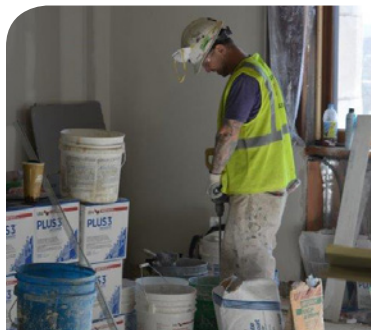
GPS/Instruments



Landscape



Pipeline



Plaster Tender



Remote Camera, Pipe Renovation



Specialty



Torch Cutting



Welding

Legislative Update

By Russell Hess, Political Coordinator of the Laborers District Council of MN & ND

With the upcoming legislative session, the Laborers District Council of MN & ND has announced its 2016 legislative priorities.

1) **Endorsement of a robust bonding bill in the amount of \$1 billion or more.** The bonding bill authorizes the state to borrow money to finance public projects throughout Minnesota. With interest rates low and the state being in a good position to bond, we are in support of maximizing this during the bonding year session of 2016 to continue asset preservation and improvements all over the state.

2) **Promotion of a long term sustained and dedicated transportation bill to meet needs of all parts of Minnesota's transportation system, including roads, bridges and**

transit across Minnesota. Included in this measure is our support for funding the Southwest Light Rail Transit line and the Bottineau LRT.

Our other job creation efforts include continued engagement with regulatory agencies and the Governor's office advocating for both the Sandpiper and Line 3 Pipeline projects proposed by Enbridge as well as the Polymet copper/nickel mine in northern Minnesota. All of those projects will create hundreds of jobs for LIUNA members.

For LIUNA members, with the upcoming elections, we are encouraging all LIUNA members and their families to register to vote and participate in this important process in electing laborer friendly candidates. If you need voting information or information

on registering to vote, please contact me at the Laborers District Council, 651-653-9776 or visit www.minnesotalaborers.org.

LIUNA members are asked to JOIN US for our Annual Laborers Day on the Hill, Wednesday, March 23, 2016! Activism matters! Bring out the Orange Crush!

Stay engaged. Activism works!
Join the Political Action Team
www.minnesotalaborers.org
Facebook: Minnesota Laborers
Twitter: MNNDLaborers

LIUNA!
BUILDS AMERICA



Join us!

Join Laborers Union members and other Building Trades Union members to show your support at the Capitol.

Annual Laborers Day on the Hill
Wednesday, March 23, 2016

WHERE: Meet at the Laborers District Council – 75 East Little Canada Road, St. Paul, MN 55117 – at 10:00 AM for a briefing of events and lunch. We will board buses for the Capitol at 11:45 AM and return at 4:00 PM.

RSVP TO: Register now at www.minnesotalaborers.org or at 651-288-6407 (leave a message 24 hours a day with your name, address, phone # and T-shirt size)

Training Calendar

(651) 653-6710



Week of March 21, 2016

Asbestos Worker Initial	Mar 21-24
General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Mar 21-25
Mason Tending	Mar 21-25
Pipelaying 1	Mar 21-25
Rigging & Signaling Qualified-24 Hr.-Duluth	Mar 21-23
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid - St. Cloud	Mar 21-25
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Mar 21-25
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program - Mankato	Mar 22
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program - Mankato	Mar 23
Plumbing Code - St. Cloud	Mar 23
Aerial Lift Training - Duluth	Mar 24
Forklift Awareness - Duluth	Mar 25

Week of March 28, 2016

General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Mar 28-Apr 01
Hazardous Waste Refresher	Mar 28
Line & Grade	Mar 28-Apr 01
Rigging & Signaling Qualified-24 Hr.-Bismarck	Mar 28-30
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Mar 28-Apr 01
Scaffold Erecting Competent Person	Mar 28-Apr 01
Torch Cutting Demo Safety	Mar 28-29
Excavation Confined Space	Mar 29
Rigging & Signaling Qualified - 8 Hr.	Mar 30
Scaffold Erecting Competent Person (Eves 5-9pm)	Mar 30-Apr 14
SWPP Installer	Mar 31
Torch Cutting Demo Safety - Bismarck	Mar 31-Apr 01
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher	Apr 01
Asbestos Worker Refresher	Apr 01
Hazardous Waste Refresher	Apr 01

Week of April 04, 2016

Blueprint Reading - St. Cloud	Apr 04-08
Concrete Practices / Insulated Forms	Apr 04-08
Lead Supervisor Initial	Apr 04-07
Pipelaying 2	Apr 04-08
Plaster Tending	Apr 04-08
Remote Camera Inspection	Apr 04-08
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Apr 04-08

Week of April 11, 2016

Blueprint Reading	Apr 11-15
Excavation Confined Space	Apr 11
General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Apr 11-15
Hazardous Waste Initial	Apr 11-15
Highway Heavy Skills/Flagging/SWPP	Apr 11-15
Line & Grade	Apr 11-15
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Apr 11-15
CPR/First Aid	Apr 12
Pro-10	Apr 13
Flagging/MNDOT	Apr 14
Plumbing Code	Apr 14
Hazardous Waste Refresher	Apr 15

Week of April 18, 2016

Asbestos Worker Initial	Apr 18-21
General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Apr 18-22
Global Positioning System	Apr 18-22
Pipelaying 1	Apr 18-22
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Apr 18-22
Safety Week/OSHA 30/MSHA 24/CPREFA - Duluth	Apr 18-22
Scaffold Erecting Competent Person-Bismarck	Apr 18-22
Torch Cutting Demo Safety (Eves 5-9pm)	Apr 18-21
Excavation Confined Space - Duluth	Apr 21
Intro to Union & Apprenticeship Program	Apr 21
Asbestos Worker Refresher	Apr 22
CPR/First Aid - Duluth	Apr 22
Hazardous Waste Refresher - Grand Rapids	Apr 22
Mine Safety & Health Admin- Duluth	Apr 23

Week of April 25, 2016

Blueprint Reading - Duluth	Apr 25-29
General Construction/Flagging/Pro-10	Apr 25-29
Line & Grade - Bismarck	Apr 25-29
Plaster Tending (Eves 5-9pm)	Apr 25-May 10
Safety Week/OSHA 30/CPR First Aid	Apr 25-29
Scaffold Erecting Competent Person	Apr 25-29
Torch Cutting Demo Safety	Apr 25-26
Rigging & Signaling Qualified - 24 Hr.	Apr 27-29

Apprentice of the Month Awards

December
Jenna Blahut

January
Maria Hennen

February
Alexis Gardner

Note: Students are reminded that all day classes begin at 7:00 AM at the LTC. Trainees must come to class dressed as if they were reporting to work at a construction site. This includes appropriate work boots, long pants, and shirt. Failure to do so can result in being asked to leave and to reschedule the class at a later date.



www.ltcmn.org

► Laborers Announce 2015 Apprenticeship Graduation Class

The Minnesota Laborers Training Center announced their 2015 Laborers Apprenticeship graduation class at a special ceremony held on February 18 at the White Bear Lake, MN Country Inn.

A total of 230 Laborers Union Member Apprentices completed the program requirements by obtaining a minimum of 288 classroom training hours at the Laborers Training Center (LTC) and completion of 4,000 field work hours over a three-year period. The required program coursework for these members included Safety Week, General Construction and the Apprenticeship Orientation. Beyond that, the members

could select from 70 program courses based on their interest and work needs.

The Laborers Apprenticeship program is a state-mandated program through the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry. The past year was another strong year in training for the LTC, as 3,700 Minnesota Laborers Union members took a total of 143,000 hours of training.

“The Laborers Training Center is very proud of the 230 members who finished their Apprenticeship requirements in the

last year,” said Dean Mills, Director of the LTC. “These skilled construction craft Laborers will have plenty of opportunity ahead of them, as our organization prepares to lead the way in building better schools and public buildings, safer roads and bridges, more reliable infrastructure, energy systems and more. These Laborers are truly going to be the builders of tomorrow.”





LABORERS UNION • UNION CONTRACTORS

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10th Anniversary

Labor Health & Benefit Fair

Health & Benefit Fair, LLC

April 2, 2016

8 am - 2 pm

Minneapolis Convention Center



Health checks



Fitness gurus



Safety and prevention



Giving back to the community



Medical and well-being experts



Kid-friendly activities

Minnesota Laborers Union members attending the 2016 Health Fair will get **1 prepaid \$20 valued Gas Card** per member to help offset travel and parking for attending the fair! To claim yours, visit the Laborers Hospitality Area on site.

For LIUNA members only: register for free prizes, enjoy food and refreshments, visit with Zenith American Solutions staff and learn about healthy member promotions, all at the Laborers Hospitality Area.

DON'T MISS IT!

Signatory Union Contractor representatives also welcome to attend.

HealthandBenefitFair.org
Facebook.com/LaborHealthandBenefitFair



Special thanks to our Diamond Sponsor:
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