

MBA E-NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3/SUMMER 2008

Welcome to the summer edition of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority's e-newsletter.

We encourage you to drive by the ballpark site in downtown Minneapolis or to take a look at the project's webcam on our homepage. It is difficult to imagine that the site was little more than a surface parking lot just over a year ago. But, thanks to the hard work and commitment of all our project partners, the ballpark is beginning to resemble the beautiful state landmark that it will be in April 2010.

Earlier this month, construction crews began installing the stunning limestone that will wrap the ballpark's exterior walls. The stone panels are designed to emulate the naturally exposed ledges visible along the Mississippi River. In addition, Mortenson Construction reports that 60% of the concrete pour is complete and the ballpark is on track to reach several **major milestones** in the coming months. When we started this project, we knew it would be complex: The ballpark is being constructed next to an active freight rail line, a freeway corridor, and the Hiawatha LRT extension that is part of the Northstar Commuter Rail project. In fact, Northstar commuters will reach the Hiawatha LRT platform using the Core Building that has been integrated into the ballpark's design, just outside of the left field corner. In the middle of all this coordination and construction activity is the MBA **Project Manager, Ed Hunter**.

Ed has a wealth of ballpark and public works experience, having worked as the Project Director for the Hiawatha LRT line from 2001-2005, and having played a key role in the building of Safeco Field in Seattle. Ed's knowledge and experience have been invaluable assets to the ballpark project team, as he understands that "challenge" is just another word for "opportunity."

Finally, we commend the Minnesota Twins and Mortenson Construction for the ongoing efforts to increase minority worker participation on the construction of the ballpark. Early in the project, the MBA engaged **Summit Academy in Minneapolis** to assist in reaching the goals, but the initial workforce results lagged behind where we all hoped they would be. We are pleased to report over the last several months the minority participation numbers have increased dramatically due in large part to Mortenson's continued resolve to reach the goals and to the expanded relationship that the company has formed with Summit Academy. We believe these efforts will have a positive and lasting community impact, long after the ballpark construction is complete.

To read more about these developments, click on the underlined words above.

Sincerely,

Steve Cramer, Chair

Dan Kenney, Executive Director

