

Good afternoon.

All throughout my nearly four years in office, we have stressed one thing when it comes to transportation: we need choices.

And with this project more than halfway done, we're even closer to delivering another transportation choice to the people of Minnesota.

And when it's all done, we will not only have this state-of-the-art facility but you'll see just how state-of-the-art the entire Hiawatha LRT project is.

My time in office is almost up, but I hope, as I watch from the private sector, that I see this project as just the first step in providing a network of light rail and commuter rail choices to all of Minnesota.

Wouldn't it be great to be able to go visit your brother in Woodbury, then hop on a train to Minneapolis for a Twins game, then zip home to Maple Grove on another line?

Maybe someday....

You heard El talk about our partners – and they truly have done some great work.

Everyone from the local contractors, to people reviewing the designs, to people working with the communities along the way, to the men and women pushing the dirt. Thank you all, very much.

You have all done a tremendous job in moving this project along.

And I can't forget all the good work that's been done by the folks at the Hiawatha Project Office over the last three years.

These are the people who are behind the scenes, they don't receive any recognition, but without them there would be no Hiawatha Light Rail project.

So thank you to *everyone* who has had a hand in this, and let's hope the next administration and the next few legislatures keep you busy for many years to come.

Thank you.