



Streetcar CURRENTS



SPECIAL PHOTO SUPPLEMENT OCTOBER – 2012 (#2)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SIEMENS LIGHT RAIL CARS

On Wednesday afternoon October 10, 2012 a special ceremony was held at Metro Transit's Target Field light rail station in Minneapolis to officially announce the arrival of LRV No. 201, the first of the Siemens light rail cars delivered for the Central Corridor light rail line, now officially called the Green Line. Siemens will eventually build 47 LRVs for Green Line service. The Green Line is scheduled to begin operating in 2014. Also announced was that the Hiawatha Line will now be called the Blue Line. When they are built, other light rail lines and bus rapid transit lines will also be given a color-coded name.

On hand for the event were about 80 people including the media, local community leaders and Metro Transit managers and staff. About five members of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum attended. After the speeches those present were afforded the opportunity to take a tour of the inside of LRV No. 201. To compare the design of the two cars No. 104, built by Bombardier for Hiawatha Line service, was parked on the adjacent platform track. Below are some photos of the event. *(All photos by Jim Vaitkunas unless otherwise indicated.)*



(Above) New Siemens LRV No. 201 is seen here approaching the Target Field station. Note the size of the center section which is larger than on the Bombardier-built cars currently running on the Blue Line. Reportedly the car rides much better than the Bombardier cars. *(Photo by Steve Glischinski)*

(Above left) Siemens LRV No. 201 glides into the Target Field station to the applause of all present. On the adjacent track is Bombardier-built LRV No. 104.



(Below left) Dignitaries abounded during the course of the short presentations. In this photo Senator **Amy Klobuchar** makes a comment that apparently amused all those present. Also attending and making comments were Minneapolis Mayor **R.T. Rybak**, St. Paul Mayor **Chris Coleman** and several other officials.



Siemens LRV No. 201 was featured at the unveiling event.



The display car on the left is the Bombardier-built LRV No. 104. This car currently runs on the Blue (Hiawatha) Line. On the right is the brand-new Siemens LRV No. 201. As you can see, the basic exterior design of the two LRVs is similar.



While the exterior and interior design of the two LRVs on display are similar, the Siemens LRV is very hi-tech and state of the art. On the left is a portion of the operator's console with a display showing the status of several of the car's operating systems. As shown on the monitor, line voltage when the photo was taken was 782 volts (DC). Note in the photos above that there are no exterior mirrors mounted on No. 201. Mirrors have been replaced by small video cameras trained down the LRV's side. The operator has a small video screen on each side of his cab that shows that side of the train.



Interior of the car was modern and clean. Note the small security camera "blisters" mounted on the ceiling. Be careful—big brother will be recording your every move. Above each door is the diagram of the Green Line listing all station stops, 23 in all on the line. The Green Line will double in length when the "Southwest Corridor" light rail line is completed from Eden Prairie. This line will connect with the rest of the light rail system at the Central Transit Center currently being built adjacent to the Target Field station. When the Southwest Corridor line is finished, Green Line cars will be through-routed on the Southwest Corridor line forming one long line stretching across the metro area.