

AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust hosts 'Worker Appreciation Lunch'

Elevate project adjoins the Southwest transit station in Eden Prairie

EDEN PRAIRIE — The construction site for Elevate at Southwest Station, a mixed-use housing and retail project scheduled to open in early September, was the scene for a "Worker Appreciation Lunch" hosted July 23 by the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust.

Elevate is yet another of the many HIT projects in the Twin Cities area investing union pension funds to finance multi-family housing development — and to create union construction jobs.

For Elevate, HIT again has partnered with Timberland Partners — the developer — and Frana Companies — the general contractor.

The approximately 80 workers on site that day were treated to a barbecue lunch and then heard from the project partners.

"We know when we do something with this group of people, it's going to be quality and it's going to last," said Ryan Sailer, vice president of development for Timberland.

"I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication," said Mike Benedict, president of Frana.

Earlier, Benedict told the *Labor Review*, "we're a union contractor; it's great we can build projects and put union pension funds to work. It's a great relationship."

"We invest money with the HIT. They go out and create projects like this," said Dan McConnell, business manager of the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council. HIT, he added is the reason the Building Trades unions have market-share in the Twin Cities' multi-family housing construction sector.

"You guys always deliver quality in a timely manner," said Paul Sommers, the HIT's regional director. "Thanks for all your hard work and we'll see you at the next project."

Earlier this year, HIT reported that its Twin Cities investments have totaled more than \$942 million in 61 projects with a total development investment of \$1.5 billion. These projects have built or preserved more than 8,910 housing units and created an estimated 15.3 million hours of union construction work.

For more information: www.aflcio-hit.com.



 Labor Review photos
For more photos from this event:
facebook.com/minneapolisunions

Photo above: Elevate at Southwest Station, financed in part by \$49.5 million in union pension funds invested by the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust. The project will create 269 union construction jobs and produce 222 units of both affordable and market-rate housing. Elevate adjoins the Southwest transit station and lies right next to the tracks for the coming Southwest light rail transit line.



Photo above: Sam Hinton, Maplewood, 15-year member of IBEW Local 110. Learning of HIT's involvement in the Elevate project: "That's not bad, investing in your own future. That's not a bad deal."



Photo above: "Did you know there's seven generations of masons between the two of us?" Left: Mike Lifka, member of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 21 from Chicago and a 3rd generation Bricklayer. Right: Scott Ratike, Glencoe, 21-year member of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 and a 4th generation Bricklayer.



Photo above: Paul Sommers, regional director for the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust (left) and Ryan Sailer, vice president of development for Timberland Partners (right).



Photo above: Mishelle Rice, Coon Rapids, 6-year member of Carpenters Local 322: "I do all the door hardware."



Photo above: The AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust hosted a barbecue lunch for the approximately 80 workers who were on site at the Elevate project July 23.