

Officials Break Ground on Development Along Green Line in St. Paul

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Officials on Tuesday broke ground on what will be one of the largest new developments along the Green Line Light Rail Transit line.

The \$54 million apartment complex is right across the street from the Westgate light rail stop in St. Paul. They're going to be called the 2700 University apartments.

There's been a big push to bring new development along this route, and city leaders and riders say this is a step in the right direction.

Harry Kim rides the light rail every day but has a bit of a walk to get there. He loves the idea of living in one of these 248 luxury apartments.

"For me, I like the closer apartments to the light rail," Kim said.

Along with a convenient location, 2700 University is equipped with tip-top amenities including a heated saltwater pool, bike shop, fitness center and even a grooming spa for pets.

"These are the types of projects that people are really looking for," St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman said.

Occupying these vacant properties was especially a priority when the Green Line was built because not everyone supported the additional route. But with a million riders a month after the first year and developments like these apartments, Jon Commers, with the Metropolitan Council, says ridership will only grow.

"Within station areas, there's a lot of interest in locating new residential areas," Commers said.

"Light rail is delivering the way we had hoped it would," Coleman said.

It's also a mixed-income building, so 20 percent of the units will be considered affordable. Rent ranges from \$669 to \$1,925.

"That combination is relatively unique," Commers said.

With so much new development across the Twin Cities, city leaders say it's St. Paul's turn, and they're going to let people know that loud and clear.

"The project is called 2700 University, but we're going to have a big old St. Paul sign right on the building so when people cross our project, they know they're in St. Paul," Ryan Cronk, vice president of development with Flaherty and Collins Properties, said.

The project will also have 3,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor, but there's still no word on what it will be filled with. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2016.



The \$54 million apartment complex is located right across the street from the Westgate light rail stop in St. Paul
Photo: Image courtesy of St. Paul