

Student Scientist Excels in Internship Position on M-1 RAIL Project



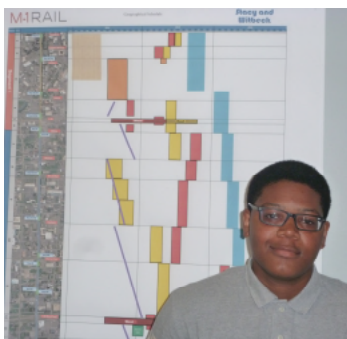
Above: Damon Rogers at M-1 Rail Downtown project office

The City of Detroit is known as the Motor City. Its transportation landscape mainly includes cars and buses. On July 28, 2014 an electric street car system was added to the City's transportation portfolio. The project, also known as M-1 RAIL System, is valued at over \$137 million and will transport over 30,000 commuters 3.3 miles along the Woodward Corridor. The M-1 RAIL streetcar connects 20 stations serving 12 locations. The construction manager for the project is Alameda, Calif.-based Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.

Similar street rail car systems have been installed in Dallas, Minneapolis, Seattle, Portland, and Salt Lake City. It is expected that the new project will spur economic development and growth in housing demand in and around Downtown Detroit.

On July 8, 2014, Damon Rogers, a student scientist in the Ecotek Lab Program and a senior at Detroit Edison Early College of Excellence started work on the M-1 RAIL project as an engineering intern. Damon secured the position after going through a rigorous interview process that was conducted by the hiring managers and project engineers. Since joining the project team he has participated in a wide variety of project activities. For example, during the planning phase of the M-1 RAIL project Damon assisted in the preparation and review of project schedules, project budgets, and resource schedules. He also spent time learning about project management best practices utilized by engineers at the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Now that the construction phase of the M-1 RAIL project has started, Damon is spending more time working with engineers to perform onsite inspections.

Working on the M-1 RAIL Project has prepared Damon for a career in civil engineering. It has given him an inside view of how large scale projects are managed. It has also been a great resume builder. His research work in Ecotek Lab (e.g. bridge design, construction of a water purification systems, material science, power systems), coupled with his field experience at the National Earthquake Engineering Center at the University of Buffalo in June 2013, has given him the right balance of skills and confidence to be a productive member of the M-1 RAIL engineering team and future leader in the City of Detroit.



Damon Rogers at M-1RAIL project office standing near rail station deployment schedule



Damon Rogers at M-1 RAIL in project office standing near aerial view of rail system



Damon Rogers and Nicole Brown (M-1 RAIL Program Director) meeting with archeologist to discuss ways to preserve key artifacts along the train route

About the Ecotek Science Program

Ecotek is a science research lab program for young inventors and researchers in grades 5 thru 12. Student scientists work on projects aligned with the issues being addressed by world leaders at the United Nations. To learn more about Ecotek Lab go to <http://www.ecotek-us.com>