

## Community Development Committee

Meeting date: February 16, 2016

**Subject:** Southwest Light Rail Transit Community Works Corridor-wide Housing Strategy

**District(s), Member(s):** 3 – Jennifer Munt, 5 – Steve Elkins, 6 – Gail Dorfman

**Policy/Legal Reference:** 2040 Housing Policy Plan, 2040 Transportation Policy Plan

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Tara Beard, AICP, Housing Policy Analyst, (651) 602-1051

**Division/Department:** Community Development/Regional Policy and Research

### Proposed Action

Information item only.

### Background

For over twenty years Hennepin County has partnered with cities and other stakeholders to make quality investments that leverage key corridors in Hennepin County. In 2010 the county designated the Green Line Extension (then called Southwest Light Rail Transit) as such a corridor, creating Southwest LRT Community Works. Two years later a dedicated group of housing staff from the partnership's member cities and other stakeholders, including the Metropolitan Council, began developing a corridor-wide housing strategy along the Green Line Extension.

The guiding principle behind the housing strategy is to provide “a full range of housing choices – positioning the Southwest LRT communities as a place for all to live.” Acknowledging that each community along the corridor has different housing characteristics, policies, and priorities, partners along the corridor recognize that a collaborative approach has many benefits, including:

- Strengthened economic competitiveness
- Support for affordable housing along a major transit investment
- Efficient use of resources
- Sustaining the Green Line Extension's New Starts score

In January 2016 the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee accepted the final version of the Southwest Corridor Housing Strategy.

Council staff have participated in the Southwest LRT Community Works housing group since 2012. Collaboration with cities and other stakeholders that are invested in the housing challenges and opportunities along this major transportation investment was a valuable asset in the development the *2040 Housing Policy Plan*. Similarly, communities along the corridor recognized the importance of aligning efforts toward a corridor-wide housing strategy with their individual housing policies and responsibilities reviewed by the Council in the housing elements and implementation plans of their 2040 Comprehensive Plan Updates.

At the Community Development Committee meeting, staff from Hennepin County and Urban Land Institute Minnesota will present the final Southwest Corridor Housing Strategy and share more of the background, objectives, and implementation steps that will guide the future work of this important collaborative.