

Transportation Committee

May 14, 2018













Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- The SEA is a federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, which evaluates the significance and the potential impacts of proposed project changes made after the 2016 Record of Decision
- Preparation of an SEA includes a public input process
- Under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), the SEA will serve as the state environmental document to evaluate the proposed changes to the project since 2016



SEA/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

- Evaluated ten proposed changes to Project design since the 2016 Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision
- Analyzed whether there have been significant changes to the proposed action, affected environment, and anticipated impacts or the proposed mitigation measures required
- The SEA will be used by the Met Council to reach an informed and appropriate decision whether to issue a Negative Declaration for the proposed project revisions (pursuant to Minnesota Rules, part 4410.1700) or that a Supplemental EIS is warranted



Key Dates

- Feb 23: Published SEA/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
- March 22: Held Community Town Hall held
- April 9, 2018: Public comment period closed
 - Received 32 comments



SEA Topics

- Parcel 322A parking impact near Opus Station
- Minnehaha Creek headwall
- Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail Detour
- 31st Street realignment
- Grand Rounds Historic District: Kenilworth Lagoon Works Progress Administration (WPA) rustic style retaining walls rehabilitation and landscaping
- Right-of-way adjustment near West 21st Street Station

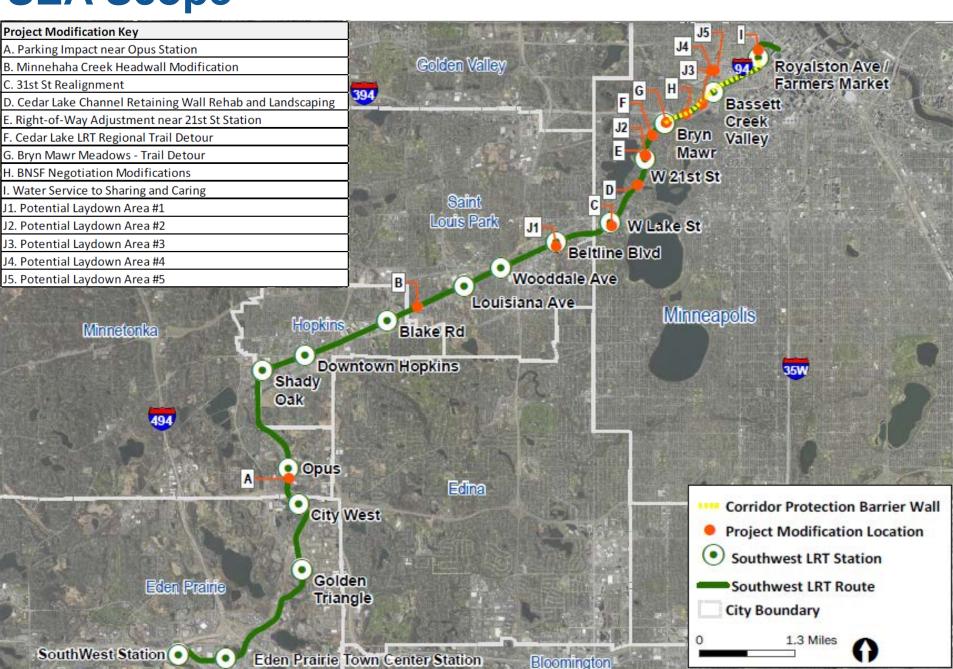


SEA Topics

- BNSF negotiation modifications
- Bryn Mawr Meadows trail mitigation
- Water service to Sharing and Caring Hands
- New potential construction laydown areas



SEA Scope



Corridor Protection Wall Visualization



Note: Planned trees not shown



Cedar Lake Channel Visualization





Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

- To mitigate the Project's impacts on the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba / Great Northern Railway Historic District, several measures have been identified:
 - Designing the Project modifications to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards to the extent feasible
 - Preparing a Minnesota Historic Property Record for portions of the district
 - Incorporating interpretive elements into the Project



Decision Background:

- Four factors considered and documented in the Findings of Facts and Conclusions document:
 - Type, extent, and reversibility of environmental effects
 - Cumulative potential effects
 - Mitigation measures
 - Extent to which environmental effects can be anticipated and controlled



Rationale:

- The Council finds that an EIS is not necessary for the proposed Project modifications based on the following factors:
 - All requirements for environmental review of the proposed project have been met
 - Information is adequate to determine whether the Project has the potential for significant environmental effects
 - Potential environmental effects identified have been addressed by mitigation measures
 - Based on the criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 4410.1700, the project does not have the potential for significant environmental effects



Recommendation:

- That the Metropolitan Council determines the Project changes reviewed in the Supplemental Environmental Assessment do not have the potential for significant environmental effects; and
- Authorizes its Chair to sign the Findings of Fact and Conclusions on behalf of the Council in support of the decision that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is not required



More Information

Online:

www.SWLRT.org

Email:

SWLRT@metrotransit.org

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/southwestlrt

