

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
DETERMINATION OF ADEQUACY**

**SOUTHWEST LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT (METRO GREEN LINE EXTENSION)
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the lead federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Metropolitan Council (Council), the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, published a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project (Project) (METRO Green Line Extension) in May 2016. Notification of Availability of the Southwest LRT Final EIS for public and agency review was published in the *Federal Register* on May 13, 2016, and in the Minnesota *EQB Monitor* on May 16, 2016. The Final EIS was also available for public review at the Southwest LRT Project Office in St. Louis Park and at city halls and libraries in Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis, and the Metropolitan Council Library. The FTA's Record of Decision (ROD) was issued on July 15, 2016. The Final EIS and ROD are incorporated herein as part of this Determination of Adequacy.

The Project is the construction of approximately 14.5 miles of new LRT double-track extending the METRO Green Line (Central Corridor LRT), which will operate from downtown Minneapolis through the communities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, passing in close proximity to Edina. The Project will operate primarily at-grade and with structures providing grade separation of LRT crossings, roadways, and water bodies at specific locations. There will be 16 new light rail stations (including the Eden Prairie Town Center Station, which is deferred for construction to a later date) along the line, and a light rail operations and maintenance facility will be constructed in the City of Hopkins. The Project is described in Section 2.6.1 of the ROD and Chapter 2 and Appendix E of the Final EIS.

DETERMINATION OF ADEQUACY

Chapter 4410 of the Minnesota Rules requires the Council, as RGU, to determine the adequacy of the Final EIS for the Southwest LRT Project. The Council has determined that the Final EIS is adequate under Minnesota Rule 4410.2800, subp. 4. Rule 4410.2800 sets the following standard for determining if a Final EIS is adequate:

Subp. 4. Conditions. The final EIS shall be determined adequate if it:

- A. addresses the potentially significant issues and alternatives raised in scoping so that all significant issues for which information can be reasonably obtained have been analyzed in conformance with part 4410.2300, items G and H;
- B. provides responses to the substantive comments received during the draft EIS review concerning issues raised in scoping; and
- C. was prepared in compliance with the procedures of the act and parts 4410.0200 to 4410.6500.

In making this Determination of Adequacy, the Council applied the criteria found in part 4410.2800, subp. 4, and finds that:

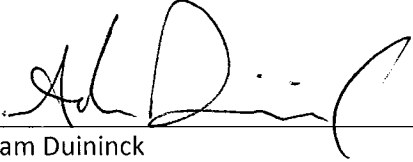
1. The Final EIS addresses all potentially significant issues and alternatives identified during scoping. All significant issues for which information could reasonably be obtained have been analyzed in conformance with Minnesota Rules, part 4410.2300, items G and H. The analysis in the Final EIS addresses long-term and short-term (construction) direct and indirect impacts, as well as cumulative impacts related to the Project. The ROD provides FTA's decision for the Project, and the Council concurs with the ROD. Table 3-1 of the ROD summarizes the long-term and short-term impacts to

environmental and transportation-related resources that will result from the Project. Specific mitigation measures for impacts from the Project are in Attachment A of the ROD.

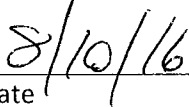
2. The Final EIS provides responses to all substantive comments received during the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS public comment periods. Appendices L and M of the Final EIS contain all comments received during the public comment periods on the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS, respectively, and responses to these comments.
3. The Final EIS was prepared in compliance with the procedures of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116D, and with Minnesota Rules parts 4410.0200 to 4410.6500.

Additionally, during the public comment on the Final EIS, the Council received 50 letters or other communications with comments. The comments included support for and opposition to the Project, comments about the sufficiency of the analysis and mitigation included in the Final EIS, and comments on the adequacy of the Final EIS. While Minnesota Rule 4410.2800 does not require an RGU to respond to comments on the Final EIS, the Council did review and consider the comments received on the adequacy of the Final EIS as part of this Determination of Adequacy. The comments received are included in Attachment C of the ROD and responses to comments received are found in Attachment D of the ROD.

As a result of these findings, and based on the Project's ROD and administrative record, the Council has determined the Final EIS for the Southwest LRT Project is adequate under the State of Minnesota's environmental review process. This Determination of Adequacy concludes the Minnesota environmental review process.



Adam Duininck
Chair
Metropolitan Council



Date