Appendix G Public Notices

Draft EIS Notices and Public Hearings

Notice of EIS Preparation, Project Title: Southwest Transitway, Minnesota *Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Monitor*, Vol. 32, No. 18. September 8, 2008.

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Southwest Transitway Project In Hennepin County, Minnesota, *Federal Register*, Vol. 73 No. 185. September 23, 2008. Announces Scoping Meetings/Public Hearings held on October 7, 2008, October 14, 2008, and October 23, 2008.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Scoping Meetings/Hearings Report. *Finance & Commerce*. November 8, 2008.

Notice of Availability for EIS No. 20120320, Draft EIS Southwest Transitway Construction and Operation Light Rail Transit, Hennepin County, Minnesota, *Federal Register*, Vol. 77, No. 198. October 12, 2012.

Notice of Scoping Amendment, Public Hearings and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Availability for the Southwest Transitway Project, Hennepin County, *EQB Monitor*, Vol 36, No 21. October 15, 2012. Announces Public Hearings held on November 13, 2012, November 14, 2012, and November 29, 2012.

Supplemental Draft EIS Notices and Public Hearings

Notice of Supplemental Draft EIS Preparation, Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (formerly referred to as the Southwest Transitway), *EQB Monitor* Vol. 37, No. 15. July 22, 2013.

Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest Light Rail Transit Extension Project (Formerly Referred to as the Southwest Transitway), *Federal Register*, Vol. 78, No. 140. July 22, 2013.

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability for EIS No. 20150132, Draft Supplement Southwest Light Rail Transit (Metro Green Line Extension). *Federal Register,* Vol 80, No. 99. May 22, 2015.

Notice of Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Southwest Light Rail Transit (Metro Green Line Extension), *EQB Monitor*, Vol. 39, No. 11. May 25, 2015. Announces public open houses and hearings held on June 16, 2015, June 17, 2015, and June 18, 2015.

Section 4(f)

Notice of Availability of Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation, *Federal Register*, Vol. 81, No. 6. January 11, 2016.

Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation Available, *EQB Monitor* Vol. 40, No. 2. January 11, 2016.

Other Public Meetings

Operation and Maintenance Facility Site Selection, Public Open Houses, May 2013.

Freight Rail Issues, Public Open Houses, June 2013.

Light Rail Transit Station Locations, Public Open Houses, June 2013.

Freight Rail Issues, Public Community Meetings, July 2013.

Southwest Light Rail Transit Recommendations for the Minneapolis Segment, Public Open House, October 2013.

Southwest Light Rail Transit Studies in the Kenilworth Corridor, Town Hall/Community Meetings, January 2014.

Draft Results of the Southwest Light Rail Transit Studies in the Kenilworth Corridor, Town Hall/Community Meetings, February 2014.

Southwest Light Rail Transit Station Design, Community Open Houses, April 2015.

Kenilworth Landscape Design Project, *Be a Part of the Project by Participating in an Interactive Community Workshop*, Community Workshop #1, June 13, 2015.

Kenilworth Landscape Design Project, *Review Proposed Concepts*, Community Workshop #2, August 8, 2015.

Kenilworth Landscape Design Project, *Review Design Recommendations*, Community Meeting, November 18, 2015.

Draft EIS Notices and Public Hearings





Publication Date: September 8, 2008 Vol. 32, No.18 Next Publication: September 22, 2008 Submittal Deadline: September 15, 2008

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: October 8, 2008

New EAW Form & AUAR Guidance Now Posted

The EQB has posted revised versions of the EAW form and the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) process guidance at its website. These versions supersede all previous versions and should now be used when initiating an EAW or AUAR (except for feedlots EAWs which have their own custom form). The new EAW form and AUAR guidance can be accessed and downloaded from: <u>www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnvRevGuidanceDocuments.htm</u>. The EAW form is available in two formats: as an rtf file for electronic preparation or as a pdf file that can be printed and filled out as a paper form.

The guidance document *EAW Guidelines* has not been updated at this time. Although some of its content is outdated, that document (February 2000 edition) still contains useful information and should be consulted when completing the EAW form. It is available at the same website location as the EAW form. An updated version is planned to accompany the next revision of the EAW form (date uncertain).

Any questions about the new form or guidance should be directed to the EQB staff at 651-201-2492.

The *EQB Monitor* is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The *EQB Monitor* is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <u>http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/</u>.

Upon request, the *EQB Monitor* will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information on the *EQB Monitor*, contact: Minnesota Environmental Quality Board 658 Cedar St., 300 Centennial Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155-1388 Phone: 651-201-2480 Fax: 651-296-3698 http://www.eqb.state.mn.us review requirements for the project. The DNR and USACE invite comments on the proposed EIS scope during the 30-day scoping period that concludes Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at 4:30 p.m.

The DNR will hold a public scoping meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Nashwauk-Keewatin High School, 400 Second Street, Nashwauk, Minnesota.

Public review copies of the Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document have been placed at the following locations:

DNR Library	DNR Regional Headquarters
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul	1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids
Duluth Public Library	Minneapolis Public Library – Technology and Science
520 West Superior Street, Duluth	250 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis

Hibbing Public Library 2020 E 5th Avenue, Hibbing

Keewatin Public Library 125 3rd Avenue West, Keewatin

The Scoping EAW/Draft Scoping Decision Document can also be viewed on DNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/keetac/index.html.

Please address any comments to the contact below, or send an email to <u>environmental.review@dnr.state.mn.us</u>. Please include the words, "Keetac Mine Expansion Project" in the subject line of the email. All emails should include a name and legal mailing address.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person:

Erik Carlson Principal Planner Environmental Policy and Review Unit MN Department of Natural Resources Division of Ecological Services 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25 St. Paul, MN 55155-4025 Phone: 651-259-5162 Fax: 651-297-1500

NOTICE OF EIS PREPARATION

Project Title: Southwest Transitway

Description: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) are planning to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Southwest Transitway Project, a 14-mile corridor of transportation improvements that links Eden Prairie, Minnetonka,

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Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis neighborhoods and downtown Minneapolis. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) as well as provisions of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The purpose of this Notice of Intent (NOI) is to alert interested parties regarding the plan to prepare the EIS to provide information on the nature of the proposed transit project, to invite participation in the EIS process, including comments on the scope of the EIS, including the project purpose and need, the alternatives to be studied, and the potential social, economic, environmental and transportation impacts to be evaluated.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS by all interested individuals and organizations, public agencies, and Native American Tribes on the scope of the EIS, including the purpose and need for the proposed action; alternatives that may be less costly or have less environmental or community impacts while achieving similar transportation objectives; and the identification of any significant social, economic, or environmental issues relating to the alternatives are invited. Public scoping meetings will be held to accept comments on the scope of the EIS. The scoping meetings will be composed of a one hour public open house followed by a formal public hearing hosted by the HCRRA and will be held at the following locations on the following dates:

Tuesday, October 7, 2008 2:00 PM open house 3:00 PM public hearing Hennepin County Government Center 300 South 6th Street Minneapolis, MN 55487 Tuesday October 14, 2008 5:00 PM open house 6:00 PM public hearing St. Louis Park City Hall 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Thursday, October 23, 2008 5:00 PM open house 6:00 PM public hearing Eden Prairie City Hall 8080 Mitchell Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344

The locations for all scoping meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual who requires special assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, to participate in a scoping meeting should contact Ms. Katie Walker, AICP, Transit Project Manager, Hennepin County, Housing, Community Works & Transit, 417 North 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401, Telephone: (612) 348-9260; e-mail: Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us. Requests for special assistance should be made two weeks in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Scoping materials will be available at the meetings and are available by clicking on the Southwest Transitway Web site at www.southwesttransitway.org. Hard copies of the scoping materials are available from Ms. Katie Walker, AICP, at the 417 North 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401, Telephone: (612) 348-2190; e-mail: Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us. An interagency scoping meeting will be scheduled with agencies having an interest in the proposed project.

In addition to receiving comments at the public hearings, the public may submit comments by e-mail, mail, fax, or via the Web site.

ADDRESSES:

WRITTEN COMMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO: Ms. Katie Walker, AICP, Transit Project Manager, Hennepin County, Housing, Community Works & Transit, 417 North 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN



55401, Telephone: (612) 348-2190; e-mail: <u>Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us</u>.,; Fax: (612) 348-9710; or can be made at <www.southwesttransitway.org>. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on November 7, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mr. David Werner at FTA, Region V, 300 West Adams Street, Suite 320, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Telephone: (312) 353-2789; e-mail: <u>David.Werner@dot.gov</u>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Proposed Project would provide for transit improvements within the Southwest Corridor, which extends approximately 14 miles from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie through St. Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka. The proposed project was the subject of an Alternatives Analysis (AA), which recommended three light rail transit (LRT) alternatives and one Enhanced Bus alternative for inclusion in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposed project would provide high-frequency (7.5 minute peak), bi-directional transit service 20 hours per day seven days per week. Stations are proposed at ½ to 1 mile intervals providing service to key activity centers including, but not limited to, downtown Minneapolis, the new Twins Baseball Stadium, the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Convention Center, Eat Street, Uptown, Calhoun Village/Commons, Methodist Hospital, Excelsior/Grand, Cargill, SuperValu, Opus, Golden Triangle, and the Eden Prairie Center Mall.

Purpose and Need for the Project

The intent of the Southwest Transitway Project is to improve mobility, further develop multi-modal options, and increase transportation choices for the traveling public. The overall goals of the proposed project are to: (1) improve mobility; (2) provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; (3) protect the environment; (4) preserve and protect the quality of life in the study area and the region; and, (5) support economic development.

The Southwest Transitway was first identified as a potential transitway in the mid-1980s reflecting the projected strong growth for this area by the Metropolitan Council. Since the mid-1980s numerous studies by the Metropolitan Council, Mn/DOT, and Hennepin County have documented the transportation needs of the study area. These studies are available for review at the Southwest Transitway Web site <<www.southwesttransitway.org> The Southwest Transitway is identified in the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) as a Tier 2 transitway.

With Southwest Transitway communities projected to encompass 25 percent of the regional employment base by 2030, the Twin Cities region needs to maintain the ability to travel to, from, and through Southwest Transitway communities efficiently, and at acceptable cost. The six communities that make up the Southwest Transitway study area need to accommodate additional transportation capacity while preserving the corridor's business advantages, environmental features, and quality of life for residents.

Additional considerations supporting the project's need include:

Declining mobility is being experienced by residents, workers and visitors to the study area. This is caused by travel resulting from the high employment and residential growth of the area, which is outstripping the capacity of the existing transportation system. Currently 27 percent of all regional trips begin or end in the corridor and 65 percent of the trips generated within the corridor stay in the corridor. The study area includes two of the region's largest employment centers, downtown Minneapolis with over 140,000 jobs, and Golden Triangle with over 50,000 jobs. Travel on area roadways has increased by 80 to 150 percent over the past 25 years. This has led to increasing congestion with no plans by the state, region or county to significantly expand the roadway system. The area is projected to continue to grow with a significant portion of the 1 million people and 500,000 jobs the region expects to add by 2030 locating within the study area.

Competitive, reliable transit options are not available for many study area choice riders and transit dependent

persons. Due to congested roadways and circuitous roadway networks, it is difficult to provide the significant travel time advantages that would attract choice riders to the transit system and to adequately serve transit-dependent people living in and around downtown Minneapolis attempting to access the growing job base in the study area. The study area roadway network is oriented north-south/east-west where development patterns have radiated outward from downtown Minneapolis on a diagonal. The number of transit-dependent people is growing in the study area, primarily in and around downtown Minneapolis. The roadway network through these neighborhoods is circuitous and has many one-way streets.

Alternatives to be Considered

After a two-year study of transit alternatives, three light rail transit routes (Build Alternatives) have been identified for further evaluation in the EIS to determine which would best serve the study area. Other alternatives currently under consideration include a future No-Build Alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative, also known as Enhanced Bus.

Build Alternatives to be Considered

Light Rail Transit 1A: This alternative would operate from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie (TH 5) via an extension of the Hiawatha LRT tracks on 5th Street past the downtown Minneapolis Intermodal Station to Royalston Avenue to the Kenilworth Corridor through Minneapolis and the HCRRA property through St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie terminating at TH 5 and the HCRRA's property. Stations are proposed at Royalston Ave., Van White Blvd., Penn Ave., 21st St., West Lake St., Beltline Blvd., Wooddale Ave., Louisiana Ave., Blake Rd. downtown Hopkins, Shady Oak Rd., Rowland Rd., TH 62, and TH 5.

Light Rail Transit 3A: This alternative would operate from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie (Mitchell Road/TH 5) via an extension of the Hiawatha LRT tracks on 5th Street past the downtown Minneapolis Intermodal Station to Royalston Avenue to the Kenilworth Corridor through Minneapolis, the HCRRA property in St. Louis Park and Hopkins, to new right-of-way through the Opus/Golden Triangle area, the Eden Prairie Major Center area terminating at TH 5 and Mitchell Road. Stations are proposed at Royalston Ave., Van White Blvd., Penn Ave., 21st St., West Lake St., Beltline Blvd. Wooddale Ave., Louisiana Ave., Blake Rd., downtown Hopkins, Shady Oak Rd., Opus, City West, Golden Triangle, Eden Prairie Town Center, SouthWest Station, and Mitchell Rd.

Light Rail Transit 3C: This alternative would operate from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie (Mitchell Road/TH 5) via Nicollet Mall to Nicollet Avenue (tunnel from Franklin Avenue to 28th Street), the Midtown Corridor through Minneapolis, the HCRRA property in St. Louis Park and Hopkins, to new right-of-way through the Opus/Golden Triangle, the Eden Prairie Major Center area terminating at TH 5 and Mitchell Road. Stations are proposed at 4th St., 8th St., 12th St., Franklin Ave., 28th St., Lyndale Ave., Hennepin Ave., West Lake St., Beltline Blvd., Wooddale Ave., Louisiana Ave., Blake Rd., downtown Hopkins, Shady Oak Rd., Opus, City West, Golden Triangle, Eden Prairie Town Center, SouthWest Station, and Mitchell Rd.

No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative contemplates roadway and transit facility and service improvements (other than the proposed project) planned, programmed and included in the Financially Constrained Regional Transportation Policy Plan to be implemented by the Year 2030. It includes minor transit service expansions and/or adjustments that reflect a continuation of existing service policies as identified by the Metropolitan Council. The No-Build Alternative serves as the NEPA baseline against which environmental effects of other alternatives, including the proposed project, will be measured.

Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative

The TSM Alternative (Enhanced Bus) is designed to provide lower cost, operationally-oriented improvements to address the project's purpose and need as much as possible without a major transit investment. It includes minor modifications to the existing express service, and would augment Metro Transit and SouthWest Transit service between Minneapolis and Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, and St. Louis Park. This alternative will serve as the New Starts Baseline against which the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project will be measured, and includes improvements identified in the No-Build Alternative.

In addition to the above described alternatives, other additional reasonable transit alternatives identified through the scoping process that provide similar transportation benefits while reducing or avoiding adverse impacts will be evaluated for potential inclusion in the EIS. Because of the sensitive adjacent land uses located in many parts of this corridor, all alternatives will need to consider a full range of design and mitigation solutions to enlist the support of local communities for the completion of this line.

Probable Effects

The EIS Process and the Role of Participating Agencies and the Public

The purpose of the EIS process is to explore in a public setting the effects of the proposed project and its alternatives on the physical, human, and natural environment. The FTA and the HCRRA will evaluate all significant environmental, social, and economic impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed project. Impact areas to be addressed include: transportation; land use, zoning, and economic development; secondary development; land acquisition, displacements, and relocations; cultural resource, including impacts on historical and archaeological resources and parklands/recreation areas; neighborhood compatibility and environmental justice; natural resource impacts including air quality, wetlands, water resources, noise, vibration; energy use; safety and security; wildlife and ecosystems, including endangered species. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate all adverse impacts will be identified and evaluated.

Regulations implementing NEPA, as well as provisions of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), call for public involvement in the EIS process. Section 6002 of SAFETEAU-LU requires that FTA and the HCRRA do the following: (1) Extend an invitation to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project to become ``participating agencies," (2) provide an opportunity for involvement by participating agencies and the public in helping to define the purpose and need for a proposed project, as well as the range of alternatives for consideration in the EIS, and (3) establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation in, and comment on, the environmental review process. An invitation to become a participating agencies and Native American tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project. It is possible that FTA and the HCRRA will not be able to identify all Federal and non-Federal agencies and tribes that may have such an interest. Any Federal or non-Federal agency or tribe interested in the proposed project that does not receive an invitation to become a participating agency should notify, at the earliest opportunity, the Project Manager identified above under ADDRESSES.

A comprehensive public involvement program will be developed and a Coordination Plan for public and interagency involvement will be created and posted on the project Web site at <www.southwesttransitway.org>.

The public involvement program includes a full range of involvement activities including the project Web site (referenced above); outreach to local officials, community and civic groups, and the public; and development and distribution of project newsletters. Specific mechanisms for involvement will be detailed in the public involvement program.

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The public and participating agencies are invited to consider and comment on this preliminary statement of the purpose and need for the proposed Southwest Transitway project. Suggestions for modifications to the statement of purpose and need for the proposed project are welcome and will be given serious consideration. Comments on potentially significant environmental impacts that may be associated with the proposed project and alternatives are also welcome. There will be additional opportunities to participate in the scoping process at the public meetings announced in this notice.

The HCRRA will be seeking New Starts funding for the proposed project under 49 U.S.C. 5309 and, therefore, will be subject to New Starts regulations (49 CFR Part 611). The New Starts regulation requires a planning Alternatives Analysis that leads to the selection of a locally preferred alternative and the inclusion of the locally preferred alternative as part of the long-range transportation plan adopted by the Metropolitan Council. The New Starts regulation also requires the submission of certain project-justification information in support of a request to initiate preliminary engineering, and this information is normally developed in conjunction with the NEPA process. Pertinent New Starts evaluation criteria will be included in the Final EIS.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and with the FTA/Federal Highway Administration regulations ``Environmental Impact and Related Procedures" (23 CFR part 771). In accordance with 23 CFR 771.105(a) and 771.133, FTA will comply with all Federal environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders applicable to the proposed project during the environmental review process to the maximum extent practicable. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the environmental and public hearing provisions of Federal transit laws (49 U.S.C. 5301(e), 5323(b), and 5324), the project-level air quality conformity regulation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (40 CFR part 93), the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of EPA (40 CFR part 230), the regulation implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800), the regulation implementing Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR part 402), Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (23 CFR 771.135), and Executive Orders 12898 on environmental justice, 11988 on floodplain management, and 11990 on wetlands.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING and ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AVAILABILITY FOR THE WEST BELTLINE PROJECT

Steele County

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at 7:15 p.m. on September 23 2008 at the Steele County Boardroom located at 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting is to gather public comments regarding the construction of CSAH 7/39th Avenue/West Beltline project in western Owatonna.

The Public Hearing will be held within a 30-day comment period for the Environment Assessment (EA). The comment period begins on September 8, 2008 and ends on October 8, 2008. The EA will be available for viewing at the following locations:

http://www.co.steele.mn.us/ENGIN/engin.html

Steele County Highway Department Steele County Annex 635 Florence Avenue Owatonna, MN 55060 Owatonna Public Library 105 North Elm Avenue Owatonna, MN 55060 of American Statistical Association, June 1971). A 1964 California Driver Record Study prepared by the California Department of Motor Vehicles concluded that the best overall crash predictor for both concurrent and nonconcurrent events is the number of single convictions. This study used 3 consecutive years of data, comparing the experiences of drivers in the first 2 years with their experiences in the final year.

Applying principles from these studies to the past 3-year record of the 23 applicants, two of the applicants had a traffic violation for speeding, one of the applicants had a traffic violation for failure unsafe lane changes, one of the applicants had a traffic violation for following another vehicle too closely, and four of the applicants were involved in crashes. The applicants achieved this record of safety while driving with their vision impairment, demonstrating the likelihood that they have adapted their driving skills to accommodate their condition. As the applicants' ample driving histories with their vision deficiencies are good predictors of future performance, FMCSA concludes their ability to drive safely can be projected into the future.

We believe the applicants' intrastate driving experience and history provide an adequate basis for predicting their ability to drive safely in interstate commerce. Intrastate driving, like interstate operations, involves substantial driving on highways on the interstate system and on other roads built to interstate standards. Moreover, driving in congested urban areas exposes the driver to more pedestrian and vehicular traffic than exists on interstate highways. Faster reaction to traffic and traffic signals is generally required because distances between them are more compact. These conditions tax visual capacity and driver response just as intensely as interstate driving conditions. The veteran drivers in this proceeding have operated CMVs safely under those conditions for at least 3 years, most for much longer. Their experience and driving records lead us to believe that each applicant is capable of operating in interstate commerce as safely as he/she has been performing in intrastate commerce. Consequently, FMCSA finds that exempting these applicants from the vision standard in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption. For this reason, the Agency is granting the exemptions for the 2-year period allowed by 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to 67 of the 23 applicants listed in the notice of August 12, 2008 (73 FR 46973).

We recognize that the vision of an applicant may change and affect his/her ability to operate a CMV as safely as in the past. As a condition of the exemption, therefore, FMCSA will impose requirements on the 23 individuals consistent with the grandfathering provisions applied to drivers who participated in the Agency's vision waiver program.

Those requirements are found at 49 CFR 391.64(b) and include the following: (1) That each individual be physically examined every year (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the standard in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and (b) by a medical examiner who attests that the individual is otherwise physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; (2) that each individual provide a copy of the ophthalmologist's or optometrist's report to the medical examiner at the time of the annual medical examination; and (3) that each individual provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file, or keep a copy in his/her driver's qualification file if he/she is selfemployed. The driver must also have a copy of the certification when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official.

Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received one comment in this proceeding. The comment was considered and discussed below.

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates) expressed opposition to FMCSA's policy to grant exemptions from the FMCSRs, including the driver qualification standards. Specifically, Advocates: (1) objects to the manner in which FMCSA presents driver information to the public and makes safety determinations; (2) objects to the Agency's reliance on conclusions drawn from the vision waiver program; (3) claims the Agency has misinterpreted statutory language on the granting of exemptions (49 Ŭ.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315); and finally (4) suggests that a 1999 Supreme Court decision affects the legal validity of vision exemptions.

The issues raised by Advocates were addressed at length in 64 FR 51568 (September 23, 1999), 64 FR 66962 (November 30, 1999), 64 FR 69586 (December 13, 1999), 65 FR 159 (January 3, 2000), 65 FR 57230 (September 21, 2000), and 66 FR 13825 (March 7, 2001). We will not address these points again here, but refer interested parties to those earlier discussions.

Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 23 exemption applications, FMCSA exempts, William C. Ball, Terrence L. Benning, Rickie L. Boone, Robert S. Bowen, Dennis R. Buszkiewicz, Larry T. Byrley, Robert J. Clarke, Eldon D. Cochran, Alfred A. Constantino, James R. Corley, Larry D. Curry, Brian F. Denning, Michael W. Dillard, Kelly M. Greene, Sammy K. Hines, John H. Holmberg, Gary R. Lomen, Leonardo Lopez, Jr., Jeffrey F. Meier, James G. Mitchell, Billy R. Pierce, James A. Rapp, and Thomas P. Shank from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), subject to the requirements cited above (49 CFR 391.64(b)).

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if: (1) The person fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was maintained before it was granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136 and 31315.

If the exemption is still effective at the end of the 2-year period, the person may apply to FMCSA for a renewal under procedures in effect at that time.

Issued on: September 17, 2008.

Larry W. Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy and Program Development. [FR Doc. E8–22226 Filed 9–22–08; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Southwest Transitway Project in Hennepin, Minnesota

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Southwest Transitway Project in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) are planning to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Southwest Transitway Project, a 14-mile corridor of transportation improvements that links Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis neighborhoods and downtown Minneapolis. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) as well as provisions of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU). The purpose of this Notice of Intent (NOI) is to alert interested parties regarding the plan to prepare the EIS to provide information on the nature of the proposed transit project, to invite participation in the EIS process, including comments on the scope of the EIS, including the project purpose and need, the alternatives to be studied, and the potential social, economic, environmental and transportation impacts to be evaluated. **DATES:** Written comments on the scope

of the EIS by all interested individuals and organizations, public agencies, and Native American Tribes on the scope of the EIS, including the purpose and need for the proposed action; alternatives that may be less costly or have less environmental or community impacts while achieving similar transportation objectives; and the identification of any significant social, economic, or environmental issues relating to the alternatives are invited. Public scoping meetings will be held to accept comments on the scope of the EIS. The scoping meetings will be composed of a one hour public open house followed by a formal public hearing hosted by the HCRRA and will be held at the following locations on the following dates:

- Tuesday, October 7, 2008: 2 p.m. open house, 3 p.m. public hearing, Hennepin County Government Center, 300 South 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487.
- Tuesday October 14, 2008: 5 p.m. open house, 6 p.m. public hearing, St. Louis Park City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard, St. Louis Park, MN 55416.
- Thursday, October 23, 2008: 5 p.m. open house, 6 p.m. public hearing, Eden Prairie City Hall, 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

The locations for all scoping meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual who requires special assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, to participate in a scoping meeting should contact Ms. Katie Walker, AICP, Transit Project Manager, Hennepin County, Housing, Community Works & Transit, 417 North 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401, Telephone: (612) 348–9260; email: Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us. Requests for special assistance should be made two weeks in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Scoping materials will be available at the meetings and are available by clicking on the Southwest Transitway Web site at *www.southwesttransitway.org.* Hard copies of the scoping materials are available from Ms. Katie Walker, AICP, at 417 North 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401, Telephone: (612) 348–2190; e-mail: *Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us.* An interagency scoping meeting will be scheduled with agencies having an interest in the proposed project.

In addition to receiving comments at the public hearings, the public may submit comments by e-mail, mail, fax, or via the Web site.

ADDRESSES: Written Comments Should Be Sent To: Ms. Katie Walker, AICP, Transit Project Manager, Hennepin County, Housing, Community Works & Transit, 417 North 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401, Telephone: (612) 348–2190; e-mail: Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us.; Fax: (612) 348–9710; or can be made at www.southwesttransitway.org. Comments will be accepted until 5 PM on November 7, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mr. David Werner at FTA, Region V, 200 West Adams Street, Suite 320, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Telephone: (312) 353–2789; e-mail: *David.Werner@dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed Project would provide for transit improvements within the Southwest Corridor, which extends approximately 14 miles from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie through St. Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka. The proposed project was the subject of an Alternatives Analysis (AA), which recommended three light rail transit (LRT) alternatives and one Enhanced Bus alternative for inclusion in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposed project would provide high-frequency (7.5 minute peak), bidirectional transit service 20 hours per day seven days per week. Stations are proposed at 1/2 to 1 mile intervals providing service to key activity centers including, but not limited to, downtown Minneapolis, the new Twins Baseball Stadium, the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Convention Center, Eat Street, Uptown, Calhoun Village/ Commons, Methodist Hospital, Excelsior/Grand, Cargill, SuperValu, Opus, Golden Triangle, and the Eden Prairie Center Mall.

Purpose and Need for the Project

The intent of the Southwest Transitway Project is to improve mobility, further develop multi-modal options, and increase transportation choices for the traveling public. The overall goals of the proposed project are to: (1) Improve mobility; (2) provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; (3) protect the environment; (4) preserve and protect the quality of life in the study area and the region; and, (5) support economic development.

The Southwest Transitway was first identified as a potential transitway in the mid-1980s reflecting the projected strong growth for this area by the Metropolitan Council. Since the mid-1980s numerous studies by the Metropolitan Council, Mn/DOT, and Hennepin County have documented the transportation needs of the study area. These studies are available for review at the Southwest Transitway Web site www.southwesttransitway.org. The Southwest Transitway is identified in the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) as a Tier 2 transitway www.metrocouncil.org.

With Southwest Transitway communities projected to encompass 25 percent of the regional employment base by 2030, the Twin Cities region needs to maintain the ability to travel to, from, and through Southwest Transitway communities efficiently, and at acceptable cost. The six communities that make up the Southwest Transitway study area need to accommodate additional transportation capacity while preserving the corridor's business advantages, environmental features, and quality of life for residents.

¹ Additional considerations supporting the project's need include:

Declining mobility is being experienced by residents, workers and visitors to the study area. This is caused by travel resulting from the high employment and residential growth of the area, which is outstripping the capacity of the existing transportation system. Currently 27 percent of all regional trips begin or end in the corridor and 65 percent of the trips generated within the corridor stay in the corridor. The study area includes two of the region's largest employment centers, downtown Minneapolis with over 140,000 jobs, and Golden Triangle with over 50,000 jobs. Travel on area roadways has increased by 80 to 150 percent over the past 25 years. This has led to increasing congestion with no plans by the state, region or county to significantly expand the roadway system. The area is projected to

continue to grow with a significant portion of the 1 million people and 500,000 jobs the region expects to add by 2030 locating within the study area.

Competitive, reliable transit options are not available for many study area choice riders and transit dependent persons. Due to congested roadways and circuitous roadway networks, it is difficult to provide the significant travel time advantages that would attract choice riders to the transit system and to adequately serve transit-dependent people living in and around downtown Minneapolis attempting to access the growing job base in the study area. The study area roadway network is oriented north-south/east-west where development patterns have radiated outward from downtown Minneapolis on a diagonal. The number of transitdependent people is growing in the study area, primarily in and around downtown Minneapolis. The roadway network through these neighborhoods is circuitous and has many one-way streets.

Alternatives To Be Considered

After a two-year study of transit alternatives, three light rail transit routes (Build Alternatives) have been identified for further evaluation in the EIS to determine which would best serve the study area. Other alternatives currently under consideration include a future No-Build Alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative, also known as Enhanced Bus.

Build Alternatives To Be Considered

Light Rail Transit 1A: This alternative would operate from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie (TH 5) via an extension of the Hiawatha LRT tracks on 5th Street past the downtown Minneapolis Intermodal Station to Royalston Avenue to the Kenilworth Corridor through Minneapolis and the HCRRA property through St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie terminating at TH 5 and the HCRRA's property. Stations are proposed at Royalston Ave., Van White Blvd., Penn Ave., 21st St., West Lake St., Beltline Blvd., Wooddale Ave., Louisiana Ave., Blake Rd. downtown Hopkins, Shady Oak Rd., Rowland Rd., TH 62, and TH

Light Rail Transit 3A: This alternative would operate from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie (Mitchell Road/TH 5) via an extension of the Hiawatha LRT tracks on 5th Street past the downtown Minneapolis Intermodal Station to Royalston Avenue to the Kenilworth Corridor through Minneapolis, the HCRRA property in St. Louis Park and Hopkins, to new rightof-way through the Opus/Golden Triangle area, the Eden Prairie Major Center area terminating at TH 5 and Mitchell Road. Stations are proposed at Royalston Ave., Van White Blvd., Penn Ave., 21st St., West Lake St., Beltline Blvd. Wooddale Ave., Louisiana Ave., Blake Rd., downtown Hopkins, Shady Oak Rd., Opus, City West, Golden Triangle, Eden Prairie Town Center, SouthWest Station, and Mitchell Rd.

Light Rail Transit 3C: This alternative would operate from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie (Mitchell Road/TH 5) via Nicollet Mall to Nicollet Avenue (tunnel from Franklin Avenue to 28th Street), the Midtown Corridor through Minneapolis, the HCRRA property in St. Louis Park and Hopkins, to new right-of-way through the Opus/ Golden Triangle, the Eden Prairie Major Center area terminating at TH 5 and Mitchell Road. Stations are proposed at 4th St., 8th St., 12th St., Franklin Ave., 28th St., Lyndale Ave., Hennepin Ave., West Lake St., Beltline Blvd., Wooddale Ave., Louisiana Ave., Blake Rd., downtown Hopkins, Shady Oak Rd., Opus, City West, Golden Triangle, Eden Prairie Town Center, SouthWest Station, and Mitchell Rd.

No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative contemplates roadway and transit facility and service improvements (other than the proposed project) planned, programmed and included in the Financially Constrained Regional Transportation Policy Plan to be implemented by the Year 2030. It includes minor transit service expansions and/or adjustments that reflect a continuation of existing service policies as identified by the Metropolitan Council. The No-Build Alternative serves as the NEPA baseline against which environmental effects of other alternatives, including the proposed project, will be measured.

Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative

The TSM Alternative (Enhanced Bus) is designed to provide lower cost, operationally-oriented improvements to address the project's purpose and need as much as possible without a major transit investment. It includes minor modifications to the existing express service, and would augment Metro Transit and SouthWest Transit service between Minneapolis and Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, and St. Louis Park. This alternative will serve as the New Starts Baseline against which the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project will be measured, and includes improvements identified in the No-Build Alternative.

In addition to the above described alternatives, other additional reasonable transit alternatives identified through the scoping process that provide similar transportation benefits while reducing or avoiding adverse impacts will be evaluated for potential inclusion in the EIS. Because of the sensitive adjacent land uses located in many parts of this corridor, all alternatives will need to consider a full range of design and mitigation solutions to enlist the support of local communities for the completion of this line.

Probable Effects

The EIS Process and the Role of Participating Agencies and the Public

The purpose of the EIS process is to explore in a public setting the effects of the proposed project and its alternatives on the physical, human, and natural environment. The FTA and the HCRRA will evaluate all significant environmental, social, and economic impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed project. Impact areas to be addressed include: transportation; land use, zoning, and economic development; secondary development; land acquisition, displacements, and relocations; cultural resource, including impacts on historical and archaeological resources and parklands/recreation areas; neighborhood compatibility and environmental justice; natural resource impacts including air quality, wetlands, water resources, noise, vibration; energy use; safety and security; wildlife and ecosystems, including endangered species. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate all adverse impacts will be identified and evaluated.

Regulations implementing NEPA, as well as provisions of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), call for public involvement in the EIS process. Section 6002 of SAFETEAU-LU requires that FTA and the HCRRA do the following: (1) Extend an invitation to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Indian tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project to become 'participating agencies,'' (2) provide an opportunity for involvement by participating agencies and the public in helping to define the purpose and need for a proposed project, as well as the range of alternatives for consideration in the EIS, and (3) establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation in, and comment on, the environmental review process. An

invitation to become a participating agency, with the scoping materials appended, will be extended to other Federal and non-Federal agencies and Native American tribes that may have an interest in the proposed project. It is possible that FTA and the HCRRA will not be able to identify all Federal and non-Federal agencies and tribes that may have such an interest. Any Federal or non-Federal agency or tribe interested in the proposed project that does not receive an invitation to become a participating agency should notify, at the earliest opportunity, the Project Manager identified above under ADDRESSES.

A comprehensive public involvement program will be developed and a Coordination Plan for public and interagency involvement will be created and posted on the project Web site at www.southwesttransitway.org.

The public involvement program includes a full range of involvement activities including the project Web site (referenced above); outreach to local officials, community and civic groups, and the public; and development and distribution of project newsletters. Specific mechanisms for involvement will be detailed in the public involvement program.

The public and participating agencies are invited to consider and comment on this preliminary statement of the purpose and need for the proposed Southwest Transitway project. Suggestions for modifications to the statement of purpose and need for the proposed project are welcome and will be given serious consideration. Comments on potentially significant environmental impacts that may be associated with the proposed project and alternatives are also welcome. There will be additional opportunities to participate in the scoping process at the public meetings announced in this notice.

The HCRRA will be seeking New Starts funding for the proposed project under 49 U.S.C. 5309 and, therefore, will be subject to New Starts regulations (49 CFR Part 611). The New Starts regulation requires a planning Alternatives Analysis that leads to the selection of a locally preferred alternative and the inclusion of the locally preferred alternative as part of the long-range transportation plan adopted by the Metropolitan Council. The New Starts regulation also requires the submission of certain projectjustification information in support of a request to initiate preliminary engineering, and this information is normally developed in conjunction with the NEPA process. Pertinent New Starts

evaluation criteria will be included in the Final EIS.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and with the FTA/Federal Highway Administration regulations "Environmental Impact and Related Procedures" (23 CFR part 771). In accordance with 23 CFR 771.105(a) and 771.133, FTA will comply with all Federal environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders applicable to the proposed project during the environmental review process to the maximum extent practicable. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the environmental and public hearing provisions of Federal transit laws (49 U.S.C. 5301(e), 5323(b), and 5324), the project-level air quality conformity regulation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (40 CFR part 93), the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of EPA (40 CFR part 230), the regulation implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR part 800), the regulation implementing Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR part 402), Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (23 CFR 771.135), and Executive Orders 12898 on Environmental justice, 11988 on Floodplain Management, and 11990 on Wetlands.

Issued on September 18, 2008.

Marisol R. Simon,

Regional Administrator, Region V, Federal Transit Administration. [FR Doc. E8–22257 Filed 9–22–08; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910–57–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT. **ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the information collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on June 18, 2008, and comments were due by August 18, 2008. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 23, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elizabeth Gearhart, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202–366–1867; or e-mail: *beth.gearhart@dot.gov*. Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Title: Shipbuilding Orderbook and Shipyard Employment.

OMB Control Number: 2133–0029. Type Of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Owners of U.S. shipyards who agree to complete the

requested information.

Forms: MA-832.

Abstract: MARAD collects this information from the shipbuilding and ship repair industry primarily to determine if an adequate mobilization base exists for national defense and for use in a national emergency.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 400 hours.

Addresses: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

Comments Are Invited On: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

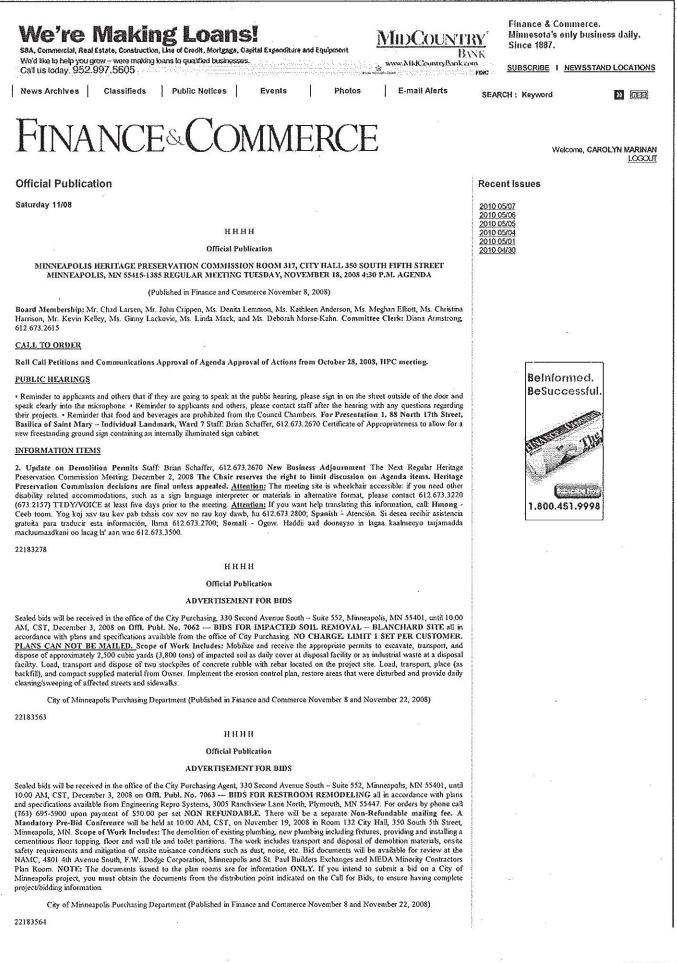
A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Authority: 49 CFR 1.66.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 15, 2008.

Leonard Sutter,

Secretary, Maritime Administration. [FR Doc. E8–22135 Filed 9–22–08; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910–81–P



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Official Publication

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTE: The Purchasing & Contract Services office has moved from the 22nd floor to the 17th floor of the Administration Tower, Hennepin County Government Center. The Bid Opening Room is still located on the 22nd floor of the Administration Tower. Seaked proposals may be mailed before the bid opening date to Hennepin County Purchasing & Contract Services, A-1705 Government Center, Minnespols, Minnesota, 55487- 0175; or, seaked proposals may be received at the 22nd floor reception area of the Government Center, Administration Tower, or in the 17th floor Purchasing & Contract Services office, until 200 p.m., Tuesday, <u>November 18, 2008</u>, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

1. Parts - Captive for Ford, GM & Chrysler Contract # 2567A8

in accordance with specifications and bid forms available from A-1705 Government Center, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0175

(Published in Finance and Commerce Saturday, November 8, 2008, Tuesday, November 11, 2008)

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Official Publication

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTE: The Purchasing & Contract Services office has moved from the 22nd floor to the 17th floor of the Administration Tower, Hennepin County Government Center. The Bid Opening Room is still located on the 22nd floor of the Administration Tower. Seaked proposals may be mailed before the bid opening date to Hennepin County Purchasing & Contract Services, A-1705 Government Center, Minnesota, 55487-0175; or, sealed proposals may be received at the 22nd floor reception area of the Government Center, Administration Tower, or in the 17th floor Purchasing & Contract Services office, until 2.00 p.m., Tuesday, <u>November 18, 2008</u>, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

1. Parts - Captive for Ford, GM & Chrysler Contract # 2567A8

in accordance with specifications and bid forms available from A-1705 Government Center, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0175

(Published in Finance and Commerce Saturday, November 8, 2008, Tuesday, November 11, 2008)

22183339

REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

(Published in Finance and Commerce Saturday, November 8, 2008)

Minneapolis, Minnesota Tuesday, October 21, 2008 The Board of Commissioners of the Hennepin County Regional Raihoad Authority met in the Hennepin County Government Center on October 21, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m. by Chair Peter McLaughlin All commissioners were present, except Commissioners Opat and Stenglein who joined the meeting while in progress. The following business was transacted: 1. Approval of Agenda Moved by Commissioner Dorfman, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. There were 5 YEAS; O NAYS; Opat/Stenglein ABSENT. Motion adopted. 2. Minutes of October 7, 2008 Meeting Moved by Commissioner Koblick, seconded by Commissioner Dorfman. There were 5 YEAS; O NAYS, Opat/Stenglein ABSENT. Motion adopted. 3. Chains Register for period ending October 14, 2008 (08-HCRRA-50) Moved by Commissioner Koblick, seconded by Commissioner Dorfman. There were 5 YEAS; O NAYS, Opat/Stenglein ABSENT. Motion adopted. 4. Removal of Dakota Rail Corridor bridge deck and piers at CSAH 92 (NTE \$35,000) (08-HCRRA-51) Moved by Commissioner Stelek, seconded by Commissioner Koblick, rupdated the commissioners on various HCRRA corridor Updates Marthand Nookak, Assistant County Administrator-Public Works, updated the commissioners on various HCRRA corridor Updates Marthand Nookak, Assistant County Administrator-Public Works, updated the commissioners on various HCRRA corridor updates Marthand Nookak, 3-Sistant County Administrator-Public Works, updated the commissioners on various HCRRA corridor update on Bottineau Boulevard. 6. Negotiat Agmit A031882 with HDR Engineering. Inc for stakeholker workshops and concept plan for the Intermodal Station, 10/21/08-31/109 (NTE \$55,000) (08-HCRRA-52) Phil Eckhert, Director, Housing, Community Works and Transit addressed the board about the resolution. Debra Brisk, Project Manager, HDR Engineering Inc, presented on Intermodal Facility Minneapolis. Moved by Commissioner Dorfman, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. There were 6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, Koblick ABSENT. Motion adopted. Commissi

PETER McLAUGHLIN,

Chair

HENNEPIN COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY CORRIDOR REPORT October 21, 2008

Hiawatha Corridor Ridership, Metro Transit is reporting the September 2008 monthly ridership on the Hiawatha LRT line as approximately 982,000 passengers. The budgeted ridership was 973,000. Metro Transit has submitted 90% complete plans for review and omment for expansion of 10 of the existing 17 Hawatha LRT stations. This expansion will allow for three car operations in the future Design work will be completed in late 2008 with construction beginning in the spring of 2009. These plans include the new station at 34th Avenue and American Boulevard in Bloomington. Northstar Corridor <u>Station Construction Activities</u> Construction is underway at the Big Lake, Elk River, Anoka, and Coon Rapids Stations. Downtown Construction On 5th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenue, embedded trackwork is in progress. Rail installation is complete on the 5th Street Bridge over 1-394. Work continues on LRT station platform and track installation on the 5th Street bridge over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks. Concrete work on the commuter rail platform is nearly complete. Ballasted track and special track work construction is in progress west of the station platform. Embedded trackwork is in progress under the ballpark. Locomotives On October 2, 2008, the first of five MP-36 locomotives was delivered from Motive Power Inc. of Boise Idaho. The vehicle is being stored at the vehicle maintenance facility in Big Lake. Central Corridor Work continues on the design options for the Washington Avenue Transit Mall. Discussions continue on a development and construction agreement between the Metropolitan Council, the University of Minnesota, Hennepin County, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, and the City of Minneapolis for the area near the University of Minnesola Campus. Cedar Avenue Corridor - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Dakota County continues to coordinate the Cedar Avenue BRT study with the Urban Partnership Agreement planned station area improvements along the corridor. Environmental work for the Cedar Grove Station is underway. An Architecture and Engineering Services contract for the Apple Valley Station is being finalized and had acquisition for this station has been completed. All property for station area development is expected to be purchased by February of 2009 and station construction is expected to be complete by September of 2009. Roadway intersection layouts including BRT shoulder lanes) have been developed and approved by the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority. Environmental Documentation is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. Final Roadway Design is underway with 95 percent plans scheduled for completion by December 2009 and roadway construction planned for 2010. Bottineau Corridor The Bottineau Transitway Alternatives Analysis Study is progressing into stage 2 of a 4 stage study process. Stage 2 of the study is focused on continued scoping and detailed definition of BRT and LRT alignment alternatives in collaboration with study area stakeholders. Technical methods are being developed which will guide the technical analysis of the alternatives. Meetings continue with the various cities along the corridor to define project alignments, stations, and park and ride facilities. Documentation related to the recently completed stage I study effort is currently being finalized based on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) review comments and will be shared with stakeholders in the Fall of 2008. This includes Technical Memorandum No. 2 (Purpose and Need, Goals and Objectives and Evaluation Measures) and the Alterantives Analysis Initiation Package which documents the selection of preferred alternatives that will move forward into more detailed study. Southwest Corridor The Southwest Transitway has bunched the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which is a joint effort of the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The first step in the DEIS process is to conduct Scoping, which includes the hosting of Scoping Meetings/Hearings. The Scoping process is designed to inform the public, interest

groups, affected tribes and government agencies of the DEIS and to present the following for comment - purpose and need for the project. the alterratives to be studied. - the potential social, economic, environmental and transportation impacts to be evaluated. As part of the NEPA Scoping process, the HCRRA is required to hold at least one publics Scoping meetings: - Tuesday, October 7, 2008, Hennepin County Government Center Public Open House at 2.00 PM, Public Service Level (PSL) Public Hearing at 3.00 PM, Board Room - Tuesday, October 14, 2008, St Louis Park City Hall Public Open House at 5.00 PM Public Hearing at 6.00 PM, Council Chambers - Thursday, October 23, 2008, Eden Prairie City Hall Public Open House at 5.00 PM Public Hearing at 6.00 PM, Council Chambers - Thursday, October 14, 2008, St Louis Park City Hall Public Open House at 5.00 PM Public Hearing at 6.00 PM, Council Chambers - Approximately 40 people attended the Public Scoping meeting on Tuesday, October 7th and over 120 people attended the Public Scoping meeting on Tuesday, October 14th. Public comments are being collected through the Southwest website (www.southwestitransityay.org), U.S. mail, and fax Comments should be addressed to Katie Walker, Transit Project Manager, 417 North 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401, fax to 612.348-9710, or email <u>www.southwestitransitway.org</u>, All comments become part of the public scoping recard and must be received no later than 5:00 PM CST on Friday, November 7, 2008 Red Rock Corridor The Red Rock Corridor Commission has retained URS Corporation to conduct an interim bus feasibility study for the Red Rock Study area from Hastings to downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul Northern Light Express Intercity Rail (Minneapolis to Duluth/Superior) On September 30, 2008, U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced that the Northern Light Express project has received a grant of S1.1 million for environmental documentation. The funding requires a 50 percent match which will come from state and

08-HCRRA-50

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Koblick, seconded by Commissioner Dorfman: BE IT RESOLVED, That the Claims Register for the period ending October 14, 2008 be approved/ratifsed. The question was on the adoption of the Resolution and there were 5 YEAS and 0 NAYS, as follows: YEAS — Dorfman, Johnson, Koblick, Steele, McLaughlin, Chair, NAYS — 0; Opat, Stenglein — ABSENT. RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 10/21/08

ATTEST: Secretary, HCRRA

HENNEPIN COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY CLAIMS Period Ending October 14, 2008

Maintenance — Top Notch Treecare — \$2,476.13 Maintenance — Rainvile-Carlson Inc. — \$125.85 Utility — CenterPoint Energy — 69.45 Utility — Minneapolis Finance Department Heritage Landing Site — \$1,334.42 Consulting Services — Kinkley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Northstar — \$1,955.00 Website Maintenance — Heriman Design, LLC Bottineau — \$43.75 Consulting Services — HDR Engineering, Inc. Southwest Transitivay DEIS — \$26,773.13 Publication — Spokesman-Recorder Publishing Company — \$602.44 Maintenance — Resource Recovery Technologies LLC — \$124.50 TOTAL — \$33,504.68

08-HCRRA-51

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Steele, seconded by Commissioner Koblick: BE IT RESOLVED, that Hennepin County Regional Raitcoad Authority authorizes removal of the bridge deck and piers at the Dakota Rail Corridor bridge over CSAH 92 in St. Bonfacius, in the not to exceed amount of \$35,000.000, leaving bridge abutments in place such that Authority's ability to restore the raitcoad bed by installing a replacement bridge for future rail and other transportation uses is not impaired, and that the Executive Director be authorized to issue a permit to Hennepin County, Transportation Department, to perform the work. The question was on the adoption of the Resolution and there were 6 YEAS and 0 NAYS, as follows: YEAS — Stenglem, Dorfman, Johnson, Koblick, Steele, McLaughlin, Chair, NAYS — 0, Opat — ABSENT: RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 10/21/08

ATTEST: Secretary, HCRRA

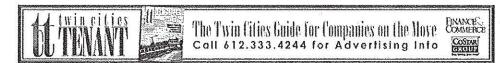
08-HCRRA-52

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Dorfman, seconded by Commissioner Johnson: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Regional Raitoad Authority Executive Director be authorized to negotistic funding Agreement A031882 with HDR Engineering. Inc for development and implementation of a stakeholder workshop and subsequent preparation of a concept plan for connecting people and goods within the one-half mile radius of the Intermodal Station, in an amount not to exceed 555,000, for the period of October 21, 2008 through March 1, 2009, and that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the Authority; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed. The question was on the adoption of the Resolution and there were 6 YEAS and 0 NAYS, as follows: YEAS — Opat, Stenglein, Dorfman, Johnson, Steele, McLaughlin, Chair; NAYS — 0, Koblick — ABSENT, RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 10/21/08

ATTEST: Secretary, HCRRA

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an "anonymous access" system, which means that EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comments. If you send email comments directly to EPA without going through http://www.regulations.gov. your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comments that are placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit electronic comments, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comments and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comments due to technical difficulties and cannot contact vou for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comments. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at http:// www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm.

Docket: All documents in the docket are listed in the http:// www.regulations.gov index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, will be publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically at http:// www.regulations.gov or in hard copy at the OEI Docket in the EPA Headquarters Docket Center.

Dated: October 5, 2012.

Lek Kadeli,

Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development. [FR Doc. 2012–25148 Filed 10–11–12; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-9005-5]

Environmental Impacts Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564–7146 or http://www.epa.gov/ compliance/nepa/.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed 10/01/2012 Through 10/05/2012

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: *http:// www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/ eisdata.html.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As of October 1, 2012, EPA will not accept paper copies or CDs of EISs for filing purposes; all submissions on or after October 1, 2012 must be made through e-NEPA.

While this system eliminates the need to submit paper or CD copies to EPA to meet filing requirements, electronic submission does not change requirements for distribution of EISs for public review and comment. To begin using e-NEPA, you must first register with EPA's electronic reporting site https://cdx.epa.gov/epa_home.asp.

- EIS No. 20120317, Final EIS, USACE, MS, Proposed Widening of the Pascagoula Lower Sound/Bayou Casotte Channel, Jackson County, MS, Review Period Ends: 11/13/2012, Contact: Philip Hegji 251–690–3222.
- EIS No. 20120318, Final Supplement, USACE, TX, Clear Creek Reevaluation Study Project, Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston and Harris Counties, TX, Review Period Ends: 11/13/2012, Contact: Andrea Catanzaro 409–766– 6346.
- EIS No. 20120319, Draft EIS, NPS, MA, Herring River Restoration Project, In and Adjacent to Cape Cod National Seashore, Towns of Wellfleet and Truro, MA, Comment Period Ends: 12/12/2012, Contact: Mark Husbands 303–987–6965.
- EIS No. 20120320, Draft EIS, FTA, MN, Southwest Transitway Construction and Operation Light Rail Transit, Hennepin County, MN, Comment Period Ends: 12/11/2012, Contact: Marisol Simon 312–353–2789.
- EIS No. 20120321, Final EIS, BLM, NV, Mount Hope Project, Molybdenum Mining and Processing Operation, Eureka County, NV, Review Period Ends: 11/13/2012, Contact: Gloria Tibbetts 775–635–4060.
- EIS No. 20120322, Final EIS, NOAA, 00, Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2013– 2014 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and Amendment 21–2 to the Pacific Coast Fishery Management Plan, Federal Waters off the Coast of WA, OR, and CA, Review Period Ends: 11/ 13/2012, Contact: Becky Renko 206– 526–6110.

- EIS No. 20120323, Draft Supplement, BLM, NV, Silver State Solar Energy Project, and Proposed Las Vegas Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment, To Address New Information, Clark County, NV, Comment Period Ends: 01/11/2013, Contact: Greg Helseth 702–515–5173.
- EIS No. 20120324, Final EIS, USFS, MT, Lonesome Wood Vegetation Management 2 Project Areas, Lake Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, Gallatin County, MT, Review Period Ends: 11/26/2012, Contact: Teri Seth 406–522–2520.
- EIS No. 20120325, Final EIS, NPS, WA, Stehekin River Corridor Implementation Plan, General Management Plan, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, WA, Review Period Ends: 11/13/2012, Contact: Jon Riedel 360– 873–4590 ext. 21.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 20050140, Final EIS, FHWA, NV, Boulder City/U.S. 93 Corridor Transportation Improvements, Study Limits are between a western boundary on US 95 in the City of Henderson and an eastern boundary on US 93 west of downtown Boulder City, NPDES and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permits Issuance and Right-of-Way Grant, Clark County, NV, Review Period Ends: 05/13/2005, Contact: Ted P. Bendure 775–687– 5322.

Adoption—The U.S. Department of Energy's Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) has adopted the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Final EIS filed with EPA. The WAPA was a cooperating agency with the FHWA's EIS therefore, recirculation of the document was not necessary and there is no comment period.

EIS No. 20110106, Draft EIS, BIA, NM, Withdrawn—Pueblo of Jemez 70.277 Acre Fee-To-Trust Transfer and Casino Project, Implementation, Dona Ana County, NM, Comment Period Ends: 07/01/2011, Contact: Priscilla Wade 505–563–3417 Revision to FR Notice Published 06/03/2011; Officially Withdrawn by the Preparing Agency.

Dated: October 9, 2012.

Aimee S. Hessert,

Deputy Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2012–25154 Filed 10–11–12; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6560–50–P



Publication Date: October 15, 2012 Vol. 36. No. 21

Next Publication: October 29, 2012 Submittal Deadline: October 22, 2012 Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

Subscribe to receive the EQB Monitor. If you would like to receive the Monitor regularly, please subscribe at http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/monitor.html.

EQB Meetings are regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month. There may be additional special meetings as well. The calendar with scheduled meetings is located at http://server.admin.state.mn.us/WebCalendar/month.php?cat id=3&date=20120801. All meeting packets and agendas can be viewed at http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/agendas.html.

Update your contact information! As your e-mail address changes, please ensure delivery by updating your contact information routinely at http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/monitor.html.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEETS

EAW Comment Deadline: November 14, 2012

Project Title: Dabelstein Quarry, Winona County

Description: Non-metallic mineral mining of 36.5 acre site to extract material for area construction activities and the oil/gas industries. The mining involves excavation/blasting of overburden to expose material that is processed/loaded, placed in transportation vehicles and trucked to an existing offsite processing plant. Reclamation will be ongoing as mining is conducted.

Project Proposer: Roger Dabelstein

RGU: Winona County Planning Department



Contact: Jason Gilman, AICP Planning and Environmental Services Director 177 Main Street Winona, Minnesota 55987 507-457-6337 JGilman@co.winona.mn.us

The EQB Monitor is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The EQB Monitor is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at http://www.egb.state.mn.us/,

Upon request, the EQB Monitor will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Department of Administration. For information on the EQB Monitor, contact:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board 520 Lafayette Road - 4th Floor St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 Phone: 651-757-2873 Fax: 651-297-2343 http://www.eqb.state.mn.us

PETITIONS FILED

The following petitions have been filed with the EQB requesting preparation of an EAW. The EQB has assigned the indicated unit of government to review the petition and decide on the need for an EAW.

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, October 2012 Auction of Mineral Leases in Aitkin, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Reichmann Land & Cattle LLP Feedlot and Curtis and Angela Blair Feedlot (Pope County)

EIS NEED DECISIONS

The noted responsible governmental unit has determined the following projects do not require preparation of an EIS. The dates given are, respectively, the date of the determination and the date the EAW notice was published in the *EQB Monitor*.

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Northern Metals Application for Major Amendment, Hennepin County, October 1, 2012 (November 14, 2011)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, Trunk Highway 10 Interchange at Junction Benton CSAH 2, City of Rice, Benton County, September 21, 2012 (July 23, 2012)
- City of Champlin, Elm Creek Dam Embankment and Spillway Rehabilitation Project, Hennepin County July 23, 2012 (April 16, 2012)

DRAFT EIS AVAILABLE

NOTICE OF SCOPING AMENDMENT, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) AVAILABILITY FOR THE SOUTHWEST TRANSITWAY PROJECT, HENNEPIN COUNTY

Project Title: Southwest Transitway

Description: The Southwest Transitway project proposes construction of a light rail system between Minneapolis and Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

On September 8, 2008, a notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the Southwest Transitway was published in the EQB Monitor. On January 27, 2009, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) acting as the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) approved the Southwest Transitway Scoping Summary Report (SSR) which serves as the Scoping Decision Document (SDD). On September 25, 2012, the HCRRA amended the Southwest Transitway SSR/SDD to include the impacts of relocating freight rail for the four build alternatives and including a collocation alternative where freight rail, light rail and the commuter bike trail collocate, share a common corridor, between Louisiana Avenue and Penn Avenue. On September 25, 2012, the HCRRA established public hearings, as detailed below, to receive comment on the Southwest Transitway DEIS.

On October 12, 2012, the Southwest Transitway DEIS will be available for review and comment. Comments on the DEIS are being accepted through 12 a.m. December 11, 2012, and can be submitted via email, U.S. mail or public testimony. All comments received during the comment period will be considered during the Final EIS.

EQB Monitor

Document Availability: The DEIS is available online at: <u>www.southwesttransitway.org</u>.

Hard copies are available at the following area libraries and resource centers.

Hennepin County Housing Community Works & Transit 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 400 Minneapolis, MN 55415

Southwest LRT Project Office 6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500 St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Linden Hills Library 2900 West 43rd Street Minneapolis, MN 55410

Minneapolis Central Library 300 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401

Sumner Library 611 Van White Memorial Boulevard Minneapolis, MN 55411

Edina Library 5280 Grandview Square Edina, MN 55436

St. Louis Park Library 3240 Library Lane St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Hopkins Library 22 11th Avenue North Hopkins, MN 55343 Minnetonka Library 17524 Excelsior Boulevard Minnetonka, MN 55345

Eden Prairie Library 565 Prairie Center Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Franklin Library 1314 East Franklin Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55404

Minneapolis City Hall 250 S 4th Street Minneapolis, MN 55415

Edina City Hall 4801 West 50th Street Edina, MN 55424

St. Louis Park City Hall 5005 Minnetonka Blvd St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Hopkins City Hall 1010 1st Street South Hopkins, MN 55343

Minnetonka City Hall 14600 Minnetonka Blvd Minnetonka, MN 55345

Eden Prairie City Hall 8080 Mitchell Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Public Hearing Information:

Tuesday, November 13th, Hennepin County Government Center, A-2400 4:00 to 5:00 PM public open house (Public Service Level) 4:30 PM Formal Public Hearing

Wednesday, November 14th, St. Louis Park City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard 5:00 to 6:00 PM public open house 6:00 PM Formal Public Hearing

Page 5

Thursday, November 29th, Eden Prairie City Hall, 8080 Mitchell Road 5:00 to 6:00 PM public open house 6:00 PM Formal Public Hearing

The address to which written comments should be sent is:

Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit Attn: Southwest Transitway 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 400 Minneapolis, MN 55415

or swcorridor@co.hennepin.mn.us

Auxiliary aides, services and communication materials in accessible formats and languages other than English can be arranged **if notice is given at least 14 calendar days before the meeting** by contacting <u>swcorridor@co.hennepin.mn.us</u>.

RGU: Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority

EIS ADEQUACY DECISION

Notice of the Record of Decision and Findings of Fact for the Zavoral Mine and Reclamation Project City of Scandia, Washington County

On September 25, 2012, the Scandia City Council approved the Record of Decision and Findings of Fact for the Zavoral Mine and Reclamation Project. The Council determined that the EIS is adequate.

The Final EIS was noticed in the EQB Monitor and distributed on August 20, 2012, consistent with Minnesota Rules 4410.2300, subp. 3. The comment period closed on September 10, 2012. The City responded to the comments received on the adequacy of the EIS. The responses are included in the Record of Decision.

The Final EIS, Record of Decision and all other documents relating to the Zavoral Mine and Reclamation Project EIS Scoping Process are available on the City's website at: <u>http://www.ci.Scandia.mn.us</u>.

For more information, please contact: Kristina Handt, City Administrator 651-433-2274 or <u>k.handt@ci.scandia.mn.us</u>

Supplemental Draft EIS Notices and Public Hearings



Publication Date: July 22, 2013 Vol. 37, No. 15 Next Publication: August 5, 2013 Submittal Deadline: July 29, 2013 Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us

Subscribe to receive the EQB Monitor! The EQB is initiating an effort to transition to a new system of electronic notices. Beginning in August, the EQB will be delivering the EQB Monitor through an e-mail delivery system called GovDelivery. Please add <u>MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com</u> to your address book or safe sender list to ensure delivery of messages to your inbox. You can manage your subscription preferences at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNEQB/subscriber/new.

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Request for Comments on Possible Amendments to Rules Governing the Environmental Review Program,

Minnesota Rules Chapter, 4410; Revisor's 10 Number R-04157

Subject of Rules. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB or Board) is considering revising the existing rules governing the Environmental Review Program. These are the rules under which Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs), Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), and other environmental review documents are prepared. This possible rulemaking may include the following categories or subparts:

- 1) Mandatory categories for environmental assessment worksheets located under part 4410.4300:
- a. subp. 2. Nuclear fuels and nuclear waste;
- b. subp. 3. Electric generating facilities;
- c. subp. 5. Fuel conversion facilities;
- d. subp. 7. Pipelines;
- e. subp. 8. Transfer facilities;
- f. subp. 14. Industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities;
- g. subp. 16. Hazardous waste;
- h. subp. 17. Solid waste;
- i. subp. 18. Wastewater systems;
- j. subp. 19. Residential development;
- k. subp. 22. Highway projects;

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Minnesota Environmental Quality Board 520 Lafayette Road – 4th Floor St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 Phone: 651-757-2873 Fax: 651-297-2343 http://www.eqb.state.mn.us

NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL DEIS PREPARATION

Project Title: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (formerly referred to as the Southwest Transitway)

RGU: Metropolitan Council

Description: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal lead agency, and the Metropolitan Council (Council), the local lead agency, intend to publish a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project (formerly referred to as the Southwest Transitway), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), its implementing regulations, provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter 4410, Environmental Review.

On September 8, 2008, the notice to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Southwest Transitway project was published in the *EQB Monitor*. Availability of the DEIS was published in the *EQB Monitor* and the document was distributed on October 15, 2012. Public Hearings were held in November, 2012 and the public comment period concluded on December 31, 2012.

The Project is a new 15.8-mile light rail alignment with 17 new light rail stations, several new park-and-ride lots, and one new light rail operations and maintenance facility (OMF). The project requires modification to existing freight rail alignments within the project vicinity. The SDEIS will evaluate environmental impacts associated with proposed adjustments to the Locally Preferred Alternative, freight rail alignments, and location of the OMF. The SDEIS will also incorporate pertinent issues raised during the DEIS comment period. FTA and the Council anticipate that the SDEIS scope will include, but not be limited to, the following areas: Eden Prairie LRT alignment and stations; LRT OMF site; freight rail alignments (i.e., Relocation and Co-location); and other areas where FTA and the Council determine that there is a need to be supplemented with additional information which was not included in the Project's October 2012 DEIS.

Written comments on the scope of the SDEIS as outlined above may be submitted to Ms. Nani Jacobson (see contact information below) by August 12, 2013, which is within 20 days of publication this notice. Comments received within this period, and responses to the comments, will be included in the SDEIS.

Contact Person:

Ms. Nani Jacobson, Project Manager Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Office 6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 Telephone: 612-373-3808 E-mail: nani.jacobson@metrotransit.org.

Notice regarding the intent to prepare the SDEIS will be sent to the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies that have expressed or are known to have an interest or legal role in this proposed action. Following publication and review of the SDEIS, a FEIS will be prepared and circulated.

Additional Information: The SWLRT Project (Green Line Extension) will operate from downtown Minneapolis through the southwestern suburban cities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, passing in close proximity to the city of Edina. The proposed alignment is primarily at-grade and includes 17 new stations and approximately 15.8-miles of double track. The line will connect major activity centers in the region including downtown Minneapolis, the Opus/Golden Triangle employment area in Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, the Eden Prairie Center Mall, and the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes. Ridership in 2030 is projected at 29,660 weekday passengers. The project will interline with Central Corridor LRT (Green Line) which will provide a one-seat ride to destinations such as the University of Minnesota, state Capitol, and downtown St. Paul. It will be part of an integrated system of

transitways, including connections to the METRO Blue Line, the Northstar Commuter Rail line, a variety of major bus routes along the alignment, and proposed future transitway and rail lines. The Metropolitan Council will be the grantee of federal funds. The regional government agency is charged with building the line in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Southwest Corridor Management Committee, which includes commissioners from Hennepin County and the mayors of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, provides advice and oversight. Funding is provided by the FTA, Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), state of Minnesota, and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA). Additional information on the SWLRT project can be found at www.swlrt.org.

ALTERNATIVE URBAN AREAWIDE REVIEW ADOPTED

Project Title: FMC Site Development

Project Description: The City Council of the city of Fridley approved Resolution #2013-33 on July 8, 2013, approving and certifying the adequacy of the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) document for the FMC Site Redevelopment. Copies of the draft AUAR were available for public and agency review and noticed in the EQB Monitor on April 1, 2013. The Final AUAR with responses to the comments received during the draft AUAR review period was available for public and agency review on June 10, 2013.

Please direct any questions to Scott J. Hickok, AICP, Community Development Director, at 763-572-3590.

RGU: City of Fridley

NOTICES

Notification of Release of Genetically Engineered OrganismsFile NumberCompanyCropProjectCounty13-NO-074M.S. Technologies, LLCsoybeanHerbicide TolerantRenvilleFor more information contact Dr. Steve Malone, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert St N., St. Paul, MN55155, 651-201-66531, stephen.malone@state.mn.us

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest Light Rail Transit Extension Project (Formerly Referred to as the Southwest Transitway)

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation. **ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal lead agency, and the Metropolitan Council (Council), the local lead agency, intend to publish a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit Extension (SWLRT) Project (formerly referred to as the Southwest Transitway Project), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), its implementing regulations, provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The original Notice of Intent to prepare a DEIS for the Project was issued on September 23, 2008. The Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published on October 12, 2012, with a public comment period concluding on December 31, 2012. The Project is a new 15.8-mile light rail alignment with 17 new light rail stations, several new parkand-ride lots, and one new light rail operations and maintenance facility (OMF). The project requires modification to existing freight rail alignments within the project vicinity. The SDEIS will evaluate environmental impacts associated with proposed adjustments to the Locally Preferred Alternative, freight rail alignments, and location of the OMF. The SDEIS will also incorporate pertinent issues raised during the DEIS comment period.

For commenting purposes under NEPA, written comments on the scope of the SDEIS should be directed to Ms. Nani Jacobson, Project Manager, Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Office, 6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426, Telephone: 612–373–3808; Email: nani.jacobson@metrotransit.org. Comments on the scope may be submitted within 20 days of publication of the preparation notice in the state publication, the EQB Monitor. Notice in the EQB Monitor is anticipated to be published on July 22, 2013, with the 20 day period for submitting written

comments ending on August 12, 2013. In accordance with MEPA, comments received within this period, and responses to the comments, will be included in the SDEIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on FTA's NEPA review, please contact Maya Sarna, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., East Building, Washington DC 20590, Telephone: (202) 366–5811.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SWLRT Project will operate from downtown Minneapolis through the southwestern suburban cities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, passing in close proximity to the city of Édina. The proposed alignment is primarily at-grade and will include 17 new stations and approximately 15.8-miles of double track. The line will connect major activity centers in the region including downtown Minneapolis, Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, the Opus/ Golden Triangle employment area in Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, and, the Eden Prairie Center Mall. Ridership in 2030 is projected at 29,660 weekday passengers. The project will connect with the Green Line (Central Corridor LRT), which will provide a one-seat ride to destinations such as the University of Minnesota, the State Capitol, and downtown St. Paul. The proposed SWLRT will be part of an integrated system of transitways, including connections to the METRO Blue Line, the Northstar Commuter Rail line, a variety of major bus routes along the alignment, and proposed future transitway and rail lines.

The SDEIS will supplement the evaluation of impacts included in the Project's DEIS where there have been adjustments to the design of proposed LRT and freight rail alignments, stations, park-and-ride lots, and an OMF site that would likely result in impacts not documented in the Project's DEIS. FTA and the Council anticipate that the SDEIS scope will include, but not be limited to, the following areas: Eden Prairie LRT alignment and stations; LRT OMF site; freight rail alignments (i.e., Relocation and Co-location); and other areas where FTA and the Council determine that there is a need to be supplemented with additional information which was not included in the Project's October 2012 DEIS.

Notice regarding the intent to prepare the SDEIS will be sent to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies. Following publication and review of the SDEIS, a FEIS will be prepared and circulated.

The Paperwork Reduction Act seeks, in part, to minimize the cost to the taxpayer of the creation, collection, maintenance, use, dissemination, and disposition of information. Consistent with this goal and with principles of economy and efficiency in government, it is FTA policy to limit insofar as possible distribution of complete printed sets of NEPA documents. Accordingly, unless a specific request for a complete printed set of the NEPA document is received before the document is printed, FTA and its grant applicants will distribute only electronic copies of the NEPA document. A complete printed set of the environmental document will be available for review at the Metropolitan Council's offices and elsewhere as will be noted in the Notice of Availability; and electronic copy of the complete environmental document will be available on the Metropolitan Council's Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Web site (http://www.swlrt.org).

Issued on: July 11, 2013.

Marisol Simon,

Regional Administrator, FTA Region V. [FR Doc. 2013–17506 Filed 7–19–13; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2012-0075; Notice 2]

BMW of North America, LLC, a Subsidiary of BMW AG, Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT. **ACTION:** Grant of petition.

SUMMARY: BMW of North America, LLC¹ a subsidiary of BMW AG.² has determined that certain model year (MY) 2012 BMW X6M SAV multipurpose passenger vehicles (MPV) manufactured between April 1, 2011 and March 23, 2012, do not fully comply with paragraph S4.3 (b) of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 110, Tire selection and rims and motor home/recreation vehicle trailer load carrying capacity information for motor vehicles with a GVWR of 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds) or less. BMW has filed an appropriate report dated April 4, 2012,

¹ BMW of North America, LLC is a U.S. company that manufacturers and imports motor vehicles. ² BMW AG is a German company that manufactures motor vehicles.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2677-028]

City of Kaukauna; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene and Protests

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. *Application Type:* Request for Extension of Time.

b. *Project No:* 2677–028.

c. *Date Filed:* February 13, 2015. d. *Applicant:* Kaukauna Utilities (licensee).

e. *Name of Project:* Badger-Rapide Croche Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a—825r.

h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Jeffery Feldt, General Manager—Kaukauna Utilities, 777 Island Street, Kaukauna, WI 54130, 920–419–2421.

i. FERC Contact: Mr. Michael T. Calloway, (202) 502–8041, michael.calloway@ferc.gov.

j. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests is June 15, 2015.

All documents may be filed electronically via the Internet. See, 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ efiling.asp. If unable to be filed electronically, documents may be paperfiled. To paper-file, an original and seven copies should be mailed to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at *http://* www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ ecomment.asp. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments.

Please include the project number (P–2677–028) on any comments, motions, or recommendations filed.

k. *Description of Request:* The licensee is requesting a three year extension of time, pursuant to Article 408 of the project license issued May 18, 2011, and Condition 9 of the Wisconsin section 401 Clean Water Certification, to build a new boat launch area on the southern shoreline of the Rapide Croche impoundment to include an access road, boat ramp, parking area, pier, and an accessible ADA compliant fishing pier with signage and lighting. This request was made so the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources can consider whether introducing invasive species via the boat ramp may lead them to amend the state water quality certification to remove the requirement to build a boat ramp.

1. Locations of the Application: A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling 202-502-8371. This filing may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ efiling.asp. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ esubscription.asp to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 866–208–3676 or email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, for TTY, call 202-502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (h) above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene: Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

o. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents: Any filing must (1) bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS"; "PROTESTS", or "MOTION TO INTERVENE" as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, motions to intervene, or protests must set forth their evidentiary

basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 4.34(b). All comments, motions to intervene, or protests should relate to project works which are the subject of the extension of time. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application. If an intervener files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

Dated: May 15, 2015.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–12465 Filed 5–21–15; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-9021-1]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564–7146 or *http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/.*

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed 05/11/2015 Through 05/15/2015 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: *https:// cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-public/ action/eis/search.*

- *EIS No. 20150131, Final, FHWA, TX,* US 281, Review Period Ends: 06/22/2015, Contact: Carlos Swonke 512 416–2734.
- EIS No. 20150132, Draft Supplement, FTA, MN, Southwest Light Rail Transit (Metro Green Line Extension) Comment Period Ends: 07/06/2015, Contact: Maya Sarna 202–366–5811.
- EIS No. 20150133, Draft, NRC, WI, Construction Permit for the SHINE

Medical Radioisotope Production Facility, Comment Period Ends: 07/ 06/2015, Contact: Michelle Moser 301–415–6509.

EIS No. 20150134, Final, USACE, CA, Encinitas-Solana Beach Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project, Review Period Ends: 06/22/2015, Contact: Lee Ware 202–761–0523.

EIS No. 20150135, Draft, USFS, CA, King Fire Restoration, Comment Period Ends: 06/22/2015, Contact: Katy Parr 530–621–5203.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service requested and was granted approval to shorten the public comment period for this Draft EIS from 45 to 30 days, reflecting the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) alternative arrangement granted in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.11. *EIS No. 20150136, Final, USN, GU*,

Mariana Islands Training and Testing, Review Period Ends: 06/22/2015, Contact: Nora Macariola-See 808– 472–1402.

Dated: May 19, 2015.

Cliff Rader,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2015–12508 Filed 5–21–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

[Public Notice 2015-0009]

Application for Final Commitment for a Long-Term Loan or Financial Guarantee in Excess of \$100 Million: AP088934XX

AGENCY: Export-Import Bank of the United States. **ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice is to inform the public, in accordance with Section 3(c)(10) of the Charter of the Export-Import Bank of the United States ("Ex-Im Bank"), that Ex-Im Bank has received an application for final commitment for a long-term loan or financial guarantee in excess of \$100 million (as calculated in accordance with Section 3(c)(10) of the Charter). Comments received within the comment period specified below will be presented to the Ex-Im Bank Board of Directors prior to final action on this Transaction. Comments received will be made available to the public.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 29, 2015 to be assured of consideration before final consideration of the transaction by the Board of Directors of Ex-Im Bank. **ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted through Regulations.gov at *WWW.REGULATIONS.GOV.* To submit a comment, enter *EIB–2015–0009* under the heading "Enter Keyword or ID" and select Search. Follow the instructions provided at the Submit a Comment screen. Please include your name, company name (if any) and *EIB–2015– 0009* on any attached document.

Reference: AP088934XX.

* This notice is a continuation of the posting of the notice FR Doc. 2015–10250 published on May 4, 2015 to extend the comment period to May 29, 2015.

Purpose and Use:

Brief description of the purpose of the transaction: To support the export of U.S.-manufactured commercial aircraft to the United Arab Emirates.

Brief non-proprietary description of the anticipated use of the items being *exported*: To be used for passenger air service between the United Arab Emirates and other countries.

To the extent that Ex-Im Bank is reasonably aware, the items being exported may be used to produce exports or provide services in competition with the exportation of goods or provision of services by a United States industry.

Parties:

Principal Suppliers: The Boeing Company

Obligor: Emirates Airline

Guarantor(s): N/A

Description of Items Being Exported:

Boeing 777 aircraft

Information on Decision: Information on the final decision for this transaction will be available in the "Summary Minutes of Meetings of Board of Directors" on http://exim.gov/newsand events/boardmeetings/board/.

Confidential Information: Please note that this notice does not include confidential or proprietary business information; information which, if disclosed, would violate the Trade Secrets Act; or information which would jeopardize jobs in the United States by supplying information that competitors could use to compete with companies in the United States.

Lloyd Ellis,

Program Specialist, Office of the General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2015–12421 Filed 5–21–15; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6690–01–P

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE U.S.

[Public Notice 2015-6001]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: Export-Import Bank of the U.S. **ACTION:** Submission for OMB review and comments request.

Title: EIB 15–01, Generic Clearance for the Collection of Feedback on Electronic Interfaces with Customers **SUMMARY:** The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank), as a part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal Agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Ex-Im Bank is soliciting comments on the following proposed Generic Information Collection Request (Generic ICR): "Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Electronic Interfaces with Customers' for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act. This collection was developed as an effort to streamline the process for seeking feedback from the public on the electronic interfaces (Web site and online application systems) used by Ex-Im Bank customers. This notice announces our intent to submit this collection to OMB for approval and solicits comments on specific aspects for the proposed information collection. **DATES:** Comments should be received on or before June 22, 2015, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically on *http:// www.regulations.gov*) or by mail to Michele Kuester, Export-Import Bank of the United States, 811 Vermont Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20571.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: EIB 15–01, Generic Clearance for the Collection of Feedback on Electronic Interfaces with Customers.

OMB Number: TBD.

Type of Review: New.

Need and Use: This is a request for a new three-year generic clearance for the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) that will allow it to develop, test and improve its digital customer interfaces—including on-line applications for financing support, other on-line reporting, and the agency's Web site. The procedures used to this effect include, but are not limited to, tests of various interfaces through focus groups, cognitive testing, web-based experiments and usability testing.



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Publication Date May 25, 2015 Vol. 39, No. 11 Next Publication: June 8, 2015 Submittal Deadline: June 1, 2015 Submit to EQB.Monitor@state.mn.us



CORRECTION: This bulletin includes a corrected date for accepting public comments on the Southwest Light Rail Transit Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS).

The EQB has transitioned to a new electronic notification system called GovDelivery. Add <u>MNEQB@public.govdelivery.com</u> to your address book or safe sender list. Manage your subscription.

Check the <u>EQB Calendar</u> for Monitor deadlines and Board meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the <u>EQB website</u>.

- Environmental Assessment Worksheets
- Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions
- <u>Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet and Draft Environmental Impact</u>
 <u>Statement Scoping Document</u>
- Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Notices

Environmental Assessment Worksheets

Comment Deadline: June 24, 2015

Project Title: Chambers' Grove Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Project

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) intends to use natural channel design techniques to enhance spawning habitat for Lake Superior migratory fish species, particularly lake sturgeon, by constructing three riffle features about 1.4 miles below the Fond du Lac Dam on the St. Louis River in Duluth, Minnesota. Project will include removing an engineered retaining wall along the shoreline and naturalizing the bank with vegetation. Designs will include access features planned by the City of Duluth. This project supports the Lower St. Louis River Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan.

MDNR will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) during the public review and comment period, which concludes Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at 4:30 p.m.

Written comments should be submitted to Ronald Wieland, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155-4025. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to <u>Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us</u> with "Chambers' Grove EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, include name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to (651) 296-1811.

A copy of the EAW is available for public review at:

 DNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul DNR Northeast Region, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids Minneapolis Central Library, Government Documents, 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall. Duluth Public Library, 520 W. Superior St., Duluth.

The EAW is also posted on the MDNR's website. The URL will be http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/chambers-grove/index.html

Additional copies may be requested by calling (651) 259-5157.

RGU: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person: Ronald Wieland, Project Manager Environmental Policy and Review Unit Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 55155-4025 Fax: 651-296-1811 environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us

Project Title: Interstate 94/Highway 75 Interchange Reconstruction Project

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is planning to reconstruct the TH 75/I-94 interchange in the City of Moorhead, including the construction of auxiliary lanes on I-94 between Hwy 75 and 20th Street. TH 75 is proposed to be resurfaced and widened from 24th Avenue South to 35th Avenue South.

The EAW provides information regarding the project's environmental setting, the potential for environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures for potential impacts. It will be available to view during business hours at the following locations:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation District 4, 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes
 Moorhead Public Library, 118 5th Street South, Moorhead
 Fergus Falls Public Library, 205 E Hampden, Fergus Falls
 - Hennepin County Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

A public hearing regarding the EAW will be held on June 16 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 1080 28th Avenue South, Moorhead, MN. Members of the public are welcome to share comments at the hearing or send them directly to the MnDOT project engineer.

The document can also be accessed from the following website: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d4/projects/moorhead/

To request the document in an alternate format please contact Janet Miller at 651-366-4720 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota), 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You also may send an email to <u>ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us</u>.

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

CORRECTION: Comment Deadline: July 6, 2015

Project Title: Southwest Light Rail Transit (METRO GreenLine Extension)

Project Description: The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes the transportation and environmental impacts associated with the construction of the approximately 16-mile Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) (METRO Green Line Extension) project as an extension of the METRO Green Line (Central Corridor LRT). The Southwest LRT would operate from downtown Minneapolis through the communities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, passing in close proximity to Edina.

The Supplemental Draft EIS augments the information and analyses provided in the Southwest Transitway Draft EIS, focusing on design adjustments that may result in new significant adverse impacts of the proposed project since publication of the Draft EIS in October 2012. The following three areas are analyzed in the limited-scope Supplemental Draft EIS: (1) adjustments to the proposed light rail alignment and station improvements in a segment in Eden Prairie, generally between the intersections of Technology Drive and Mitchell Road and of Flying Cloud Drive and Valley View Road; (2) the location of a proposed OMF in Hopkins; and (3) adjustments to proposed light rail and freight rail alignments and LRT stations in a segment in St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, generally between Louisiana Avenue South and Penn Avenue South. This Supplemental Draft EIS also updates the project's Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation that was included in the project's Draft EIS. This update reflects: 1) design adjustments to the LPA identified by the Council in April and July 2014; 2) preliminary findings of effect made by FTA as part of the project's Section 106 assessment of historical and archaeological resources; 3) continued consultation with officials with jurisdiction for Section 4(f) protected properties; and 4) revised preliminary determinations for Section 4(f) protected properties, including preliminary non-de minimis and de minimis use determinations and temporary occupancy exception determinations.

Documents Available for Public Review

The Supplemental Draft EIS is available for review online at <u>http://metrocouncil.org/swlrt/sdeis</u>. Hard copies of the Supplemental Draft EIS are available for public review at the following locations:

Eden Prairie City Hall: 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
 Eden Prairie Public Library: 565 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
 Minnetonka City Hall: 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345
 Minnetonka Public Library: 17524 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345
 Hopkins City Hall: 1010 First Street South, Hopkins, MN 55343
 Hopkins Public Library: 22 Eleventh Avenue North, Hopkins, MN 55343
 Edina City Hall: 4801 West 50th Street, Edina, MN 55424
 St. Louis Park City Hall: 5005 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416
 St. Louis Park Public Library: 3240 Library Lane, St. Louis Park, MN 55426
 Southwest LRT Project Office: 6465 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426
 Minneapolis City Hall: City Engineer's Office, 350 South Fifth Street, Room 203, Minneapolis, MN 55414
 Minneapolis Central Library: 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN

Walker Public Library: 2880 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408 Linden Hills Public Library: 2900 West 43rd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55410 Sumner Public Library: 611 Van White Memorial Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55411 Franklin Public Library: 1314 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404 Metropolitan Council Library: 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101
 Minnesota Department of Transportation Library: 395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Legislative Reference Library: 645 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

Comment Period, Public Hearings and Instructions for Commenting

Comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS will be accepted from May 22 through July 6, 2015. Comments can be submitted by three methods:

Email: Written comments can be submitted to <u>SWLRT@metrotransit.org</u>

 U.S. Mail: Nani JacobsonAssistant Director, Environmental and Agreements Metro Transit - Southwest LRT Project Office 6465 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 500 St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Public Hearings:Formal testimony at one of three public hearings in June. The public hearings will each be preceded by an open house, where people can learn more about the Southwest LRT Project and the Supplemental Draft EIS.

Public open houses and hearings on the Supplemental Draft EIS are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, June 16, 2015: Hopkins Center for the Arts 1111 Mainstreet Hopkins, MN 55343 Open House: 5:00 PM Public Hearing: 6:00 PM

Wednesday, June 17, 2015: Eden Prairie City Hall 8080 Mitchell Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344 Open House: 5:00 PM Public Hearing: 6:00 PM

Thursday, June 18, 2015: Dunwoody College of Technology 818 Dunwoody Blvd Minneapolis, MN 55403 Open House: 5:00 PM Public Hearing: 6:00 PM

Translation services for non-English speakers and ADA accommodations will be provided on request. To request translation or ADA accommodations, please contact Dan Pfeiffer, Southwest LRT Assistant Public Involvement Manager, at 612-373-3897 or Daniel.pfeiffer@metrotransit.org at least five days prior to the hearing.

RGU: Metropolitan Council

Contact Person: Nani Jacobson, Assistant Director Environmental and Agreements Metro Transit - Southwest LRT Project Office 6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500 St. Louis Park, MN 55426 612-373-3803 nani.jacobson@metrotransit.org

How to Comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS

JUNE 2015

Comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS will be accepted through July 21, 2015.

Following the close of the comment period, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Metropolitan Council will consider all comments submitted and will provide responses to substantive comments in the Final EIS.

There are several ways to comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS:

- Use the online comment form at http://metrocouncil.org/swlrt/sdeis/comment
- Speak in person at one of the public hearings

Individuals will be allotted two minutes to speak; those representing groups will be allotted three minutes. Locations and times of public hearings are listed at far right.

Submit written comments at a public hearing

Comment forms will be provided, or you can bring your written comments to the hearing.

 Send written comments by email to: swlrt@metrotransit.org

 Send written comments by mail to: Nani Jacobson
 Assistant Director, Environmental and
 Agreements
 Metro Transit – Southwest LRT Project Office
 6465 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 500
 St. Louis Park, MN 55426 The Supplemental Draft EIS and appendices are available from the Southwest LRT Project website at:

http://metrocouncil.org/swlrt/sdeis

Printed copies are available for public review at several locations:

Eden Prairie City Hall 8080 Mitchell Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Eden Prairie Public Library565 Prairie Center DriveMinnEden Prairie, MN 55344300 N

Minnetonka City Hall 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Minnetonka, MN 55345

Minnetonka Public Library 17524 Excelsior Blvd. Minnetonka, MN 55345

Hopkins City Hall 1010 First Street South Hopkins, MN 55343

Hopkins Public Library 22 Eleventh Avenue North Hopkins, MN 55343

Edina City Hall 4801 West 50th Street Edina, MN 55424

St. Louis Park City Hall 5005 Minnetonka Blvd. St. Louis Park, MN 55416

St. Louis Park Public Library 3240 Library Lane St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Southwest LRT Project Office 6465 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 500 St. Louis Park, MN 55426 Minneapolis City Hall City Engineer's Office 350 South Fifth Street, Room 203 Minneapolis, MN 55414

Minneapolis Central Library 300 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401

Linden Hills Public Library 2900 West 43rd Street Minneapolis, MN 55410

Sumner Public Library 611 Van White Memorial Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55411

Franklin Public Library 1314 East Franklin Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55404

Walker Public Library 2880 Hennepin Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55408

Metropolitan Council Library 390 Robert Street North St. Paul, MN 55101

MnDOT Transportation Library 395 John Ireland Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

Minn. Legislative Reference Library 645 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Hopkins Center for the Arts

1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins

Tuesday, June 16, 2015 Open House: 5:00 p.m. Public Hearing: 6:00 p.m.

Eden Prairie City Center

8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 Open House: 5:00 p.m. Public Hearing: 6:00 p.m.

Dunwoody College of Technology

818 Dunwoody Boulevard, Minneapolis

Thursday, June 18, 2015 Open House: 5:00 p.m. Public Hearing: 6:00 p.m.

To request documents in an alternative format, please contact the Southwest LRT Project Office by phone at 612-373-3800 or email swlrt@metrotransit.org.



Section 4(f)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Notice of Availability of Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments on the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation, which includes preliminary Section 4(f) *de minimis* impact determinations for two newly identified Section 4(f) properties. **DATES:** By this notice, FTA requests that comments to the Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation must be received by February 25, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathryn Loster, FTA Regional Counsel at (312) 353–3869, *kathryn.loster@ dot.gov;* Maya Sarna, FTA Office of Environmental Programs at (202) 366– 5811, *maya.sarna@dot.gov*. Comments may be submitted to Nani Jacobson, Assistant Director, Environmental and Agreements, Metro Transit-Southwest LRT Project Office, 6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 or via email at *swlrt@ metrotransit.org*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the FTA is releasing an Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation (Amended Evaluation) for the Southwest LRT Project (Project), evaluating two additional Section 4(f) properties in the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Federal Lead Agency: FTA. Project Sponsor: Metropolitan Council.

Project Description: The proposed project is a 14.5-mile light rail transit service that would connect downtown Minneapolis to the southwestern region of the metropolitan area through the cities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie. Minnesota. The Amended Evaluation includes FTA's preliminary determination of *de minimis* impact on two park properties located within the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota. Pursuant to 23 CFR 774.5, FTA requests public and agency comments only on the two properties discussed in Amended Evaluation. Comments received on the Amended Evaluation and the preliminary Section 4(f) de minimis impact determinations will be

included, and responded to, in the Project's Final EIS, which will include the Southwest LRT Final Section 4(f) Evaluation.

To obtain a copy of the Amended Evaluation, please visit the Project's Web site at *www.swlrt.org* or by request by contacting Nani Jacobson at *swlrt@ metrotransit.org* or Maya Sarna at *maya.sarna@dot.gov.*

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 303.

Issued on: January 11, 2016.

Marisol Simon,

Regional Administrator, FTA, Chicago, Illinois.

[FR Doc. 2016–267 Filed 1–8–16; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2015-0121]

Developing Evidence Based Fatigue Risk Management Guidelines for Emergency Medical Services

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). **ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is announcing a meeting that will be held in Washington, DC on February 2nd, 2016 to announce a new initiative and accept comments from the public about the development of voluntary evidencebased guidelines (EBGs) for fatigue risk management tailored to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) occupation. The meeting will include presentations by NHTSA and the project team. These presentations will address the following: (1) A brief overview of the potential dangers of drowsy and fatigued driving and the work of EMS practitioners, including the risk of traffic crashes and providing patient care; (2) a summary of the project goals and methods for coming to consensus on EBG fatigue risk management guidelines, (3) the plan for dissemination of EBGs, and (4) additional project related activities and information. Due to space limitations, attendance at the meeting is limited to invited participants and those who register in advance. Time for comment and questions from attendees will be included. Written comments can also be made on http://www.regulations.gov. **DATES:** The meeting will be held on February 2nd, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Conference Center of the U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. J. Stephen Higgins, Telephone: 202–366–3976; email address: *james.higgins@dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is announcing a meeting that will be held in Washington, DC on February 2nd, 2016 to announce a new initiative and accept comments from the public about the development of voluntary evidencebased guidelines (EBGs) for fatigue risk management tailored to the EMS occupation. This initiative (*http://www*. ems.gov/pdf/nemsac/2013/NEMSAC-AdvisoryFatigueJan2013.pdf) was started at the behest of the National **Emergency Medical Services Advisory** Committee (NEMSAC), a congressionally authorized Federal Advisory Committee; sponsored by NHTSA; and the work performed by the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO). The fatigue risk management guidelines for the EMS community will be developed by an interdisciplinary team of sleep and fatigue scientists, Evidence Based Guideline (EBG) development specialists, and experts in emergency medicine and EMS. Final results and dissemination are expected within the next two years. The evidence based fatigue risk management guidelines will be widely disseminated across the EMS community through publications, presentations, and at national stakeholder meetings.

The meeting will be attended by members of the project team, the EBG panel, members of the public, and members of the EMS community. The meeting will begin with short presentations by NHTSA staff and the project team discussing the dangers of drowsy and fatigued driving and work, a summary of the project goals and methods for coming to consensus on the guidelines, the eventual dissemination of the guidelines, and additional project related activities. A majority of the time in the meeting will be set aside to accept questions and comments from the registered attendees after the brief initial presentations. This is to ensure that the voluntary fatigue risk management guidelines will address the needs of the entire and diverse EMS community. Due to space limitations, attendance at the meeting is limited to invited participants and those who register in advance. All attendees must bring



Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Publication Date: January 11, 2016 Vol. 40, No. 2 Next Publication (8:00 AM): January 18, 2016 Submittal Deadline (4:00 PM): January 11, 2016 Use the EQB Monitor Submission Form View the 2016 EQB Monitor Schedule

Changes are coming to the EQB Monitor!

- The EQB *Monitor* has now switched to a weekly publication schedule. Submissions will be due for the *Monitor* by 4:00 pm on the Monday one week prior to the intended publication date. Please see the <u>2016 EQB Monitor Schedule</u> for additional details.
- The EQB *Monitor* submission process is moving towards an **entirely electronic format**. The <u>EQB Monitor submission form</u> has been updated to standardize the submission process while also capturing more information regarding environmental review. We strongly encourage the use of the online submission form to submit notices to the EQB *Monitor*.

Notice

Notice

Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation Available

Comment Deadline: February 25, 2016

Project Title: Southwest Light Rail Transit

Project Description: The proposed project is a 14.5-mile light rail transit service that would connect downtown Minneapolis to the southwestern region of the metropolitan area through the cities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The Amended Evaluation includes Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) preliminary determination of de minimis impact on two park properties located within the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota. Pursuant to 23 CFR § 774.5, FTA requests public and agency comments only on the two properties discussed in Amended Evaluation. Comments received on the Amended Evaluation and the preliminary Section 4(f) de minimis impact determinations will be included, and responded to, in the Project's Final EIS, which will include the Southwest LRT Final Section

4(f) Evaluation.

Summary: This notice announces the availability of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation. The Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation provides additional information on the Project's Section 4(f) properties and determinations since publication of the Project's Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation Update. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation Update was published in May 2015 within the Southwest LRT Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation provides preliminary Section 4(f) de minimis impact determinations for two newly identified Section 4(f) properties in Minnetonka, Minnesota (i.e., Unnamed Open Space B and the Opus development area trail network); the FTA is only seeking comment on these two newly identified preliminary determinations.

Documents Available for Public Review:

The Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation is available for review online at <u>www.swlrt.org</u>. Hard copies of the Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation are available for public review at the following locations:

- Southwest LRT Project Office: 6465 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426
- Minnetonka City Hall: 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345
- Minnetonka Public Library: 17524 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345
- Metropolitan Council Library: 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Library: 395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155
- **Minnesota Legislative Reference Library:** 645 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

To obtain a copy of the Amended Evaluation, please visit the Project's website at <u>www.swlrt.org</u> or by request by contacting Nani Jacobson at <u>swlrt@metrotransit.org</u> or Maya Sarna at <u>maya.sarna@dot.gov</u>.

Comment Period and Instructions for Commenting:

Comments on the Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation will be accepted between January 11, 2016 through February 25, 2016. Comments may be submitted to Nani Jacobson, Assistant Director, Environmental and Agreements, Metro Transit-Southwest LRT Project Office, 6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 or via email at swlrt@metrotransit.org.

For Further Information Contact: Kathryn Loster, FTA Regional Counsel at (312) 353-3869, <u>kathryn.loster@dot.gov</u>; Maya Sarna, FTA Office of Environmental Programs at (202) 366-5811, <u>maya.sarna@dot.gov</u>.

Federal Lead Agency: Federal Transit Administration

Project Sponsor: Metropolitan Council

Other Public Meetings





PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES Operation and Maintenance Facility Site Selection

The Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project will host three public open houses in May to hear public feedback on a short list of potential locations for the Project's Operation and Maintenance Facility (OMF).

LOCATIONS & TIMES:

Мау 13 5:00–7:00 р.м.*

Eden Prairie City Center, Heritage Rooms 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie

* This open house is being held concurrently with Hennepin County's Transitional Station Area Action Plan meeting at the same location. Visit www.southwesttransitway.org for details.

Мау 15 4:30–7:30 р.м.

Southwest LRT Project Office Park Place West Building 6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500, St. Louis Park

Мау 22 4:30–7:30 р.м.

Hopkins Center for the Arts, Jaycees Studio 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins

Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator Dan Pfeiffer, daniel.pfeiffer@metrotransit.org or 612-373-3897. Requests for special assistance should be made seven business days in advance of the scheduled open house. The facility will house 180 permanent jobs for train operators, skilled mechanics, maintenance personnel and support staff.

At the OMF, light rail vehicles will be cleaned, stored and receive light maintenance.



Above: The Franklin Operation and Maintenance Facility, serving the Blue Line (Hiawatha LRT), features on-site parking for staff and fully enclosed storage areas for light rail vehicles.





PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE & COMMUNITY MEETING

Operation and Maintenance Facility Site Selection

The Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project will host three public open houses in May to hear public feedback on a short list of potential locations for the Project's Operation and Maintenance Facility (OMF).

May 22 Hopkins Center for the Arts

(Jaycees Studio) 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins

Public Open House: 4:30 – 7:30 р.м. Hopkins Community Meeting: 6:00 – 7:00 р.м.

ADDITIONAL OPEN HOUSES WILL BE HELD:

May 13 5:00 – 7:00 р.м.* Eden Prairie City Center, Heritage Rooms 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie

* This open house is being held concurrently with Hennepin County's Transitional Station Area Action Plan meeting at the same location. Visit www.southwesttransitway.org for details.

May 15 4:30 – 7:30 р.м. Southwest LRT Project Office Park Place West Building 6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500, St. Louis Park

Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator Dan Pfeiffer, daniel.pfeiffer@metrotransit.org or 612-373-3897. Requests for special assistance should be made seven business days in advance of the scheduled open house. The facility will house 180 permanent jobs for train operators, skilled mechanics, maintenance personnel and support staff.

At the OMF, light rail vehicles will be cleaned, stored and receive light maintenance.



Above: The Franklin Operation and Maintenance Facility, serving the Blue Line (Hiawatha LRT), features on-site parking for staff and fully enclosed storage areas for light rail vehicles.





PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES Freight Rail Issues

The Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project will host two public open houses June 13, 2013, on engineering concepts for resolving the location of freight rail in the design of the Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) project.

LOCATION & TIMES:

June 13 8:00–9:30 A.M. 4:30–7:00 р.м.

Benilde-St. Margaret's School Commons Cafeteria 2501 Highway 100 South, St. Louis Park (www.bsmschool.org)

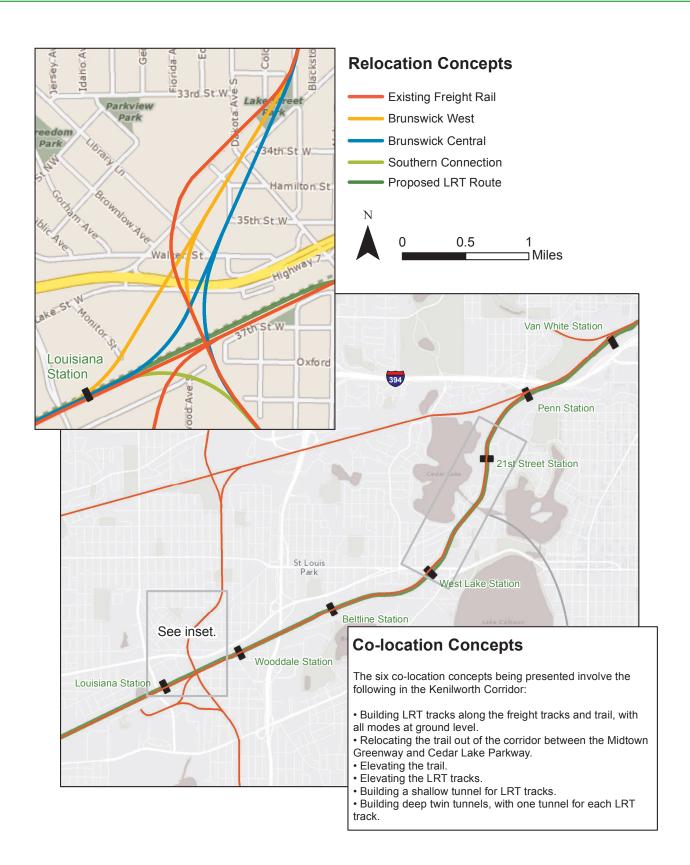
The concepts explore various possibilities for co-locating freight and LRT tracks in Minneapolis, as well as options to reroute freight rail traffic in St. Louis Park to make way for LRT tracks. The relocation concepts to be presented will be different than the one described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

See map of concepts on reverse side.

Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator Sophia Ginis, Sophia.Ginis@metrotransit.org or 612-373-3895. Requests for special assistance should be made seven business days in advance of the scheduled open house. Both co-location and relocation options would have impacts on residences and businesses, including the freight railroads. The goal is to choose one option and design it in a way that is safe and operationally efficient for both LRT and the freight railroads and cost effective.

Public input at open houses will be summarized and shared with project engineers as they advance the designs. The feedback also will be shared with members of the project's business and community advisory committees, the Corridor Management Committee and the Metropolitan Council to help them understand the issues around co-location and relocation as they provide input.

Additional open houses later in June will cover stations and other project elements. Cost impacts of the co-location and relocation concepts will be developed and presented in midsummer.







PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES Light Rail Station Locations

The Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project will host six open houses in June for the public to learn about, and provide feedback on, proposed locations for all 17 proposed stations.

LOCATIONS & TIMES:

The public is encouraged to attend the open houses held in the city where they live.

MINNEAPOLIS – All Stations

June 17 8–9:30 a.m. Metro Transit's Fred T. Heywood Office Building, 560 Sixth Ave N, Minneapolis (http://goo.gl/maps/uDQZG).

June 17 4:30–7 p.m.

Harrison Recreation Center, 503 Irving Ave. N, Minneapolis (<u>http://goo.gl/maps/UHtBP</u>).

June 24 4:30–7 p.m.

Kenwood Community Center, 2101 Franklin Ave. W, Minneapolis. (<u>http://goo.gl/maps/oguGh</u>).

ST. LOUIS PARK-All Stations

June 20 4:30–7 p.m. Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W 26th St., St. Louis Park (<u>http://goo.gl/maps/aRVEP</u>).

MINNETONKA/HOPKINS-All Stations

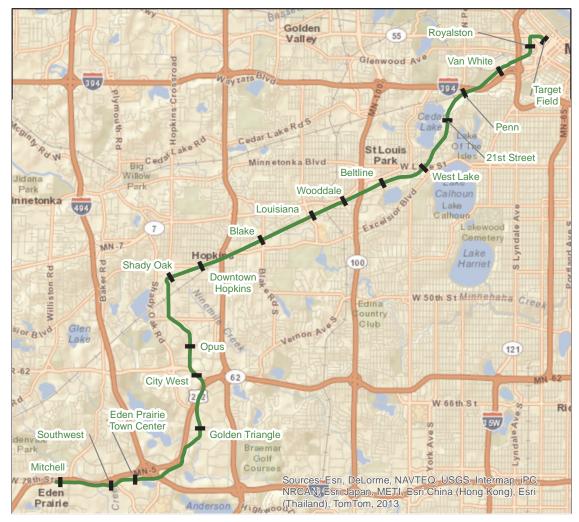
June 184:30–7 p.m.Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Mainstreet,Hopkins (http://goo.gl/maps/oG0SK).

EDEN PRAIRIE-All Stations

June 26 4:30–7 p.m. Eden Prairie City Center, 8080 Mitchell Rd., Eden Prairie (<u>http://goo.gl/maps/zpK5l</u>).

Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator Daren Nyquist, <u>Daren.Nyquist@metrotransit.org</u> or 612-373-3894. Requests for special assistance should be made seven business days in advance of the scheduled open house.

See map of proposed station locations on reverse side.



Proposed Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) station locations.

Proposed Station Locations - Nearest Cross Streets

Eden Prairie

Mitchell Road: Hwy 212 & Mitchell Rd.

Southwest: Technology Dr. & Eden Prairie Center Dr.

Eden Prairie Town Center: Technology Dr. & Flying Cloud Dr.

Golden Triangle: 70th St. W & Shady Oak Rd.

City West: 62nd St. W & Shady Oak Rd.

Minnetonka

Opus: Bren Rd. E & Bren Rd. W

Hopkins

Shady Oak Road: 5th St. S & 16th Ave S

Downtown Hopkins: Excelsior Blvd. & Eighth Ave. S

Blake Road: Blake Rd. & Second St. NE

St. Louis Park

Louisiana Avenue: Louisiana Ave. & Oxford St.

Wooddale Avenue: Wooddale Ave. & 36th St. W

Beltline Boulevard: Beltline Blvd. & Park Glen Rd.

Minneapolis

West Lake Street: Lake St. W & Chowen/Abbott Ave. S

21st Street: 21st St. W & Thomas Ave. S

Penn Avenue: I-394 & Penn Ave. S

Van White Boulevard: I-394 & Dunwoody Blvd./Van White Blvd.

Royalston Avenue: Royalston Ave. & Holden St. N





PUBLIC COMMUNITY MEETINGS Freight Rail Issues

The Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project will host two community meetings July 17 & 18, 2013, on engineering concepts for resolving the location of freight rail in the design of the project.

LOCATIONS & TIMES:

JULY 17 MINNEAPOLIS

Jones-Harrison Residence

3700 Cedar Lake Avenue, Minneapolis Open House: 4:30–5:30 р.м. Presentation: 5:30–6:15 р.м. Facilitated Q&A Session: 6:15–7:00 р.м. MAP: <u>http://goo.gl/maps/UhXfh</u>

The concepts explore various possibilities for colocating freight and LRT tracks in Minneapolis, as well as options to reroute freight rail traffic in St. Louis Park to make way for LRT tracks. The relocation concepts to be presented will be different than the one described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Both co-location and relocation options would have impacts on residences and businesses, including the freight railroads. The goal is to choose one option

See map of concepts on reverse side.

To learn more about the Green Line Extension Project, visit <u>www.swlrt.org</u>

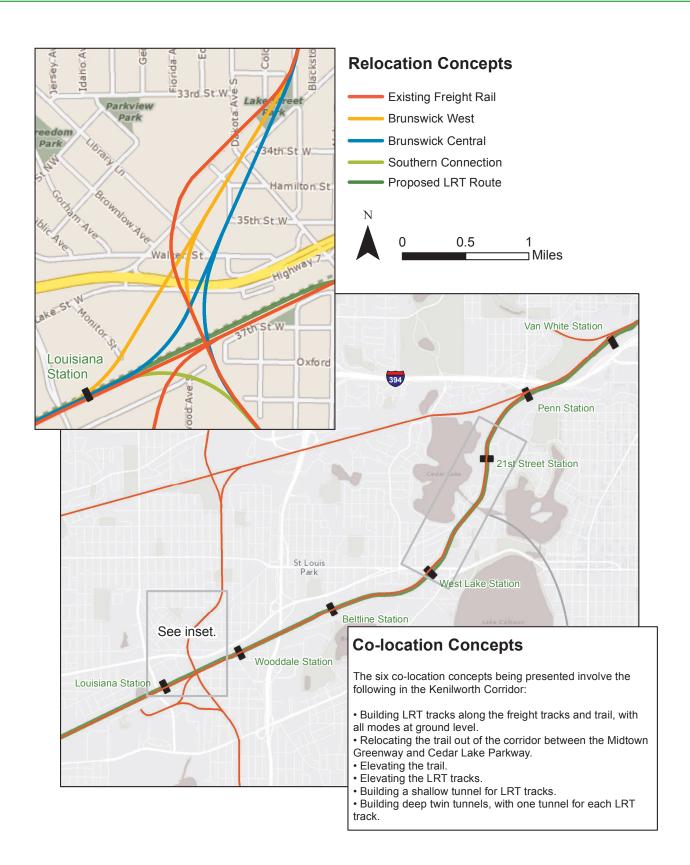
JULY 18 ST. LOUIS PARK

St. Louis Park High School 6425 W 33rd Street, St. Louis Park Open House: 4:30–5:30 P.M. Presentation: 5:30–6:15 P.M. Facilitated Q&A Session: 6:15–7:00 P.M. MAP: http://goo.gl/maps/DLBmJ

and design it in a way that is safe and operationally efficient for both LRT and the freight railroads and cost effective.

Feedback from these community meetings will be shared with members of the project's Business and Community Advisory Committees, the Corridor Management Committee and the Metropolitan Council to help them understand the issues around co-location and relocation as they provide input.

Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator Sophia Ginis, 612-373-3895 or <u>Sophia.Ginis@metrotransit.org</u>. Requests for special assistance should be made seven business days in advance of the scheduled community meetings.







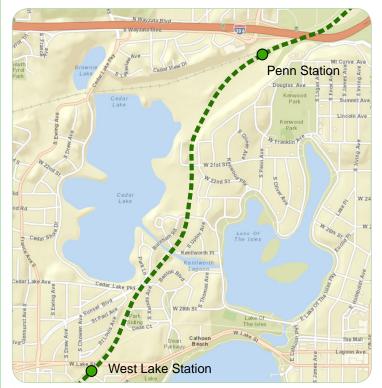
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Southwest LRT Recommendation for the Minneapolis Segment

The Metropolitan Council will host a public open house on Thursday, October 10, 2013 to receive public input on the project office's draft recommendation for the scope and basic design of the Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) project in Minneapolis.

The Southwest LRT Project Office presented a draft recommendation for the scope and basic design of the light rail line to the project's Corridor Management Committee on October 2.

The draft recommendation includes building shallow tunnels for LRT trains through the Kenilworth Corridor in Minneapolis, eliminating the proposed LRT station at 21st Street and keeping existing freight rail service in the area.



Proposed route between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles.

LOCATION & TIME

Thursday, October 10, 2013 5:30-7:30 р.м.

Kenwood Community Center 2101 West Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis

MAP: http://goo.gl/maps/Tkq84

This open house will provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions and give feedback on the draft recommendation before the Metropolitan Council considers it.

At this open house, the public will be able to talk with Council members and project staff one-toone and view engineering drawings of the shallow tunnels. No testimony or formal presentations are planned. Comment cards will be provided.

Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator Sophia Ginis, 612-373-3895 or <u>Sophia.Ginis@metrotransit.org</u>. Requests for special assistance should be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Learn more about Southwest LRT at <u>www.swlrt.org</u>





TOWN HALL/COMMUNITY MEETINGS Southwest LRT Studies in the Kenilworth Corridor

The Metropolitan Council will host facilitated public community meetings on January 7 & 9, 2014 focused on studies that are currently underway of freight rail, water resources and landscaping/greenscaping in the Kenilworth area of Minneapolis.

LOCATIONS & TIMES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014 5:00–7:30 р.м. Kenwood Community Center 2101 Franklin Avenue West, Minneapolis мар: http://goo.gl/maps/oguGh

In December 2013, the Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project began three studies to clarify important issues that affect the proposed light rail line between Eden Prairie and downtown Minneapolis:

- The location of freight rail service in the Kenilworth Corridor
- Potential impacts of LRT construction on Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles
- Landscaping and greenscaping in the Kenilworth area

Results of the studies are expected in early 2014.

These meetings will provide opportunities to learn about these studies, talk to project staff and participate in discussions. Thursday, January 9, 2014 5:00–7:30 р.м. St. Louis Park Recreation Center 3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park мар: <u>http://goo.gl/maps/waC5T</u>

MEETING AGENDA

- **5:00 5:30** Open house (project staff on hand to answer questions)
- **5:30 7:30** Welcome and review of meeting purpose

Overview of scopes of work for three studies

Facilitator-led discussion

Wrap-Up/Next Steps

Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator Daren Nyquist, <u>Daren.Nyquist@metrotransit.org</u> or 612-373-3894 at least seven business days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Learn more about Southwest LRT at <u>www.swlrt.org</u>

DESIGNING A LINE THAT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME





The Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Project is moving forward with additional studies of technical issues that matter to Twin Cities residents.

To learn more and stay involved, visit www.swlrt.org.



In December, the Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project began three studies on important issues that affect the proposed light rail line between Eden Prairie and downtown Minneapolis. Results of the studies are expected in early 2014.

Freight Rail: An independent consultant will review options for the relocation of freight rail service that now runs near the proposed LRT route through Kenilworth.

Water Quality Impacts: A second independent consultant will review potential impacts of LRT construction and operation on the quality of lake water and groundwater in the Kenilworth Corridor area.

Accelerated Landscaping & Greenscaping: The project is creating an inventory of trees and vegetation in the Kenilworth area to identify landscaping and greenscaping opportunities.

In January, the Metropolitan Council will host community meetings focused on the three additional studies. For details on these and other upcoming meetings and events, go to www.swlrt.org.

January 7, 5:00–7:30 p.m., Kenwood Community Center, 2101 Franklin Ave. W, Minneapolis

January 9, 5:00–7:30 p.m., St. Louis Park Recreation Center, 3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park

To learn more about Southwest LRT and stay connected: Visit www.swlrt.org, email swlrt@metrotransit.org or call 612-373-3888 to be connected to a Community Outreach Coordinator. Southwest LRT Project 6465 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 500 St. Louis Park, MN 55426

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TOWN HALL/COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Draft Results of Southwest LRT Studies in the Kenilworth Corridor

Independent consultants will present draft reports on freight rail location alternatives and water resources impacts. The public is invited to ask questions and share comments with Metropolitan Council members and Southwest LRT project staff.

Monday, February 10, 2014 6:00-9:30 р.м.

Dunwoody College of Technology Decker Auditorium 818 Dunwoody Blvd., Minneapolis

Park in west lot; enter via west entrance.

Map: http://goo.gl/maps/wf1uO

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 6:00-9:30 р.м.

St. Louis Park Senior High School Carl A. Holmstrom Auditorium 6425 West 33rd Street, St. Louis Park

Park in west lot or on street; enter via School District office door (#2) or main foyer entrance (#5).

Map: http://goo.gl/maps/5s4WQ

In December 2013, the Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project began studies of freight rail location alternatives and water resources impacts that could affect the proposed light rail line in the Kenilworth Corridor.

Draft reports from these studies were released on January 30 and are available on the Southwest LRT website at www.swlrt.org. Comments may be submitted online at www.swlrt.org or via email to swlrt@metrotransit.org. Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator Daren Nyquist, Daren.Nyquist@metrotransit.org or 612-373-3894 at least seven business days before the scheduled meeting.

MEETING AGENDAS

Agendas will differ at each meeting to reflect the concerns expressed by the communities.

	Minneapolis	St. Louis Park
Welcome & meeting purpose	6:00	6:00
Water Resources presentation, Q&A, Comments	6:15	6:15
Freight Rail presentation, Q&A, Comments	7:05	6:50
General Q&A Comments	8:10	8:10
Close and Evaluation	9:10	9:10

Learn more about Southwest LRT at www.swlrt.org





Community Open Houses

SOUTHWEST LRT STATION DESIGN

Come to a community open house to see LRT station architecture concepts and learn about what goes into designing a light rail station. Metropolitan Council project staff will be on hand to receive public input and answer questions.

The Southwest LRT Project has developed several different station architecture concepts to fit into different settings. This open house is an opportunity to learn about station design and give feedback to project staff. You can also hear a brief presentation on station design at the beginning of each open house.

If you can't come in person, meeting materials and a comment form will be available online at www.swlrt.org.

Anyone who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Assistant Public Involvement Manager Dan Pfeiffer at least seven business days before the scheduled meeting:

Email: Daniel.Pfeiffer@metrotransit.org Phone: 612-373-3897



One of four station design concepts developed for the Southwest LRT project.

MINNEAPOLIS STATIONS

Thursday, April 2, 2015, 5:30-7:30 р.м. Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 7:30-9:30 а.м.

Dunwoody College of Technology 818 Dunwoody Blvd., Minneapolis Map: https://goo.gl/maps/Vhs71

ST. LOUIS PARK STATIONS

Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

St. Louis Park City Hall 5005 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park Map: https://goo.gl/maps/j64JQ

EDEN PRAIRIE STATIONS

Thursday, April 9, 2015, 5:30-7:30 р.м.

Eden Prairie City Center 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie Map: https://goo.gl/maps/w0rJX

HOPKINS & MINNETONKA STATIONS

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 5:30-7:30 р.м.

Hopkins City Hall 1010 First Street South, Hopkins Map: https://goo.gl/maps/XdxGq

WWW.SWLRT.ORG

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP Kenilworth Landscape Design Project

Be a part of the project by participating in an *interactive* community workshop

The Kenilworth Landscape Design

project is a unique opportunity to shape the Kenilworth corridor, and balance transit and active trails with the natural surroundings.

Community Engagement Goals

- Develop clear understanding of corridor issues & opportunities
- Review analysis & background information developed so far
- Verify corridor Design Principles
- Build consensus for the Kenilworth Corridor Vision

If you can't make it to the meeting and are interested in sharing your thoughts, meeting materials and a comment form will be posted on the project website at **www.swlrt.org**





JOIN US!

WHEN & WHERE

Saturday, June 13th 8:30 AM 12:30 PM

The Blake Upper School 511 Kenwood Pkwy Minneapolis, MN 55403

Find it on Google Maps: http://bit.ly/1K0RwhA

AGENDA

8:30 9:00 AM Presentation about the Project and Process

9:30 AM 12:30 PM Small group discussions on issues, opportunities, principles, and vision

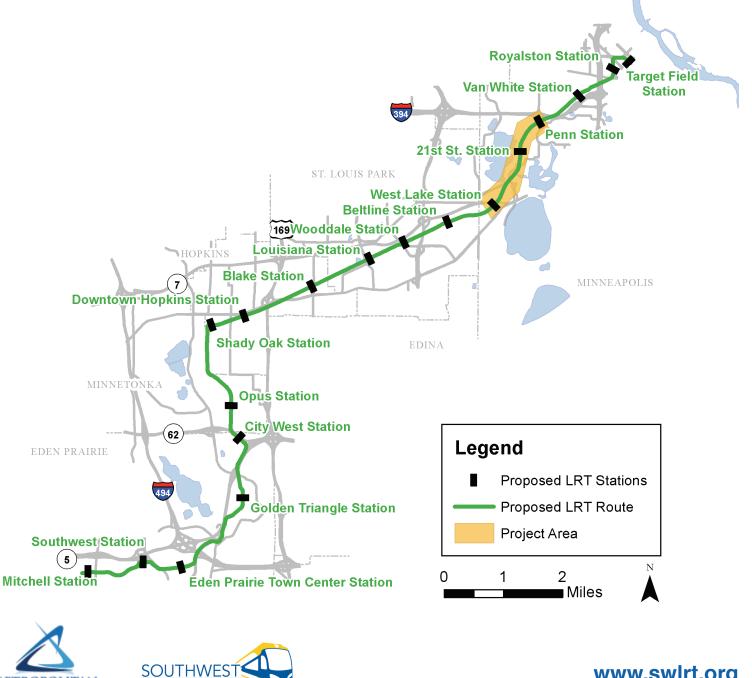
If you need assistance to participate please contact SWLRT Community Outreach Coordinator, Sophia Ginis: sophia.ginis@metrotransit.org

Please make requests for special assistance at least five business days in advance.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP Kenilworth Landscape Design Project

The Kenilworth Corridor is part of the proposed Southwest LRT Green Line Extension. The project area is located southwest of Downtown Minneapolis, and includes three proposed stations.

METROPOLITAN



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #2 Kenilworth Landscape Design Project

Review Proposed Concepts

The Kenilworth Landscape Design

project is a unique opportunity to shape the Kenilworth corridor, and balance transit and active trails with the natural surroundings.

Workshop Purpose:

- Receive input on conceptual designs
- Review design principles and corridor vision
- Discuss opportunities for placemaking
- Discuss project next steps

If you can't make it to the meeting and are interested in sharing your thoughts, meeting materials and a comment form will be posted on the project website at **www.swlrt.org**





JOIN US!

WHEN & WHERE

Saturday, August 8th 9:00 AM 11:30 AM

The Blake Upper School 511 Kenwood Pkwy Minneapolis, MN 55403

Find it on Google Maps: http://bit.ly/1K0RwhA

AGENDA

9:00 9:45 AM *Presentation of conceptual designs*

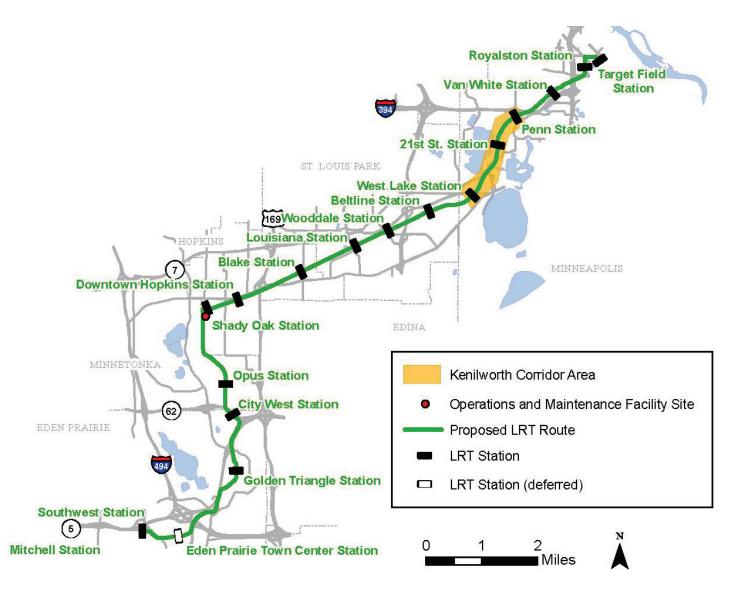
9:45 AM 11:30 AM Small group discussion and table activities

If you need assistance to participate please contact SWLRT Community Outreach Coordinator, Sophia Ginis: sophia.ginis@metrotransit.org

Please make requests for special assistance at least five business days in advance.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #2 Kenilworth Landscape Design Project

The Kenilworth Corridor is part of the proposed Southwest LRT Green Line Extension. The project area is located southwest of Downtown Minneapolis, and includes three proposed stations.







COMMUNITY MEETING Kenilworth Landscape Design Project

Review Design Recommendations

The Kenilworth Landscape Design

project is a unique opportunity to shape the Kenilworth corridor, and balance transit and active trails with the natural surroundings.

Meeting Purpose:

- Review design recommendations
- Respond to questions

Community workshops, pop-up events and committee meetings were held during spring and summer of 2015 to brainstorm ideas and receive feedback on concepts. This event is intended to showcase the culmination of work and answer questions before finalizing the landscape design.

Meeting materials will be posted on the project website at **www.swlrt.org**



WHEN & WHERE

Wednesday, November 18 5:30 PM 7:30 PM

Dunwoody College of Technology McNamara Room (Lunch Room) 818 Dunwoody Blvd Minneapolis, MN 55403

Find it on Google Maps: https://goo.gl/maps/H2kcGEuQdXz

AGENDA

5:30 PM 6:30 PM Presentation of Designs

6:30 PM 7:30 PM Open House

If you need assistance to participate please contact SWLRT Community Outreach Coordinator, Sophia Ginis: sophia.ginis@metrotransit.org, 612-373-3895

Please make requests for special assistance at least five business days in advance.





COMMUNITY MEETING Kenilworth Landscape Design Project

The Kenilworth Corridor is part of the proposed Southwest LRT Green Line Extension. The project area includes the corridor from the Penn Station to the West Lake Station.

