



Southwest LRT (METRO Green Line Extension) Project
Supplemental Draft EIS Comments

Public Comments at the Hopkins Public Hearing, June 16, 2015

July 2015

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Metropolitan Council:

Jennifer Munt
Edward Reynoso
Steve Elkins

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 minutes. I ask that you state your name and address
2 for the record. If you're representing a group, please
3 identify the group as well as your name and -- and your
4 address.

5 We'll let you know when you have one minute
6 30 seconds and when your time is up. Sophia here has
7 got signs that she will show to you. To ensure that
8 everyone that wants to speak has an opportunity, I ask
9 that you respect the time limits and refrain from
10 applauding or cheering during the public hearing.

11 To help expedite the process, I'll call three
12 names at a time. If you're the second and third names,
13 please come forward so that you'll be ready to speak as
14 soon as the other person is done.

15 Before we begin taking public testimony
16 tonight, Nani Jacobson, who is the assistant director
17 of Environmental and Agreements at the Southwest
18 Project Office, she'll give us a 10 to 12 minute
19 overview of the supplemental DEIS. Welcome, Nani.
20 She's got a presentation right behind me.

21 (Per request, presentation not reported.)

22 MS. MUNT: Thank you, Nani.

23 I want to first recognize two elected
24 officials who have joined us tonight, Hennepin County
25 Commissioner Jan Callison and Hopkins City Councilman

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 Gadd. They are both here to hear your comments.

2 Tonight we have got only two people signed up
3 to testify. First is Bob Carney, and second is Stuart
4 Nolan.

5 Bob?

6 HP-01 MR. CARNEY: Hi, I'm just curious: Are they
7 still on that -- still two-minute rule?

8 MS. MUNT: Two minutes.

9 MR. CARNEY: Two minutes. Okay. I guess
10 this is the two-minute warning.

11 The State has cancelled \$30 million that had
12 been appropriated for Southwest Light Rail. The total
13 that the State has appropriated so far now is down to
14 \$15 million. The supplemental -- the impact statement
15 says in section 5.2, "Remaining funding is assumed to
16 come from," and then dot, dot, dot, "the State
17 (10 percent)."

18 Now, you're talking about trying to cut back
19 to a \$1.65 billion budget; right now, it's at
20 \$2 billion. That's \$165 million for the State's
21 10 percent. And they've contributed \$15 million, so
22 there's 150 missing -- \$150 million missing.

23 I talked to Speaker Daudt at the special
24 session and asked him, "Is there any chance that the
25 legislature next year is going to put any more money

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 into Southwest Light Rail?" He said, "No." I asked
2 him, "Is that on the record or off the record?" He
3 said, "I don't care."

4 So you need to realize that there is a
5 \$300 million shortfall in the amount of money that you
6 think is coming into this program. That's \$150 million
7 that the State is not going to do and another
8 \$150 million in federal match.

9 Now, the current reports show \$59 million
10 being spent on it. I've got an e-mail from a Hennepin
11 County project engineer who says that Hennepin County
12 Railroad has put \$34 million into it; their numbers
13 show \$10.9 million. I'm showing about \$90 million that
14 has been put in so far. I'm showing another sixty --
15 \$67.3 million scheduled to be disbursed or budgeted by
16 Hennepin County Railroad or CTIB for the rest of the
17 year.

18 This is just an outrageous process. The real
19 issue is we've got to freeze this thing before more
20 money is spent.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. MUNT: Next speaker is Stuart Nolan.

23 **HP-02** MR. NOLAN: Don't start the clock yet. I
24 haven't said a word. Can you pass those down, please?

25 Excuse me, I'm Stuart Nolan, Stuart

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 Companies. Among others, we own just about 500 rental
2 housing units on either side of Hopkins and
3 Minnetonka -- and the City of Minnetonka. As -- as the
4 route comes south over the tracks, our properties begin
5 and extend south on either side (inaudible) Smetana.

6 We object to that route through the middle of
7 our properties and uprooting the lives of over a
8 thousand of our residences. And it damage -- the
9 damage to the environment, I won't harp on it, is
10 considerable with our wetlands and our wildlife and --
11 and trail.

12 We propose an alternate. Instead of going
13 through where the yellow is on the map I gave you, we
14 propose -- and this is -- this is a problem for some
15 people; to us, it makes a lot of sense. If the train
16 came up Excelsior Boulevard and turned south at 11th
17 Street instead of going up to 17th, and it connects to
18 the same point south where you can see.

19 When it does, it decreases the cost of the
20 train because it's -- it's shortening the route by 2100
21 and some feet; it reduces the travel time; it reduces
22 the impact to the environment; and it eliminates the
23 problem with the Hopkins Maintenance Facility because
24 it doesn't go up to 17th, it turns at 11th.

25 It's a straight route. It saves money, the

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 environment, the maintenance facility, travel time, and
2 I think it deserves consideration and not just shoveled
3 under the map -- map because this is what some people
4 decided to push.

5 And I made it in two minutes.

6 MS. MUNT: Folks, is there anybody else who
7 would like to testify tonight? We've got two minutes
8 for individuals, three minutes for groups.

9 HP-03 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a question: What is
10 the total expenditure on Southwest Light Rail Transit
11 planning to this point?

12 MS. MUNT: Sam, could you help the lady with
13 an answer?

14 MS. O'CONNELL: Sure.

15 MS. MUNT: Thank you.

16 MS. O'CONNELL: So she asked in the group. I
17 don't know if you know right now, it's been about
18 \$62 million for the planning that we've been doing on
19 the engineering and the environmental study. So our
20 staff would be happy to answer any questions that you
21 have. We still have a lot of folks that are back in
22 the open house, so --

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are you talking about
24 consultant fees or staff? Does that include staff?

25 MS. O'CONNELL: (Nods head.)

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So \$62 million?

2 MS. MUNT: Folks, I'd also like to
3 acknowledge Mayor Gene Maxwell from the City of
4 Hopkins.

5 Anybody else want to testify? I think this
6 is the one of shortest public hearings we've ever had.
7 Well, I think what we'll do, folks, is folks at the
8 table will stick around for another 15 minutes; our
9 staff will stick around outside in the hall until 6:30.
10 If anybody changes their mind, we'll be right here to
11 hear your testimony.

12 HP-04 AUDIENCE MEMBER: As long as we're here.

13 MS. MUNT: Please.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just have a question
15 about the Kenilworth tunnel. I thought that that was
16 cancelled, and they were going to go over that track?

17 MS. MUNT: Folks, we've got questions about
18 the Kenilworth trail. Can Nani help explain that?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just thought I heard on
20 the news that the tunnel was cancelled and that it
21 would end up being an overhead rail, still using the
22 same track, just overhead.

23 MS. JACOBSON: Sure, I'll respond to that.
24 With respect to the document, in Section 3.4, it does
25 identify a tunnel in the Kenilworth. And that's still

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 part of the current project, so we would welcome any
2 comments on the design in that line that does include a
3 tunnel in the Kenilworth.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So what I heard on the news
5 is wrong?

6 MS. JACOBSON: I mean, the project is -- I'll
7 be happy to take you out in the lobby and show you that
8 particular section on that.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I -- I guess I have another
10 question. How much -- what soft soil, sandy stuff for
11 what percentage of the line? Because I know there's
12 some in Eden Prairie and there's some in Minneapolis,
13 and certainly, there's some in Hopkins.

14 MS. MUNT: Nani, can you speak to the -- the
15 wet soil that may be encountered in both Eden Prairie
16 and in Hopkins?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And Minneapolis.

18 MS. MUNT: And Minneapolis.

19 MS. JACOBSON: Certainly. We do have the --
20 we do have pretty minimal wetland packs in the three
21 areas that we have identified in SDEIS. I would
22 actually -- we have a board out there; it's at the end
23 of the hall. That's going to be the best way to answer
24 your question, and if there's not a staff person out
25 there, I can certainly come out and show you what --

Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 where those wetlands are.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I saw that. I just
3 wondered what percentage -- I know that the area of the
4 Kenilworth trail was not just wetland; it was a lake.
5 It was -- so it's filled in. Seems -- seems that the
6 land that's left is wetland. So, I mean, how much soil
7 stabilization?

8 MS. JACOBSON: There's a small amount of
9 wetland in that area, but not the -- not that much. I
10 think it's less than -- less than an acre along that
11 Kenilworth area. So we look -- we do a very thorough
12 analysis in the field, surveys to document the
13 vegetation and the wetland coverage. So we've done
14 that for the entire --

15 MS. MUNT: Anyone else wants to testify?
16 Okay. I have got us, right now, at 6:30. We'll hang
17 out here until 6:45, and if anybody changes their mind,
18 just step to the microphone. Let us know your name and
19 your address and the group you represent, if you're
20 here on behalf of a group.

21 (Proceedings concluded at 6:28 p.m.)

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Public Hearing - 6/16/2015
In re: Southwest Green Line LRT Extension

1 STATE OF MINNESOTA)
 : ss CERTIFICATE
2 COUNTY OF ANOKA)

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Notary Public
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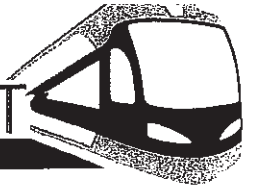
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Comment Card

HPCC-01

SOUTHWEST

Green Line LRT Extension



Date 6-16-15

Comment: I have no comment on Environmental
study. Just how the Southwest LRT
will be built. Thankyou.
David Hester