

Appendix H- Agency Invitation Letters



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

612-348-9260, Phone
612-348-9710, Fax
612-596-6985, TDD/TYY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Blythe Semmer
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Blythe Semmer:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) establishes an enhanced environmental review process for certain FTA projects, increasing the transparency of the process, as well as opportunities for participation. The requirements of Section 6002 apply to the project that is the subject of this letter. As part of the environmental review process for this project, the lead agencies must identify, as early as practicable, any other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in the project, and invite such agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process.¹ Your agency has been identified preliminarily as one that may have an interest in this project; accordingly, you are being extended this invitation to become actively involved as a participating agency in the environmental review process for the project.

As a participating agency, you will be afforded the opportunity, together with the public, to be involved in defining the purpose of and need for the project, as well as in determining the range of alternatives to be considered for the project. In addition, you will be asked to:

- Provide input on the impact assessment methodologies and level of detail in your agency's area of expertise;

¹ Designation as a "participation agency" does not imply that the participating agency supports the proposed project or has any jurisdiction over, or special expertise concerning the proposed project or its potential impacts. A "participating agency" differs from a "cooperating agency," which is defined in regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act as "any Federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.5.

- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and
- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. **If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing**, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted by post or electronically **by October 13, 2008** to:

Ms. Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

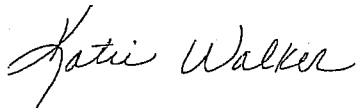
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If you accept this invitation to participate, you or your delegate are invited to represent your agency at the interagency scoping meeting scheduled for October 15, 2008 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at: Metro Counties, 2099 University Avenue W., St. Paul, MN 55104.

If you wish to comment in writing, in order to give your agency adequate opportunity to weigh the relevance of your participation in this environmental review process, written response to this invitation is due on November 7, 2008.

Additional information will be forthcoming during the scoping process. If you have questions regarding this invitation, please contact me at: Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



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September 25, 2008

Board of Water and Soil Resources
Jim Haertel
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Haertel:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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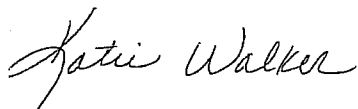
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
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September 25, 2008

City of Eden Prairie
Scott Neal, City Manager
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Neal:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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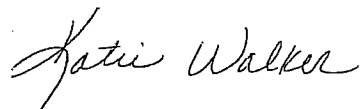
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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
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September 25, 2008

City of Edina
Gordon Hughes, City Manager
4801 West 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Hughes:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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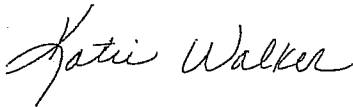
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Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

City of Minnetonka
John Gunyou
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Gunyou:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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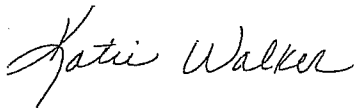
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September 25, 2008

City of Hopkins
Richard Getschow
1010 1st Street South
Hopkins, MN 55343

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Getschow:

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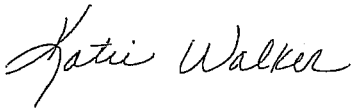
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September 25, 2008

City of Minneapolis
Steve Kotke
Public Works Director
350 South 5th Street, Room 203
Minneapolis, MN 55415

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Dear Mr. Kotke:

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Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) establishes an enhanced environmental review process for certain FTA projects, increasing the transparency of the process, as well as opportunities for participation. The requirements of Section 6002 apply to the project that is the subject of this letter. As part of the environmental review process for this project, the lead agencies must identify, as early as practicable, any other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in the project, and invite such agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process.¹ Your agency has been identified preliminarily as one that may have an interest in this project; accordingly, you are being extended this invitation to become actively involved as a participating agency in the environmental review process for the project.

As a participating agency, you will be afforded the opportunity, together with the public, to be involved in defining the purpose of and need for the project, as well as in determining the range of alternatives to be considered for the project. In addition, you will be asked to:

- Provide input on the impact assessment methodologies and level of detail in your agency's area of expertise;

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- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and
- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. **If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing**, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted by post or electronically **by October 13, 2008** to:

Ms. Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

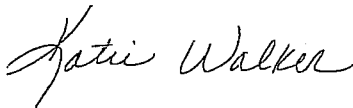
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If you wish to comment in writing, in order to give your agency adequate opportunity to weigh the relevance of your participation in this environmental review process, written response to this invitation is due on November 7, 2008.

Additional information will be forthcoming during the scoping process. If you have questions regarding this invitation, please contact me at: Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

612-348-9260, Phone
612-348-9710, Fax
612-596-6985, TDD/TTY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

City of Minneapolis
Mike Christenson, CPED Director
Crown Roller Mill
105 Fifth Avenue South #200
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Christenson:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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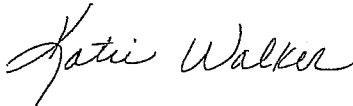
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

City of St. Louis Park
Tom Harmening
5005 Minnetonka Boulevard
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Harmening:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Housing, Community Works & Transit,
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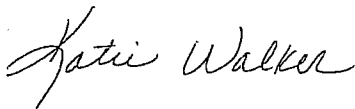
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Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

Federal Highway Administration
Robin Schroeder
380 Jackson Street
Galtier Plaza, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Robin Schroeder:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

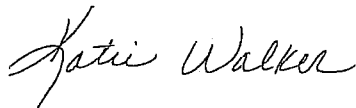
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

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612-596-6985, TDD/TYY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Hennepin Conservation District
Joel Settles
417 North Fifth Street
Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Settles:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
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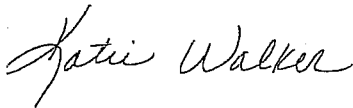
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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

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Agency Coordination Plan



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September 25, 2008

Hennepin County
Richard P. Johnson
A-2300 Government Center
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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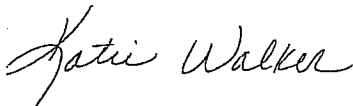
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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

Indian Affairs Council
Executive Director
161 St. Anthony Avenue, Suite 924
St. Paul, MN 55103

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

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- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and

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- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. **If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing**, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted by post or electronically **by October 13, 2008** to:

Ms. Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

Please include the title of the official responding. Your agency will be treated as participating agency unless your written response declining such designation as outlined above is transmitted to this office no later than October 13, 2008.

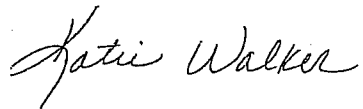
Initiation of Section 106 Consultation will be forth coming under separate documentation.

If you accept this invitation to participate, you or your delegate are invited to represent your agency at the interagency scoping meeting scheduled for October 15, 2008 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at: Metro Counties, 2099 University Avenue W., St. Paul, MN 55104.

If you wish to comment in writing, in order to give your agency adequate opportunity to weigh the relevance of your participation in this environmental review process, written response to this invitation is due on November 7, 2008.

Additional information will be forthcoming during the scoping process. If you have questions regarding this invitation, please contact me at: Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

612-348-9260, Phone
612-348-9710, Fax
612-596-6985, TDD/TTY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Metro Transit
Brian Lamb
Fred T Heywood Office Building and Garage
560 Sixth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Lamb:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and
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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

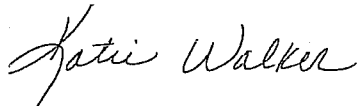
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Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Metropolitan Council
Review Coordinator, Local Planning Assistance
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
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Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

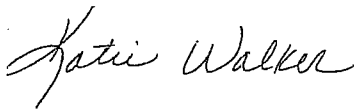
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

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www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Minneapolis Public Library
Helen Burke
Government Documents, 2nd Floor
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Ms. Burke:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
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Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

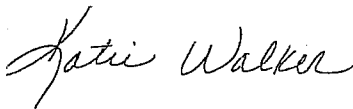
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

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612-348-9710, Fax
612-596-6985, TDD/TYY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Eric Evenson
18202 Minnetonka Boulevard
Deephaven, MN 55391

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Evenson:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
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Minneapolis, MN 55401
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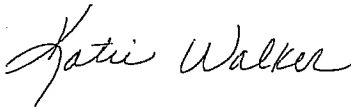
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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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612-596-6985, TDD/TTY
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September 25, 2008

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Becky Balk
90 West Plato Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55107

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Ms. Balk:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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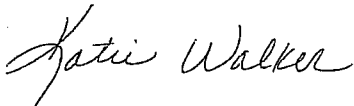
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Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

Minnesota Department of Commerce
Susan Medhaug
85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Ms. Medhaug:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

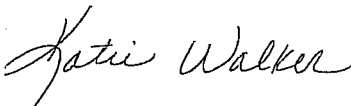
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

612-348-9260, Phone
612-348-9710, Fax
612-596-6985, TDD/TTY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Minnesota Department of Health
Environmental Health Division
625 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. **If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing**, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted by post or electronically **by October 13, 2008** to:

Ms. Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

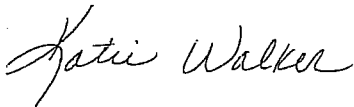
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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

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www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Steve Colvin
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Colvin:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
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Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

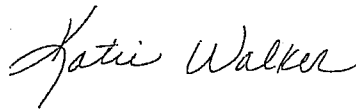
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Sincerely,



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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

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Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

Minnesota Department of Transportation
Jennie Ross
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Mailstop 620
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Ms. Ross:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

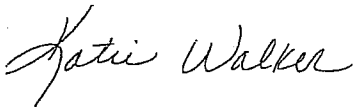
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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
John Larson
658 Cedar Street
Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Larson:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

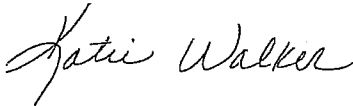
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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

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Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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612-596-6985, TDD/TYY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Minnesota Historical Society
Nina Archabal
345 Kellogg Boulevard West, Level A
St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Ms. Archabal:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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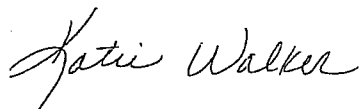
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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Rick Newquist
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Newquist:

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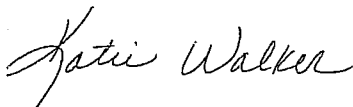
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September 25, 2008

Minnesota State Archeologist
Fort Snelling History Center
200 Tower Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55111

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and

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- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. **If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing**, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted by post or electronically **by October 13, 2008** to:

Ms. Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

Please include the title of the official responding. Your agency will be treated as participating agency unless your written response declining such designation as outlined above is transmitted to this office no later than October 13, 2008.

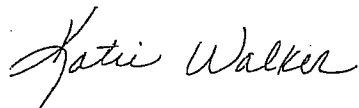
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

612-348-9260, Phone
612-348-9710, Fax
612-596-6985, TDD/TTY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
Doug Snyder
2520 Larpentuer Avenue West
Lauderdale, MN 55133

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Snyder:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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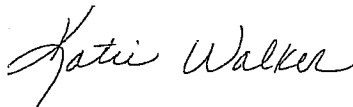
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
Bob Obermeyer
7710 Computer Avenue, Suite 135
Edina, MN 55401

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Obermeyer:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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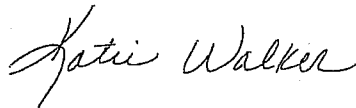
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Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
Mark Enochs
Eden Prairie City Offices
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mark Enochs:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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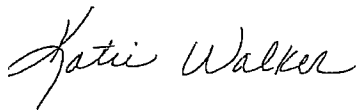
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Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

State Historic Preservation Office
Dennis Gimmestad
345 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Gimmestad:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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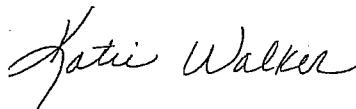
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September 25, 2008

Three Rivers Park District
Cris Gears
3000 Xenium Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55441

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Cris Gear:

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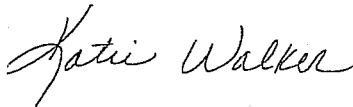
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September 25, 2008

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District Regulatory Branch
Tamara Cameron
190 E 5th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Tamara Cameron:

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- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and
- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. **If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing**, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted by post or electronically **by October 13, 2008** to:

Ms. Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

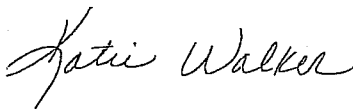
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If you wish to comment in writing, in order to give your agency adequate opportunity to weigh the relevance of your participation in this environmental review process, written response to this invitation is due on November 7, 2008.

Additional information will be forthcoming during the scoping process. If you have questions regarding this invitation, please contact me at: Katie.Walker@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

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612-348-9710, Fax
612-596-6985, TDD/TYY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Field Office Director – Minnesota
Dexter Sidney
920 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Dexter Sidney:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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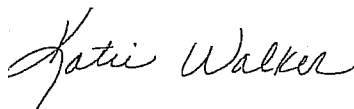
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Michael Chezik
200 Chestnut Street, Room 244
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Chezik:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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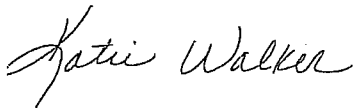
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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



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September 25, 2008

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Cheryl Martin
380 Jackson Street
500 Galtier Plaza
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Ms. Martin:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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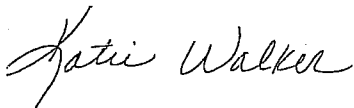
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Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

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www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Environmental Review/ Justice Coordinator
William Lorenzen
St. Paul State Office
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Lorenzen:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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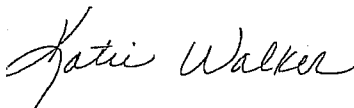
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Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

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September 25, 2008

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Planning & Evaluation Unit – Region V
Kenneth Westlake
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Mail Stop B-19J
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Westlake:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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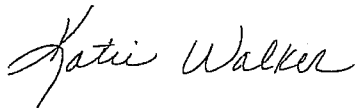
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September 25, 2008

U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region V
Edward Buikema
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Buikema:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Hennepin County Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is initiating the preparation on a proposal by HCRRA to consider transportation improvements in the Southwest Corridor linking Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and downtown Minneapolis. Alternatives proposed to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include three light rail transit (LRT) routes (Build Alternatives), a future No-Build alternative, and a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, 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: improve mobility; provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option; protect the environment; and support economic development. The enclosed Scoping Information Booklet and preliminary coordination plan provides more details.

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As a participating agency, you will be afforded the opportunity, together with the public, to be involved in defining the purpose of and need for the project, as well as in determining the range of alternatives to be considered for the project. In addition, you will be asked to:

- Provide input on the impact assessment methodologies and level of detail in your agency's area of expertise;

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- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and
- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. **If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing**, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted by post or electronically **by October 13, 2008** to:

Ms. Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit,
417 North 5th Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Katie.walker@co.hennepin.mn.us

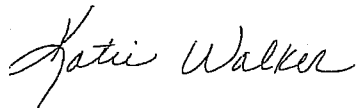
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Sincerely,



Katie Walker, AICP
Transit Project Manager
Hennepin County
Housing, Community Works & Transit

Attachments: Scoping Information Booklet
Agency Coordination Plan



Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit

417 North Fifth Street, Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1362

612-348-9260, Phone
612-348-9710, Fax
612-596-6985, TDD/TYY
www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

U.S. Federal Railroad Administration
Regional Administrator
200 West Adam Street, Suite 2410
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

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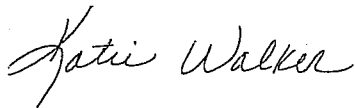
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www.hennepin.mn.us

September 25, 2008

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office E.S.
Tony Sullins
4010 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the Southwest Transitway Project

Dear Mr. Sullins:

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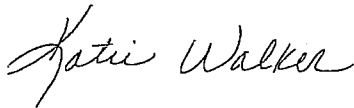
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September 25, 2008

U.S. Homeland Security
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
444 Cedar Street, Suite 223
St. Paul, MN 55101

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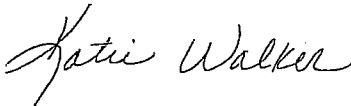
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