Supplemental Environmental Assessment / Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

March 22, 2018
Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)

• The SEA is a federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, which evaluates the significance and the potential impacts of proposed project changes made after the Record of Decision.

• Preparation of an SEA includes a public input process.

• Under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), the SEA will serve as the state environmental document to evaluate the proposed changes to the project.
SEA/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

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

• Feb 23, 2018:
  - SEA/Amended Draft Sect. 4(f) Evaluation published
  - 45-day public comment period commences

• March 22, 2018:
  - Community Townhall held to answer questions and receive comments

• April 9, 2018:
  - Public comment period closes
SEA Topics

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

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

Project Modification Key
A. Parking Impact near Opus Station
B. Minnehaha Creek Headwall Modification
C. 31st St Realignment
D. Cedar Lake Channel Retaining Wall Rehab and Landscaping
E. Right-of-Way Adjustment near 21st St Station
F. Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail Detour
G. Bryn Mawr Meadows - Trail Detour
H. BNSF Negotiation Modifications
I. Water Service to Sharing and Caring
J. Potential Laydown Area #1
J. Potential Laydown Area #2
J. Potential Laydown Area #3
J. Potential Laydown Area #4
J. Potential Laydown Area #5

Corridor Protection Barrier Wall
- Project Modification Location
- Southwest LRT Station

Southwest LRT Route
Southwest LRT Route

0  1.3 Miles
Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

• The BNSF Wayzata Subdivision tracks are part of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba / Great Northern Railway Historic District extending from Minneapolis to the North Dakota border

• Impacts on this historic property are evaluated and resolved under two federal laws:
  ▪ Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
  ▪ Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act

• Federal Transit Administration determined the proposed Project design modifications will have an adverse effect on the railroad historic district under Section 106

• The finding of a new adverse effect under Section 106 changes the Section 4(f) determination and requires the Project to produce an Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

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

• Comments on the SEA/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation will be accepted during the 45-day comment period starting Feb 23 and ending April 9, 2018; comments can be submitted by:
  ▪ Using the online comment form: swlrt.org
  ▪ Emailing written comments: swlrt@metrocouncil.org
  ▪ Written/spoken testimony at today’s town hall
  ▪ Mailing written comments to the address below:
    Southwest LRT Project Office
    ATTN: Kelcie Campbell, Environmental Project Manager
    Park Place West Building, Suite 500
    6465 Wayzata Boulevard
    St. Louis Park, MN 55426
Next Steps

• Issue an Amended Record of Decision (AROD)
  ▪ Respond to substantive comments received
  ▪ Document agency’s decision and basis for decision
  ▪ Document Final Section 4(f) Finding
Public Testimony
Public Testimony Ground Rules

• Names will be called in the order of sign-up
  ▪ Two names will be called at a time
  ▪ When you hear your name, please stand in line behind the microphone

• Each person will be given three minutes to provide testimony
  ▪ Please state your name and city of residence
  ▪ Time checks will be provided when 1 minute remains and when time is up
  ▪ You may also submit your testimony in writing or have our court reporter capture your comments

• Panel Members are here to listen to your comments and will not be responding to comments or questions
More Information

Online:
www.SWLRT.org

Email:
SWLRT@metrotransit.org

Twitter:
www.twitter.com/southwestlrt