

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

March 22, 2018



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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

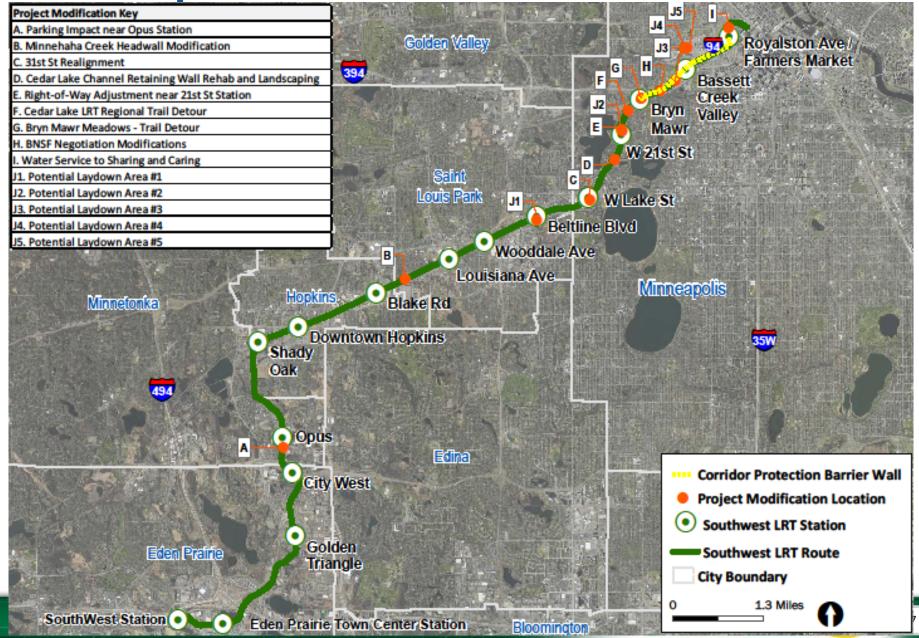


SEA Topics

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



SEA Scope



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



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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: <u>SWLRT@metrotransit.org</u>

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/southwestlrt

