Today’s Agenda

• Overview of the Southwest LRT project
  – What is LRT?
  – What is the federal New Starts process?
  – What is NEPA?

• Overview of Community Works
Regional Transit System

Important link in the regional transit network
Federal Funding Participation

Hiawatha: $413 million
Northstar: $162 million
Central: $478 million
Total: $1.053 billion
What is LRT?

- LRT = Light Rail Transit
- High capacity
- Quick acceleration & braking
- Powered by electricity
- Quiet operation
- Frequent service 21 hours/day
- Stops every ½ - 1 mile
What is LRT? Station Platform
What is LRT? Station Amenities
What is LRT? Ticket Vending Machine
What is LRT? Seating for 66 Passengers
What is LRT? Standing Room for 60 More
What is LRT? Catenary System
FTA “New Starts” Program
FTA New Starts Project
Development Process

1. Alternatives Analysis
2. Select LPA
3. FTA Evaluation to Enter PE
4. Preliminary Engineering
5. FTA Action
6. Local Decision Point
FTA New Starts Project Development Process

FTA Evaluation to Enter Final Design

Final Design

FTA Evaluation for FFGA

Full Funding Grant Agreement

FTA Action

Local Decision Point

Construction
What is Preliminary Engineering?

• Develop design and engineering to 30% level
• Make decisions about the scope of the project
• Refine sources and uses of funds
• Meet federal rating guidelines
  – Project justification rating
  – Financial rating
What is Municipal Consent?

- Minnesota Statute 473.3994
- Local jurisdictional review and approval of physical design component of preliminary design plans
Route

- 15 miles, 17 new stations
- Will provide single seat trips to downtown Minneapolis, U of M and St. Paul
- Capital Investment: $1.25 billion
- Projected Rides: 30,000 / weekday in 2030
New Starts Statutory Evaluation and Rating Framework

Summary Rating

Project Justification Rating

- Economic Development (20%)
- Mobility Improvements (20%)
- Environmental Benefits (10%)
- Operating Efficiencies (10%)
- Cost Effectiveness (20%)
- Land Use (20%)

Other Factors

Financial Rating

- Non-Section 5309 Share (20%)
- Capital Finances (50%)
- Operating Finances (30%)
FTA Cost Effectiveness Index

\[
\text{CEI} = \frac{\text{Annualized capital and operating costs}}{\text{Annual travel time savings}}
\]
# SWLRT New Starts Project Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>New Starts Share</td>
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<td>Capital Plan</td>
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<td>Operating Plan</td>
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<td><strong>Overall Project Rating</strong></td>
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Peer “New Starts” PE Projects out of 100+ Applicants (February 2012 Status)

- Vancouver, WA
- Sacramento, CA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Houston, TX
- Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN
- Baltimore, MD
- Maryland
- San Diego, CA
- Charlotte, NC

Medium-High - 6
Medium - 4
SWLRT Project Phases

2002 – 2005  Feasibility Studies
2005 – 2010  Alternatives Analysis
2010 – 2011  Pre-Preliminary Engineering
2011 – 2013  Preliminary Engineering
2013        Record of Decision (ROD)
2013 – 2014  Final Design
2014        Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)
2014 – 2017  Construction
2018        Revenue Operation
Project Funding

- $1.25 Billion Project budget

- HCRRA $125M (10%)
- State $125M (10%)
- CTIB $375M (30%)
- FTA $625M (50%)
What is NEPA?

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Federal law in place to protect, maintain, and enhance environment
- Establishes process to assess environmental impacts of major Federal projects
- Helps to make informed decisions based on analysis of alternatives and impacts on natural and human environment
- Includes public input through project scoping and comment opportunities
NEPA Process
Scoping/AA

- Feasibility Study: 2002-2005
- Conduct Alternatives Analysis: 2005-2010
- Hold Public Hearings: 2009-2010
NEPA Process

DEIS

Publish Notice of Intent for DEIS, Conduct Scoping

Prepare DEIS

Publish Notice of Availability of DEIS

Hold Public Hearings

Fall 2008
2010-2012
Aug 2012 (tent.)
Sept 2012 (tent.)
NEPA Process

FEIS

- Publish Notice of Intent for FEIS
- Prepare FEIS
- Publish Notice of Availability of FEIS
- Record of Decision

FTA Action
Next Meeting

- Thursday June 14, 2012, 6:00 pm
More Information

Website:  www.swlrt.org

Email:  swlrt@metrotransit.org
Cost Effectiveness Index Ratings
SWLRT $31.16

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