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. FTA Action
5. Local Decision Point
6. Preliminary Engineering
FTA New Starts Project Development Process

1. FTA Evaluation to Enter Final Design
2. Final Design
3. FTA Evaluation for FFGA
4. Full Funding Grant Agreement
5. 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Financial Commitment</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Starts Share</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Plan</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Plan</td>
<td>Medium High</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Justification</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Benefits</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Effectiveness</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobility Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost Effectiveness</td>
<td>Medium-Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>Medium-High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overall Project Rating</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Peer “New Starts” PE Projects out of 100+ Applicants (February 2012 Status)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002 – 2005</td>
<td>Feasibility Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 – 2010</td>
<td>Alternatives Analysis</td>
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<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>Pre-Preliminary Engineering</td>
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<td><strong>2011 – 2013</strong></td>
<td><strong>Preliminary Engineering</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Record of Decision (ROD)</td>
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<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>Final Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)</td>
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<td>2014 – 2017</td>
<td>Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Revenue Operation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Project Funding

- $1.25 Billion Project budget
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

1. Publish Notice of Intent for DEIS, Conduct Scoping
   - Fall 2008

2. Prepare DEIS
   - 2010-2012

3. Publish Notice of Availability of DEIS
   - Aug 2012 (tent.)

4. Hold Public Hearings
   - Sept 2012 (tent.)
NEPA Process
FEIS

1. Publish Notice of Intent for FEIS
2. Prepare FEIS
3. Publish Notice of Availability of FEIS
4. FTA Action: Record of Decision
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>&gt;$12.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium High</td>
<td>$12.50 - $16.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium Low</td>
<td>$25.50 - $31.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>$16.50 – $25.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium Low</td>
<td>$25.50-$31.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>&gt;$31.50</td>
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