

SOUTHWEST

Green Line LRT Extension



Corridor Management Committee

September 2, 2015



Today's Topics

- SDEIS Comment Summary
- Project Update
 - § New Starts Application Submittal
 - § Municipal Consent Schedule
 - § Next Steps: 6 Month Look Ahead

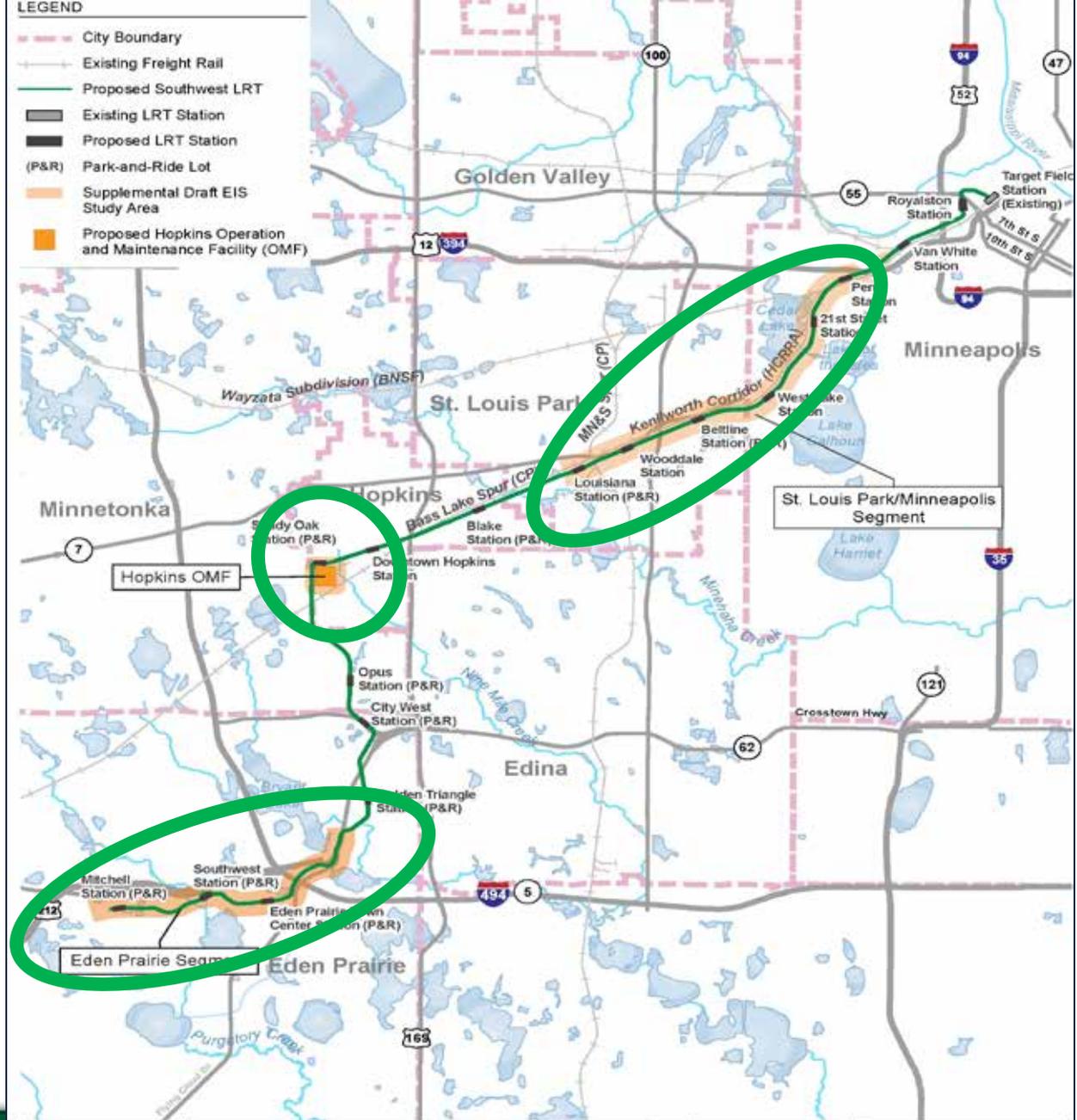


SDEIS Comment Summary

Why was a Supplemental Draft EIS Needed?

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Met Council determined design adjustments made to the project since publication of the Draft EIS could result in new adverse impacts
- The following areas warranted specific review:
 - § Portions of Eden Prairie
 - § Location of the proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility site in Hopkins
 - § Portions of St. Louis Park and Minneapolis

SWLRT Corridor and SDEIS Study Areas



Public Comment Period

- Public comment period began on May 22 when the SDEIS was published
- Public comment period was extended from 45 to 60 calendar days
- Comments were submitted by email, mail or in person at a public hearing
- Public comment period concluded July 21, 2015

SDEIS Comment Summary

- 205 comments received
- Breakdown by method:
 - § 43 people testified during the June 16, 17 and 18 public hearings
 - § 162 comments received in writing via email, letter or comment card
- Breakdown by commenter:
 - § 43 business/organizations
 - § 18 government
 - § 144 individuals
- All comments posted at swlrt.org

SDEIS Comment Summary (con't.)

- Top Five Comments/Themes
 - § Noise and vibration
 - § Safety and security
 - § NEPA process
 - § General opposition to freight rail co-location
 - § Visual and aesthetics

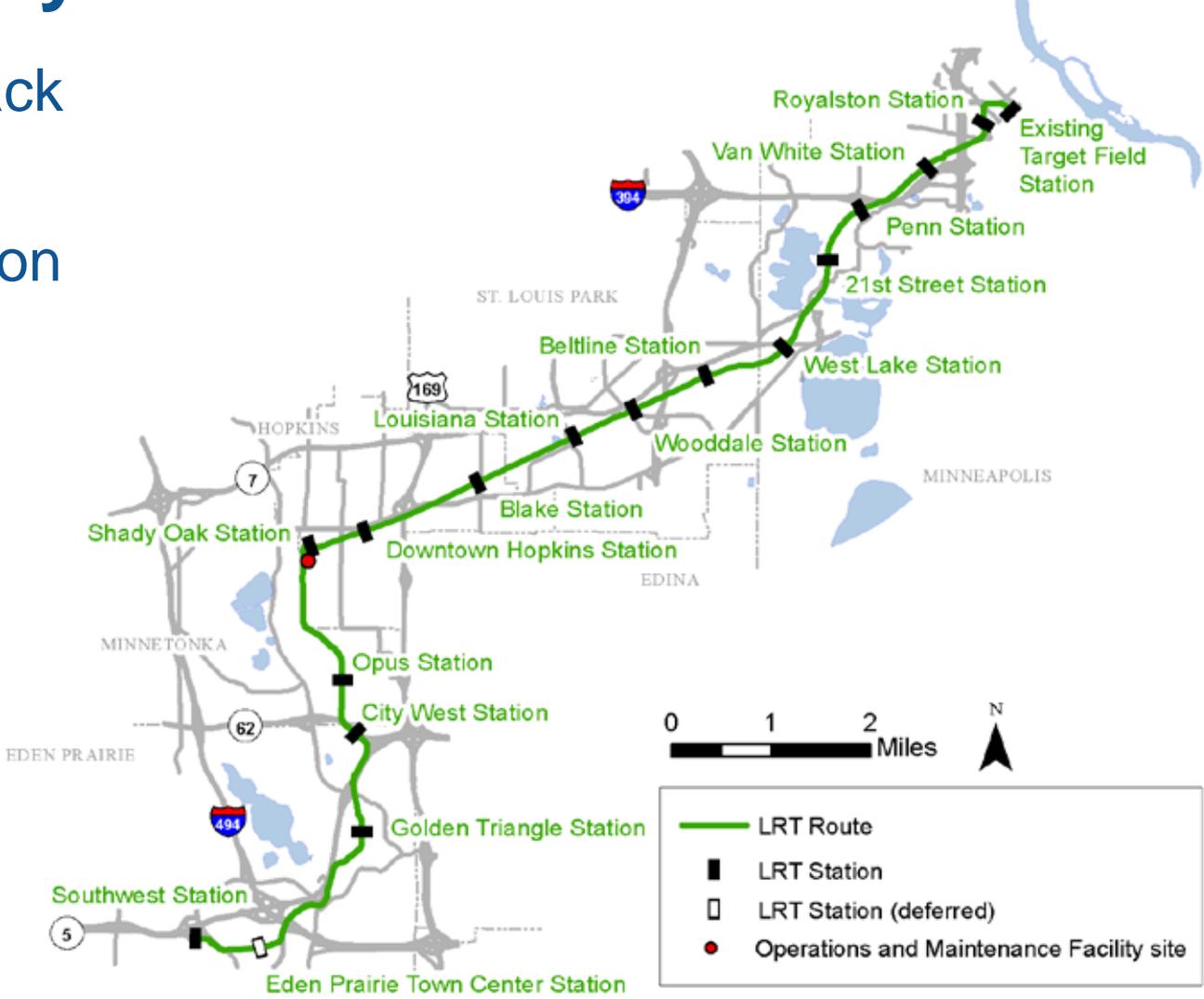
Next Steps

- Prepare and Publish Final EIS
 - § Analyze comments and develop responses with environmental/engineering staff
 - § Respond to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS
 - § Identify measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts of the project
- Issue Record of Decision (ROD)
 - § Document agency's decision and basis for decision
 - § Itemize and adopt mitigation commitments
 - § Document Final Section 4(f) Finding
 - § Document final Section 106 Agreement

Project Update

Met Council July 8 Action

- 14.5 miles new track
- 15 new stations
 - § 1 deferred station
- 34,000 average weekday rides in 2040



Eden Prairie Town Center Station

- Station and associated roadway improvements are planned to be in place by 2040
- Construct underground infrastructure constructed with base project:
 - § Station foundations
 - § Duct bank

Revised Scope Summary

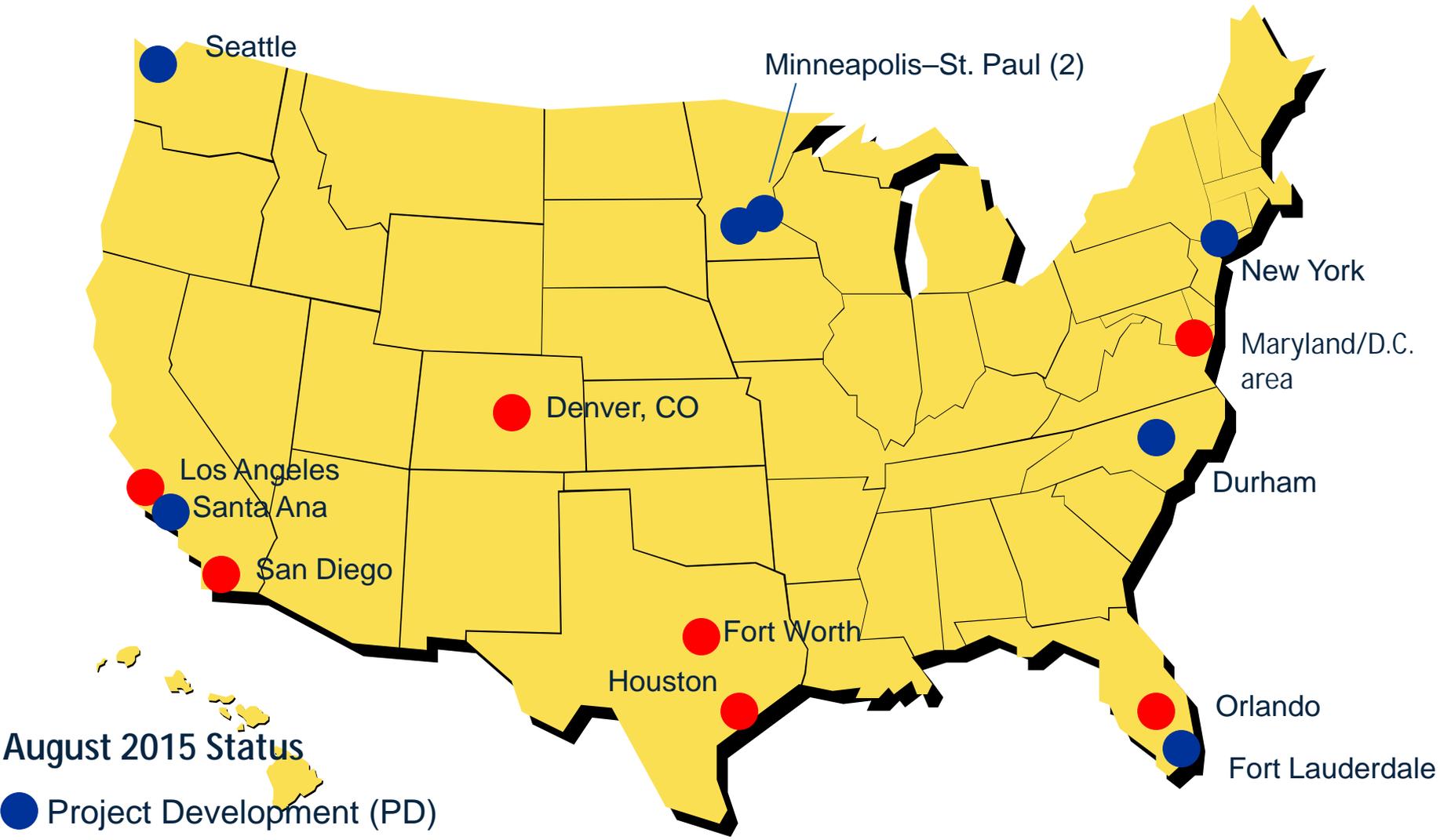
- Reduces cost by \$250 million
- Retains
 - § 15 of 17 of stations constructed with intent to build Eden Prairie Town Center Station in the future
 - § 94% of ridership
 - § 90% of corridor length
 - § 96% of jobs in the corridor served
- Connects LRT to existing SouthWest Station transit hub

Local Financial Commitments

| Source | Amount (millions) | Status/Comments |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| CTIB | \$496 | Committed |
| HCRRA | \$165 | Committed |
| State of Minnesota | \$165 | \$27M Committed \$138M Future Commitment |
| In-Kind Land | \$30 | Hennepin County 7/21/15 |
| Local Commitments | \$12.5 | \$5M Hennepin County Committed 7/7/15 \$3M Hennepin County Committed 7/21/15 \$2M Minnetonka Committed 7/13/15 \$2M St. Louis Park Committed 7/27/15 \$0.5M Hopkins Committed 7/7/15 |
| Other | \$18.5 | To be identified |
| Total | \$887 | |

New Starts Application Submittal

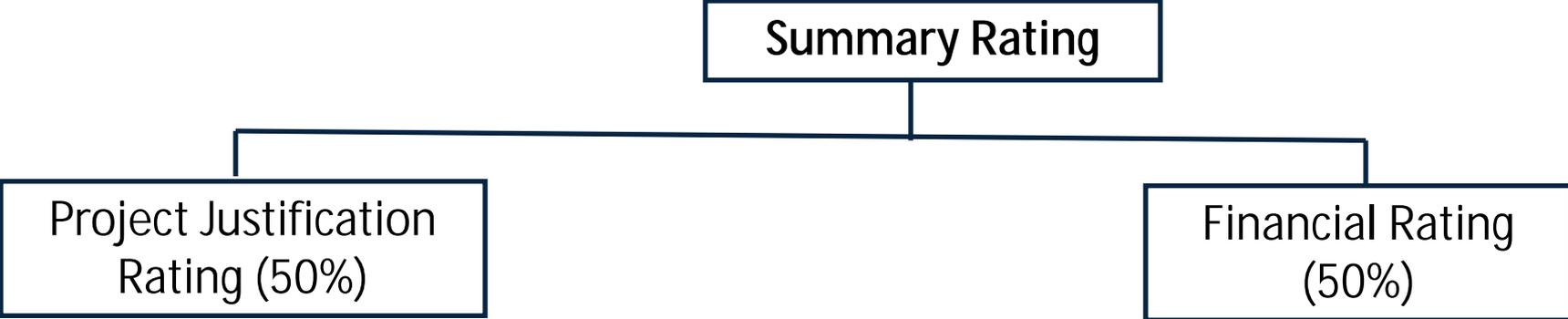
Peer New Starts Projects



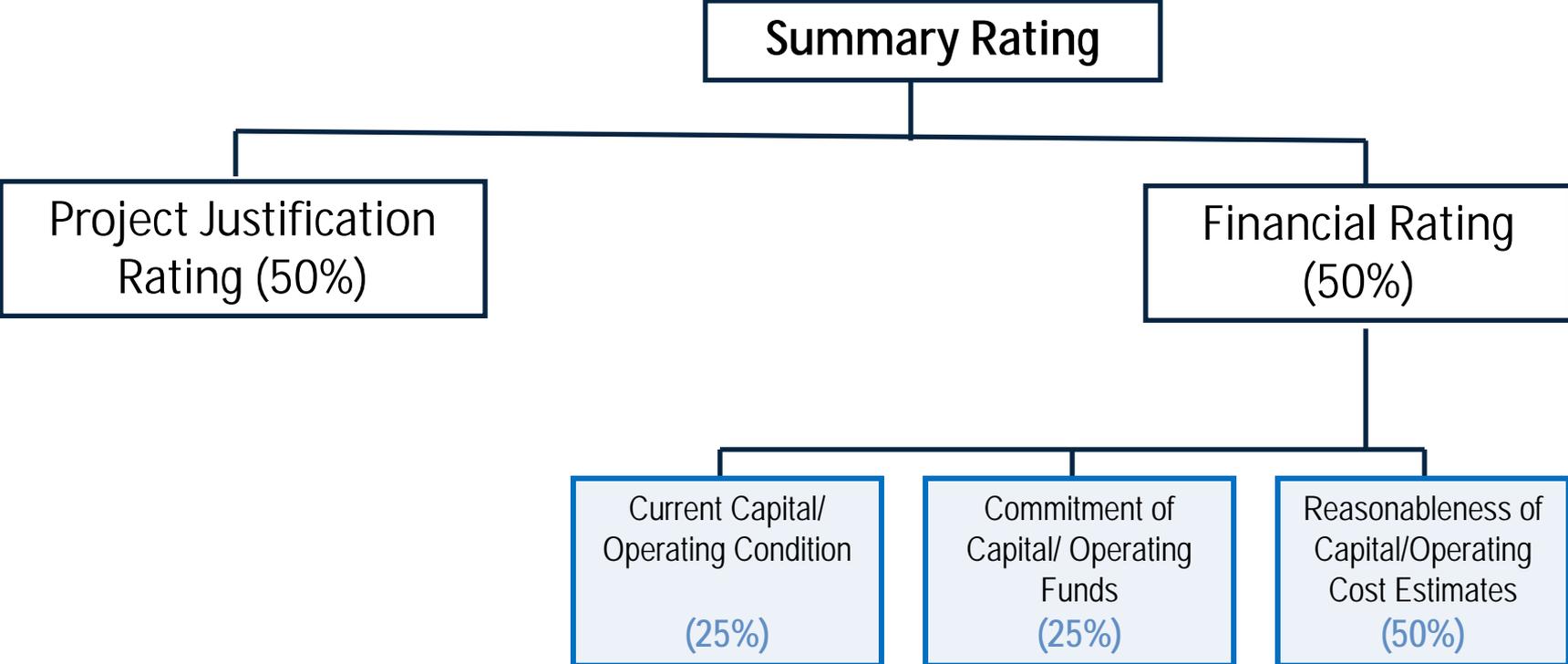
August 2015 Status

- Project Development (PD)
- Engineering

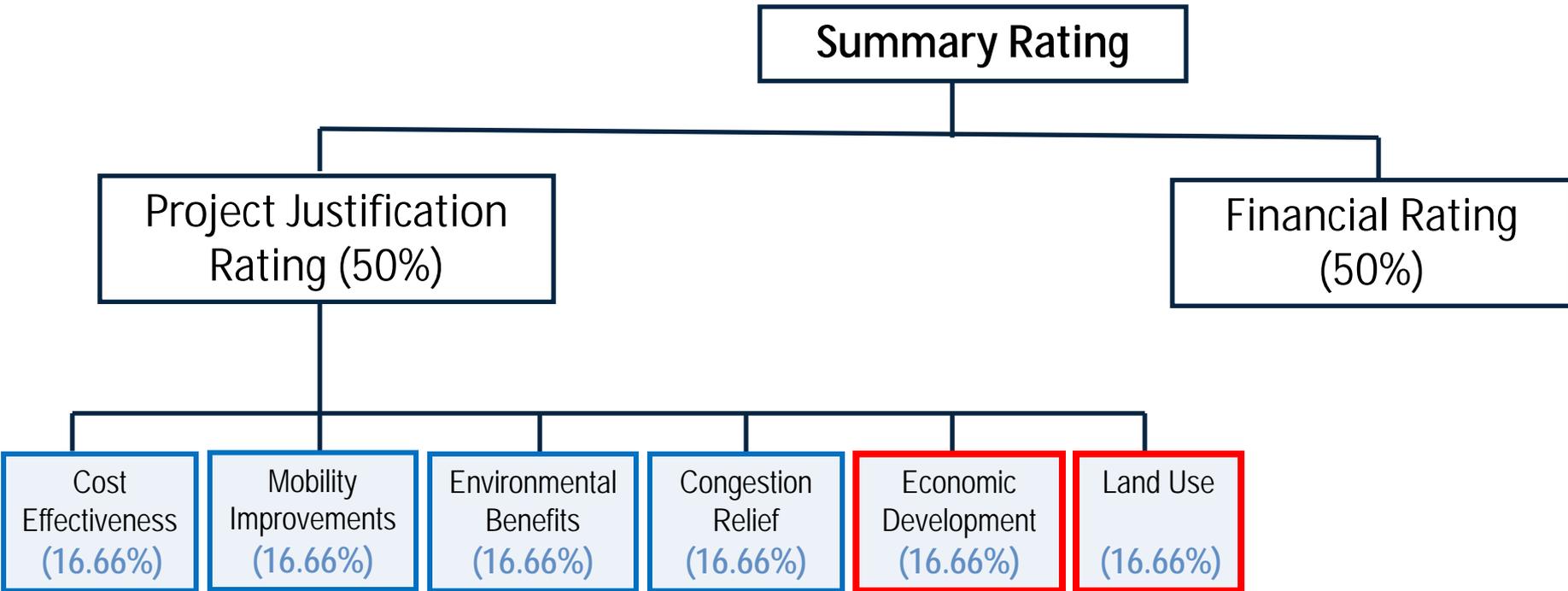
New Starts Rating Components



New Starts Rating Components



New Starts Rating Components

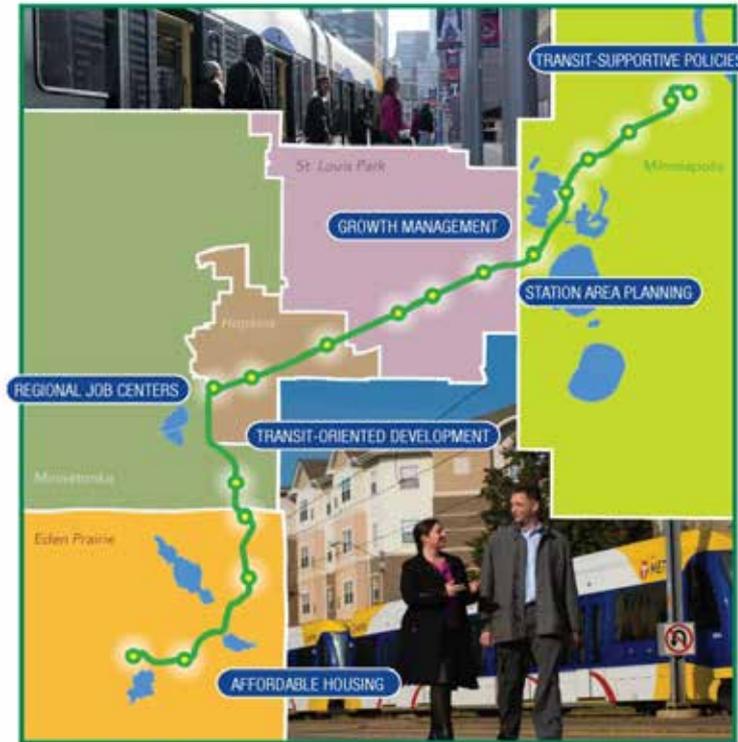


New Starts Application Submittal

- Submitted New Starts Application by Aug 3 deadline
- Approximately 2040 staff hours to prepare
- Measures a project in areas of:
 - § Mobility improvements
 - § Environmental benefits
 - § Congestion relief
 - § Cost effectiveness
 - § Transit supportive land use policies
 - § Economic development
 - § Local financial commitment

Executive Summary from the Land Use and Economic Development Sections

Land Use and Economic Development
2015 New Starts Executive Summary



Southwest LRT will connect the dynamic Southwest Corridor with more than 290,000 jobs along the entire METRO Green Line. Building on more than \$115 million in regional transit-oriented development investments, enforceable regional growth policies and transit supportive zoning adopted or under consideration at every Southwest LRT station, this project warrants a high rating.

06/2015

New Starts Application Submittal (2015)

Land Use Quantitative Metrics

| Criteria | Green Line Extension | FTA Rating |
|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Employees Served By the System | 291,000* | High |
| Average Population Density (Per Square Mile) | 3,049 | Low-Medium |
| Parking Cost Per Day (CBD) | \$12.55 | Medium-High |
| Parking Spaces Per Employee (CBD) | 0.34 | Medium |
| Affordable Housing Measurement | 1.54 | Medium |

* FTA rating for Employees Served by the System uses total employment along the entire line on which a no-transfer ride from the proposed project's stations can be reached (Green Line from Downtown St Paul to Eden Prairie Southwest Station).

New Starts Application Submittal (2015)

Economic Development: Transit-Supportive Plans & Policies

| Criteria | Performance | FTA Rating Under Review |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| Plans and policies for TOD in place | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional TOD policy has been adopted • Station area plans have been developed for all stations | |
| TOD zoning & implementation tools available | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit-supportive zoning adopted in some station areas, planning for TOD zoning underway in all others | |
| Programs that support TOD established | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwest LRT Community Works • Metro Transit Office of TOD • Hennepin County TOD Program • TOD Livable Communities grant program | |

Municipal Consent Schedule

Municipal Consent Process*

| Agency | Open House/ Public Hearing Date | Board Action Date |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Joint Met Council/Hennepin County/ HCRRA | Aug 27 | n/a |
| Minnetonka (confirmed) | Sept 14 | Sept 14 |
| Minneapolis T&PW (confirmed) | Sept 15 | Sept 15 |
| Eden Prairie (confirmed) | Sept 15 | Sept 15 |
| Hopkins | Sept 15 | Sept 15 |
| St. Louis Park (confirmed) | Sept 21 | Sept 21 |
| Hennepin County | Aug 27 | Sept 22 |
| Minneapolis Council | n/a | Sept 25 |

*All Dates Tentative Until Confirmed By Official Notice



August 27, 2015 Joint Public Hearing

- Held by Met Council, Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority
- Received verbal testimony from 26 people
- Themes:
 - § Support for the project
 - § Concerns over rail safety, water resources and equity



Next Steps: 6 Month Look Ahead

Six Month Project Schedule

| | Schedule |
|--|--------------|
| Complete Municipal Consent Approval Process | Oct 11, 2015 |
| Develop Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement | Q3-Q4 2015 |
| Complete 60% design | |
| § Kenilworth Landscape design concept | Q4 2015 |
| § Station design renderings | |
| Submit Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Application to US Corps of Engineers | Q1 2016 |
| Complete 90% design | Q1 2016 |
| Submit state/local environmental permit applications | Q1 2016 |
| Publish Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Issue Record of Decision (ROD) | Q2 2016 |

Overall Project Schedule

| Schedule | |
|---|--------------|
| Complete Municipal Consent Approval Process | Oct 11, 2015 |
| Publish Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Issue Record of Decision(ROD) | Q2 2016 |
| Entry into Engineering | Q2 2016 |
| Full Funding Grant Agreement | Q4 2016 |
| Heavy Construction | 2017-2019 |
| Revenue Service Date | 2020 |

Construction Phase

- Convene contractor conference in October
- Types of construction
 - § Civil
 - § Operations and Maintenance Facility
 - § Bridges and retaining walls
 - § Systems (electrical and communications)
 - § Track
 - § Utilities

Types of Work

- Civil Contracts

- § Track
- § Bridges and retaining walls
- § Stations
- § Electrical
- § Roadway, curb, gutter, sidewalks
- § Traffic signals, striping and signage
- § Public utilities
- § Underground systems elements

- Systems

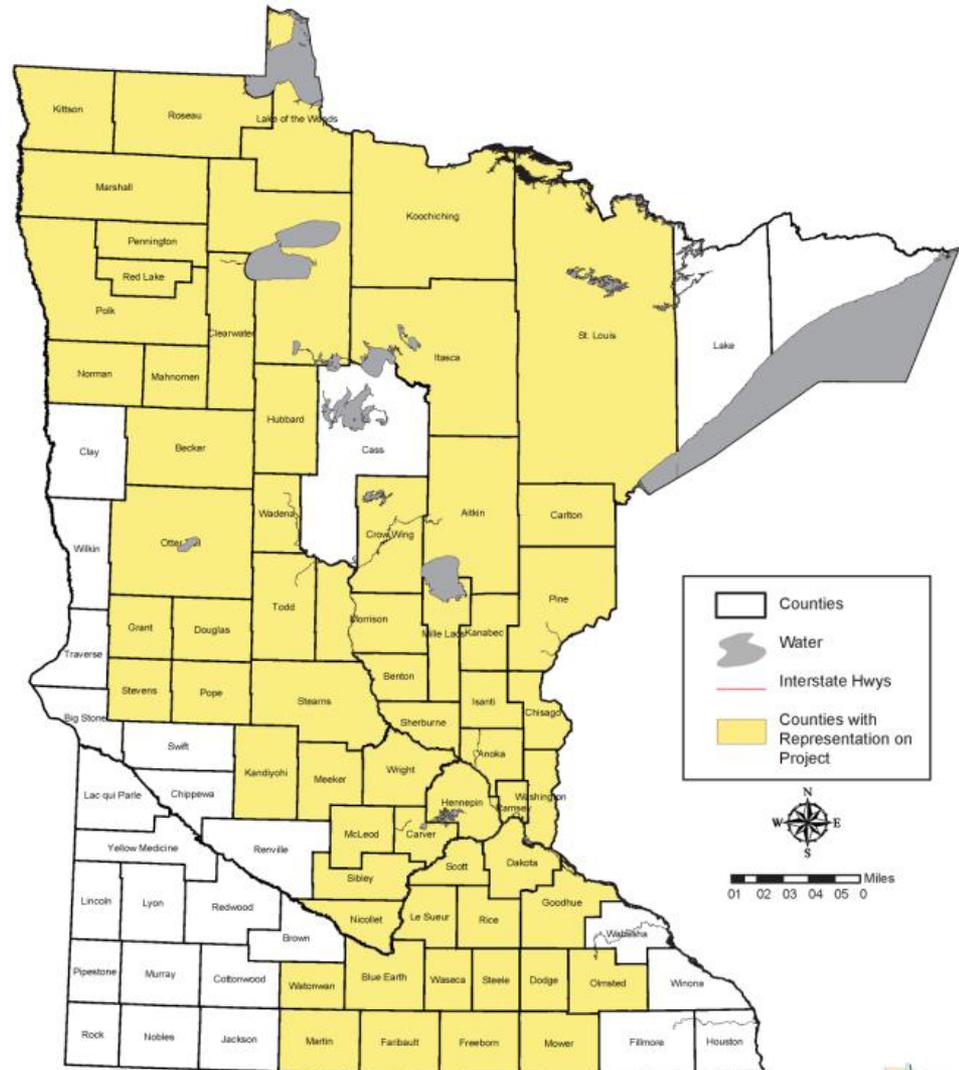
- § Train signal systems
- § Communications
- § Traction power/electrical

- O&M Facility

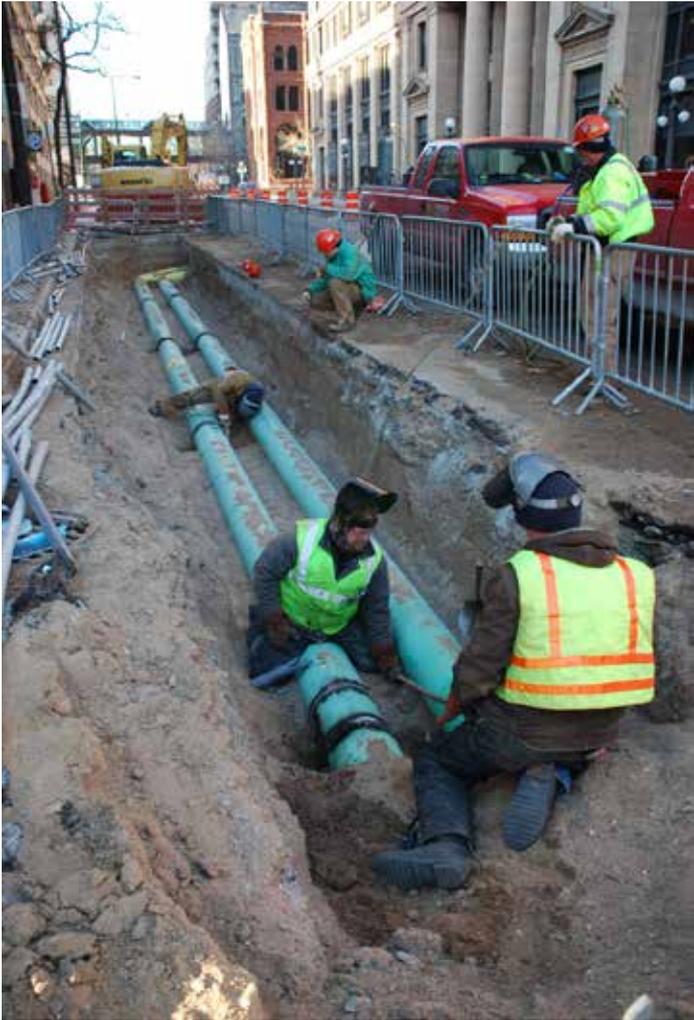
- § Building - shop, admin and train storage areas
- § Site work
- § Track
- § Mechanical, electrical, plumbing

CCLRT Construction Workers Homes by County

\$256 million CCLRT payroll benefits communities statewide



Construction Activities: Utility Work



Construction Activities: Roadwork



Roadway Paving

Construction Activities: Track Work



Construction Activities: Stations



Construction Activities: Systems



Construction Communication

- 24-hour construction hotline
- Public meetings
- Construction tours
- Neighborhood updates
- Media
- Website
- Weekly construction update



Weekly Construction Updates

- Describe impacts to traveling public
 - § Road closures, detours
 - § Sidewalks, ped crossings and trails
 - § Bus detours and station relocations
- Provide contact information
- Highlight upcoming work



Support corridor businesses: Dine out and catch a show

Dan Simonson (left) and James Thixson of Caffè Biaggio want passers-by to know that they can still dine at the Italian restaurant at 2356 University Ave. W. in St. Paul despite LRT construction on the street in front of them. To reach the restaurant's parking lot and front door that are behind a chain link fence separating the sidewalk from construction, orange signs on University Avenue that say "Business Access" point people to Raymond Street, the nearest cross street, where guests can enter the parking lot behind the building and go around to the east side of the building. For more details about how to reach the restaurant during construction, visit: www.caffeboggio.com

Artistic director **Peter Hansen** and the 100-plus seat **Gremlin Theatre** are in the shadow quite literally of LRT construction at 2400 University Ave. W. in St. Paul. But the show must go on. Hansen wants theatergoers planning to attend performances of Anton Chekhov's play, "Uncle Vanya," this weekend on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and next weekend on April 22 and April 23 to know that they can **park for free in the lot behind US Bank** kitty-corner to the theater at Raymond and University avenues and on streets around the building. Hansen said theatergoers frequently visit Caffè Biaggio before and after plays. For more information, visit www.gremlin-theatre.org or call 651-228-7008.

For more ideas, go to:
www.discovercentralcorridor.com or
www.twitter.com/discoverccit

- Highlights and Upcoming Work**
- Snelling is reduced to one lane in each direction between Spruce Tree and Sherburne; lanes shifted to west side of Snelling
 - University at Snelling reduced to one lane in each direction on the south side of the road.
 - Construction preparation along University between Aldine and Syndicate will start the week of April 18 and construction is anticipated to begin starting the week of April 25.
 - Highway 280 will be closed April 28-May 2 for University Avenue bridge work.
 - Crews start work on retaining wall on south side of University between Prior and Cleveland; sidewalk on south side of University closed. Use sidewalk on the north side of University as alternate route.



More Information

Online:

www.SWLRT.org

Email:

SWLRT@metrotransit.org

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/southwestlrt

