Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT)

“A corridor of opportunity”
Minneapolis Jobs: 151,200
Suburban Jobs: 72,400

*Figures represent current employment estimates.*

- Downtown Minneapolis: 147,000 emp.*
- West Calhoun: 4,200 emp.
- Beltline Business Park: 6,000 emp.
- Methodist Hospital: 5,200 emp.
- Excelsior & Grand Park Nicollet: 1,000 emp.
- Golden Triangle Business Park: 18,000 emp.
- Golden Triangle: 5,000 emp.
- K-Tel Drive Industrial Park: 3,500 emp.
- Opus Business Park: 11,000 emp.
- Highway 212 Corridor: 16,000 emp.
- Proposed United Health Group Campus: 6,700 emp.
Connecting people to jobs, housing, shopping, and fun.

- Projected to serve 30,000 passenger trips/day (2030)
- Connects job centers
  (downtown Mpls & Opus/Golden Triangle, Cargill, Methodist Hospital)
- Serves community amenities
  (Chain of Lakes, Shady Oak Lake, Hopkins Depot Coffee House, Hopkins Arts Center, Excelsior & Grand, Knollwood Mall, Eden Prairie Center, Target Field)
- Provides a new critical link in the regional transit system
  (serves North Mpls residents via Royalston station, St. Paul residents via interlining with Central)
- High reverse commute ridership at over 7,000 trips/day
- Strong opportunity for development/redevelopment
Hennepin Community Works was created in the mid 1990s

**Mission**
To enhance how the communities of Hennepin County work together to create good jobs, provide access to employment, and build the long term value of communities by investing in infrastructure, public works, parks, and the natural environment and by improving the existing implementation systems.

**Principles**
- Stimulate employment development
- Build bridges for effective planning and implementation
- Maintain and improve natural systems
- Strengthen communities through connections
- Enhance the tax base
Southwest LRT Community Works Vision

The Southwest LRT corridor: connecting people to jobs, housing, shopping, and fun.

The Southwest Community Works Initiative collaborates with citizens, businesses, and government to align land use and transit planning so that the Southwest LRT Corridor is a premiere destination that is

- accessible
- livable
- vibrant

Economic competitiveness and job growth
Promoting opportunities for business and employment growth

Housing choices
Positioning the Southwest LRT communities as a place for all to live

Quality neighborhoods
Creating unique, vibrant, safe, beautiful, and walkable station areas

Critical connections
Improving affordable regional mobility for all users
Southwest LRT Community Works Area of Influence
Corridors of Opportunity (CoO)

Regional initiative to promote sustainable, vibrant, and healthy communities using the region’s emerging transitway system as a development focus and the combined funds of the Living Cities Integration Initiative and Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

**Corridors of Opportunity Vision**

Transitway corridors will guide our region’s growth, vitality, and competitiveness. Development along transitways will create distinctive places and strengthen local assets while increasing ridership and expanding access to jobs, affordable housing, and essential services for residents of all incomes and backgrounds.
Corridors of Opportunity (CoO)
Better align/integrate multiple processes to achieve shared goals
Southwest Corridor

As part of the CoO, the Southwest LRT project will become a model for the nation on the systematic integration of land use planning & LRT design.

- On-site “Design Exchange” to facilitate two-way exchange of accurate & timely information
- Assistant Project Director for Land Use/Community Works housed within the Southwest Project Office (SPO)
- Share committee structure
- Cross Discipline/Cross Jurisdictional Workshops & Training (EPA Parking Audit, LRT/Development Workshop)
- Station Design Charrette Process
Land Use/Development & LRT Design Integration

Efficient Connections
An on-time, on-budget LRT project that improves regional mobility, increases regional transit ridership, and provides better connections to employment, housing, and natural spaces.

Leveraged Resources
Robust private investment in the Southwest LRT corridor, as a result of coordinated public and philanthropic investment.

Great Places
Quality, accessible station areas that enhance existing business and quality of life, and attract new residential, commercial, and retail development.
2011-2013 Workplan

- Organizational Structure
- Infrastructure Inventory (current & 2030)
- Development Market Assessment
- Station Typologies
  - Formalized Structure for Land Use/Development Integration with LRT Engineering
  - Corridor Wide Housing Strategy
  - Development/Redevelopment Tools/Barriers/Solutions
  - Transitional Station Area Action Plans (TSAAP) (Station Area Park & Ride/Platform Alternatives, Access/Circulation, Infrastructure Needs, Community Engagement, Stormwater Management)
  - Station Area Design Charrettes
  - Corridor Development Finance Strategy
  - Identify Key Development Opportunity Sites
  - Workforce & Business Growth Plan
  - Corridor Wide Investment Plan

2011
-  

2012/2013
-  

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Southwest Transit
ULI-MN
For more information on Southwest LRT Community Works *(beyond the rails)*, please visit www.southwesttransitway.org