

SOUTHWEST

Green Line LRT Extension



Business & Community Advisory Committees Joint Meeting

February 12, 2015



Today's Topics

- Welcome & Introductions
 - BAC & CAC Introductions
 - Shared Vision
- Role, Responsibilities and Resources
- Hennepin County Community Works Update
- 2015 Look Ahead
 - Design and Engineering
 - Environmental
 - Public Involvement
- Questions and Answers



BAC & CAC Introductions

Shared Vision

Expanding the Transit System: Draft 2040 Plan

Increased Revenue Scenario Transitways Building an Accelerated Transitway Vision

-  Northstar Line
-  Blue Line
-  Green Line
-  Red Line
-  Orange Line
-  Gateway Dedicated BRT *
-  Accelerated Arterial BRT
-  Accelerated Transitways under study
-  Regional Multimodal Hub

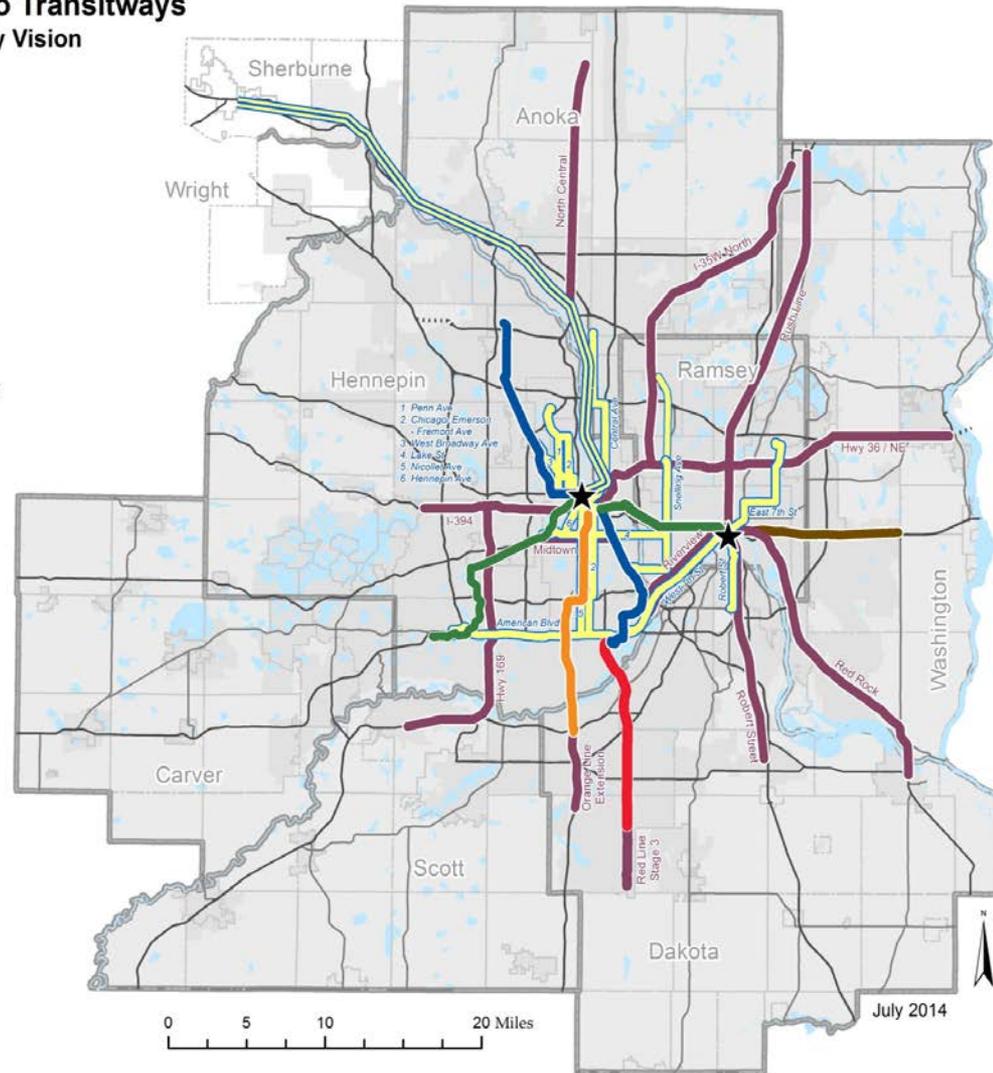
Increased Revenue Scenario would also include 1% average annual bus expansion.

**Contingent upon resolutions of support and commitments to local land use from local governments along the locally preferred alternative and commitment to addressing use of highway right-of-way in the DEIS process.*

DRAFT

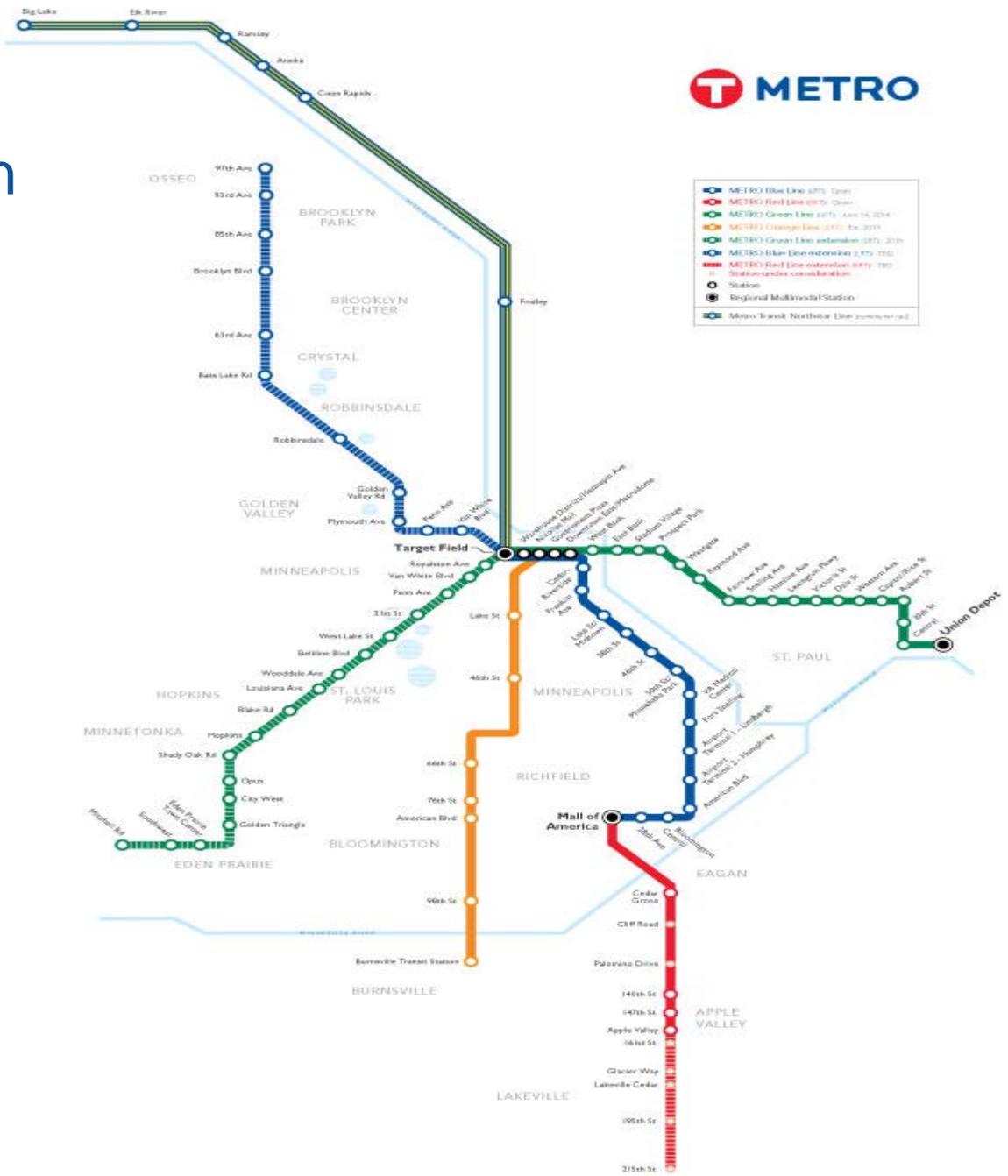
Reference Items

-  Principal Arterial Highways
-  Other Trunk Highways
-  Lakes and Rivers
-  City Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  2040 Urban Service Area MPO Area



METRO System

- Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT)
- Blue Line Extension (Bottineau Corridor LRT)
- Orange Line (I-35 W South Bus Rapid Transit)
- Red Line Expansion (Cedar Avenue BRT)



	METRO Blue Line (2017 - 2021)
	METRO Red Line (2015 - 2021)
	METRO Green Line (2015 - 2024)
	METRO Orange Line (2015 - 2021)
	METRO Green Line extension (2017 - 2021)
	METRO Blue Line extension (2017 - 2021)
	METRO Red Line extension (2017 - 2021)
	Stations under consideration
	Regional Multimodal Station
	Metro Transit Northstar Line (under review)

Benefits of Light Rail Transit (LRT)

- Quiet, high capacity transit operations
- Service that operates 21 hours a day linking to regional destinations
- Frequent service with trains approximately every 10 minutes during peak travel periods
- Convenient station stops every ½ - 1 mile



SWLRT Scope*

- 16 miles
- 17 new stations
- 34,000 weekday boardings anticipated in 2030



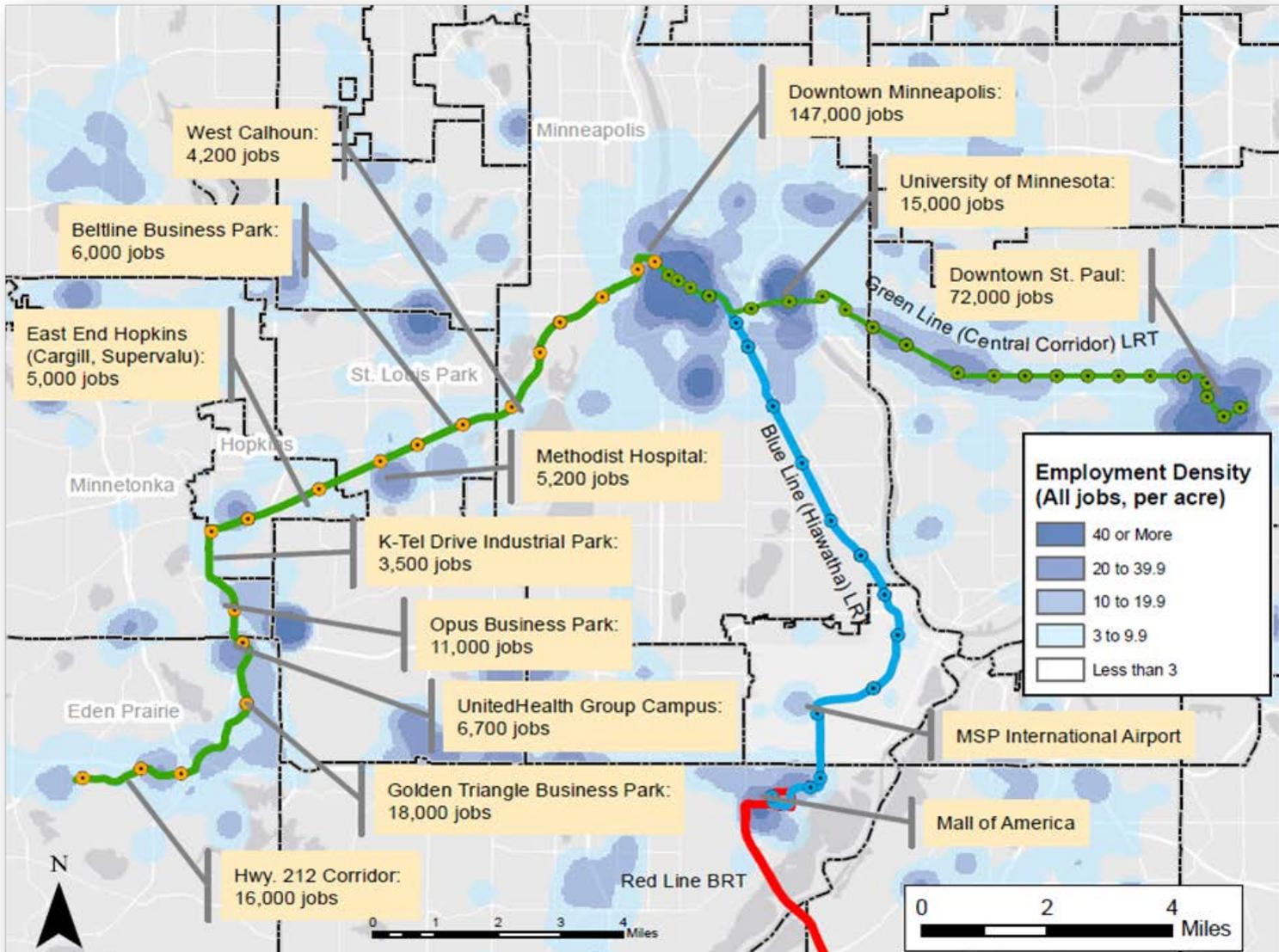
* The environmental review of the project is ongoing and all of the project details remain subject to change throughout that process.

Southwest LRT: Green Line Extension

- 34,000 average weekday rides in 2030
- Will provide single seat trips to downtown Minneapolis, U of M and St. Paul
- Connections to the Airport and Mall of America via the Blue Line



SWLRT Connects the Region's Employment Centers



Southwest LRT Development Timeline

2013

- Project Development

2014

- Municipal Consent

2014-15

- Engineering, SDEIS

2016

- Final EIS, Full Funding Grant Agreement

2017-18

- Heavy Construction

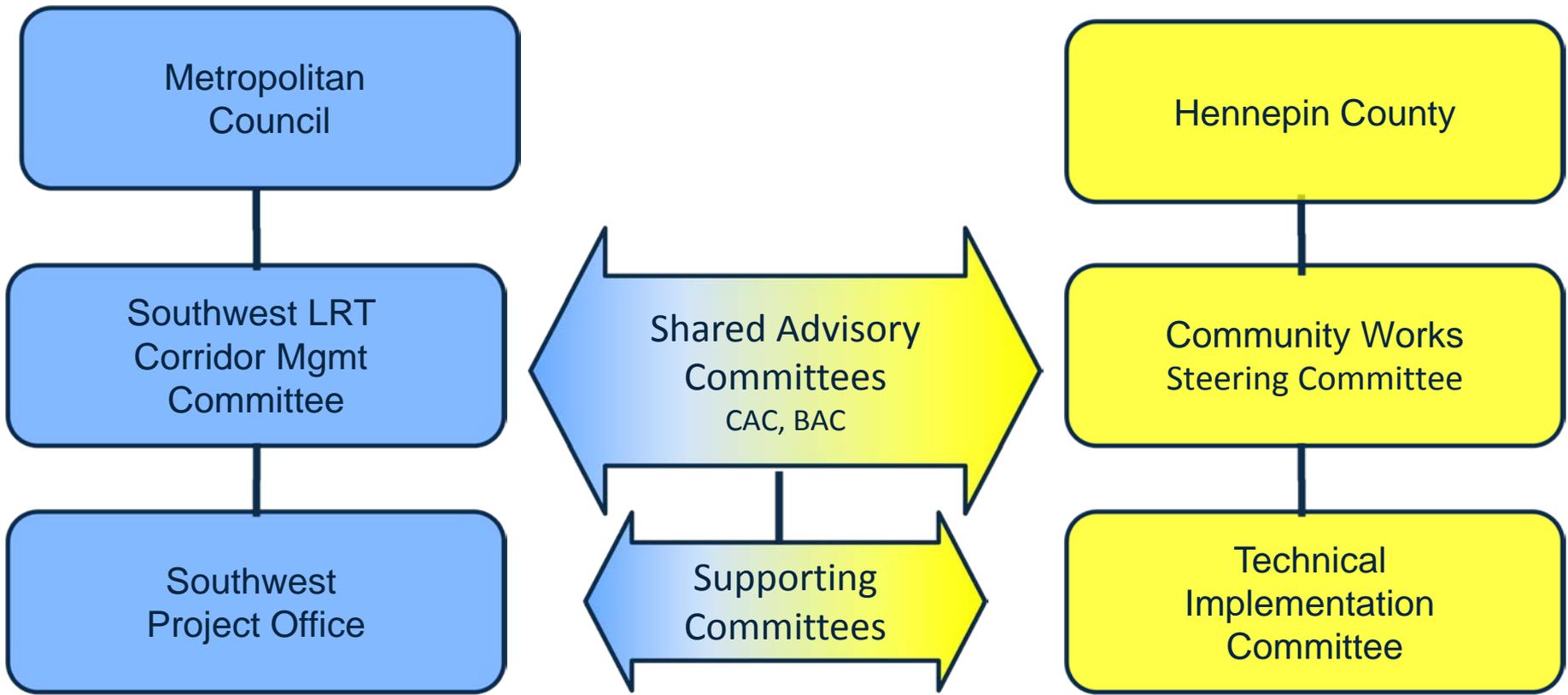
2019

- Passenger Operations

Your Vision

Roles, Responsibilities and Resources

Southwest LRT Committee Structure



SWLRT Advisory Committees

Technical Project
Advisory
Committee
(TPAC)

Business and
Community
Advisory
Committees
(BAC/CAC)

Corridor
Management
Committee
(CMC)

Met Council

Advisory Committee Purpose

- Serve as a voice for the community
- Advise Corridor Management and Community Works Steering Committees
- Provide input on design: stations, public art, operations and maintenance facility, bike, pedestrian, and park-and-ride facilities
- Identify impacts related to construction and operation of the light rail line
- Identify strategies to mitigate construction impacts
- Serve as information resource and liaison to the community

CAC Membership

- Community appoints members:
 - Minneapolis: 5 members
 - St. Louis Park: 3 members
 - Hopkins: 3 members
 - Minnetonka: 1 member
 - Eden Prairie: 5 members
- Corridors of Opportunity Engagement Grantees: 5
- At-large representation appointed by Met Council and Hennepin County Community Works: 3

BAC Membership

- Community appoints 2 members each:
 - Minneapolis
 - St. Louis Park
 - Hopkins
 - Minnetonka
 - Eden Prairie
- Chamber appoints 1 member each:
 - Minneapolis Regional
 - TwinWest
 - Eden Prairie
- At-large representation appointed by Met Council and Hennepin County Community Works: 5

Accountability

- Serve a 2-year term and attend meetings
- Actively participate in discussions; be a voice to advance the broader interests of community
- Report back to entity represented
- Provide feedback on communication and public involvement efforts
- Listen to and respect the viewpoints of others
- Accept outcomes of Met Council decisions

Advisory Committee Leadership

- Co-Chair appointments:
 - Corridor-wide perspective
- Co-Chair roles/responsibilities:
 - Lead committees through their tasks and ensure charter compliance
 - Identify topics/issues of committee concern
 - Develop meeting agendas with SPO and Hennepin County staff

SPO and Hennepin County Staff Support

- Identify topics/issues for advisory committee feedback and CMC/CW Steering Committee guidance
- Develop meeting agendas with Advisory Committee Co-chairs
- Distribute agendas and meeting summaries
- Post presentations/meeting materials on SWLRT.ORG

Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule

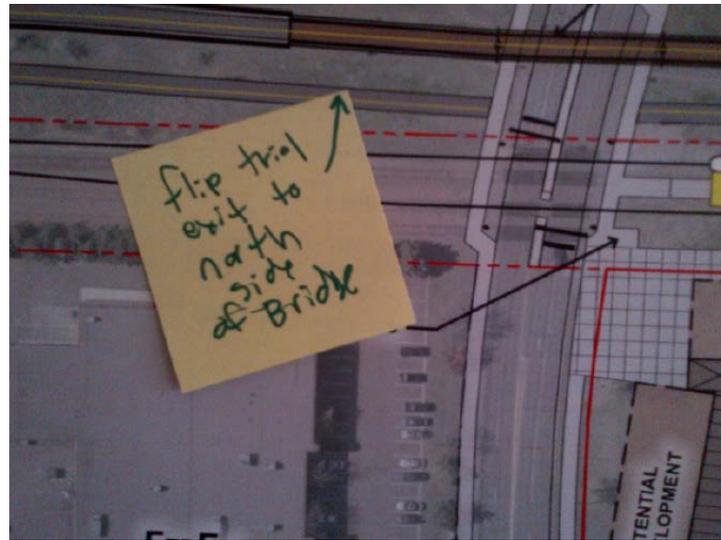
- Community Advisory Committee
 - The last Tuesday, starting at 6:00 PM
- Business Advisory Committee
 - The last Wednesday, starting at 7:30 AM

TPAC

BAC/CAC

CMC

Met Council



Advisory committee discussion and input

Resources

- www.SWLRT.org
 - Agendas, presentations and meeting materials posted in committee section
- ENewsletter
 - Signup at the bottom of the website to receive email newsletters and news releases from the project
- www.swlrtccommunityworks.org

Hennepin County Community Works Update



SOUTHWEST LRT

community works

green means go.

connecting people to jobs, housing, shopping, and fun

Southwest LRT Community Works



St. Louis Park
MINNESOTA



Experience LIFE in the Park



City of
minnetonka



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT





SOUTHWEST LRT

community works

green means go.

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

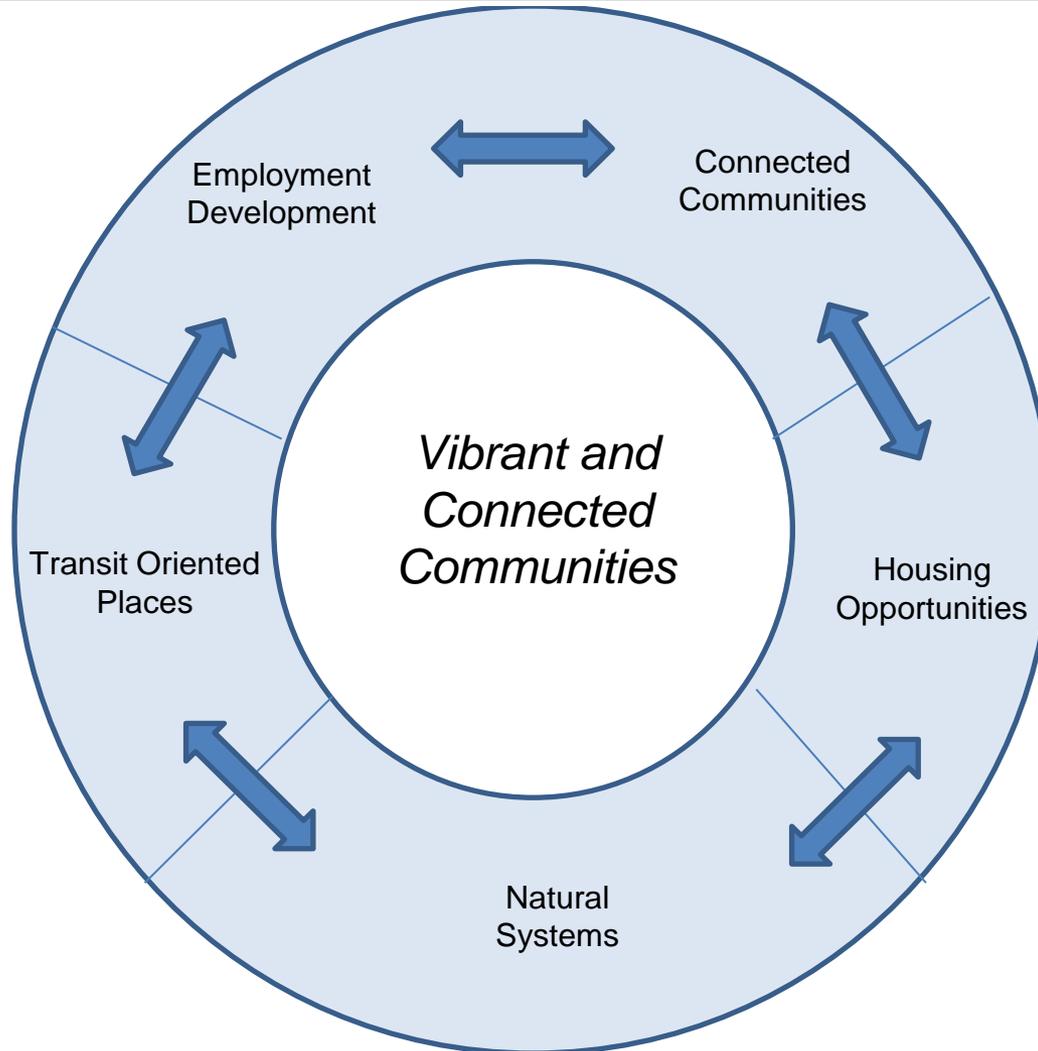




SOUTHWEST LRT

community works

green means go.





SOUTHWEST LRT

community works

green means go.

We are here





SOUTHWEST LRT
community works

green means go.

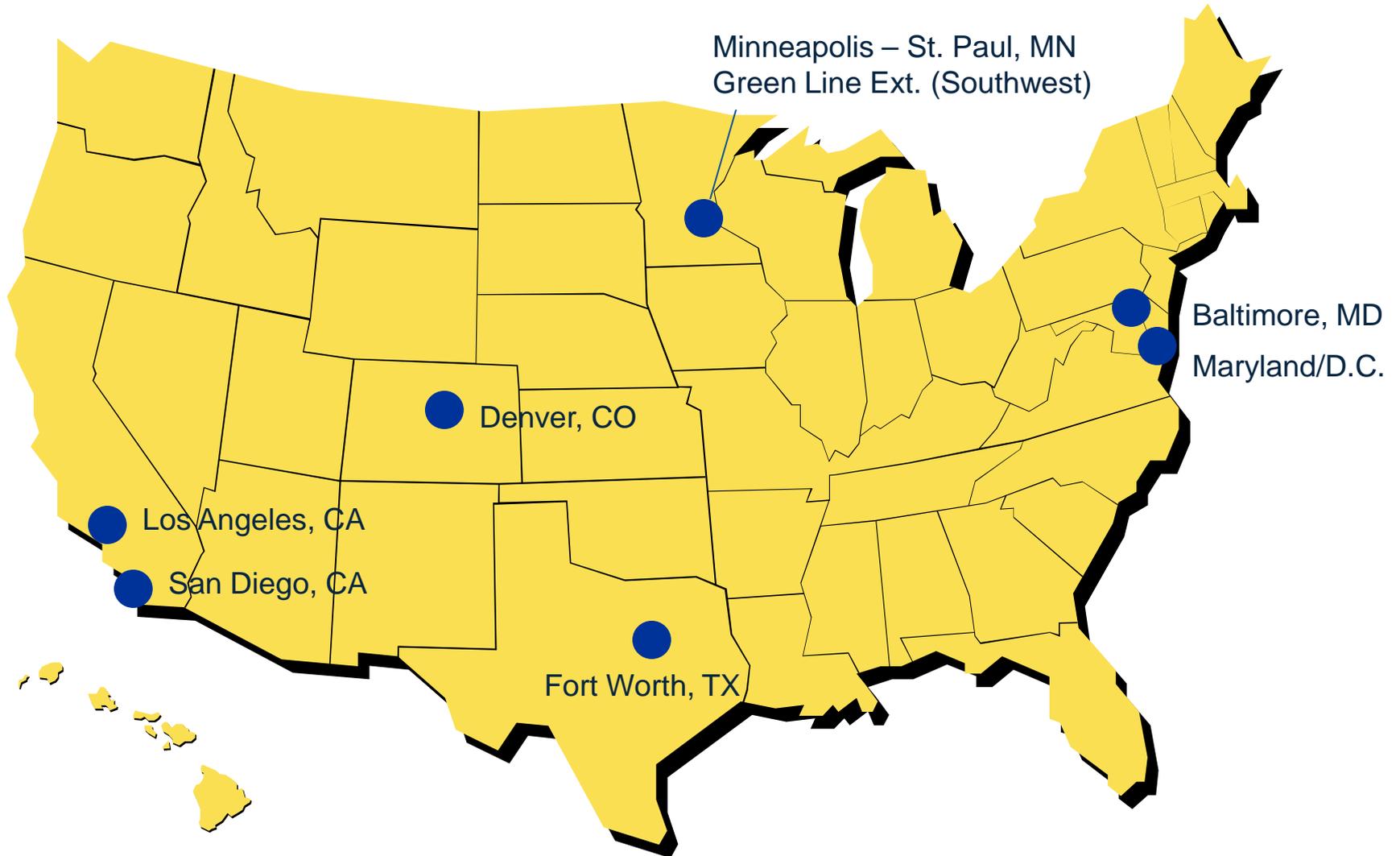
For more information, visit

www.swlrtccommunityworks.org

2015 Look Ahead

Peer “New Starts” Projects Recommended for FFGA

February 2015 Status



New Starts Project Rating

	SWLRT (Sept. 2011)	SWLRT (Nov. 2014)
Project Justification Rating	Medium	Medium
Local Commitment Financial Rating	Medium	High
Overall Project Rating	Medium	Medium-High

Advancing the Design Process

Advancing Design from 30% to 60% Engineering

- Corridor-wide:
 - Station architecture/integrated public art
 - Streetscape/landscape design
 - LRT track features
 - Roadway and trail details
 - Bridges and tunnels
 - Systems elements
 - Freight rail features
 - ADA features
 - Incorporate changes developed through environmental review process
- Unique elements:
 - Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) in Hopkins
 - Park and ride facilities

Station Design

Station Design Scope/Vision

- Provide architectural consistency with the Green Line and tie the SWLRT corridor together with a corridor-wide design approach
- Control construction and maintenance costs and learn from past projects
- Acknowledge the different communities and station sites along the SWLRT corridor
- Apply one of four identified station types based on previous public input and site observations

Four Station Types

- Landscape Station
- Neighborhood Station
- Town Square Station
- Landmark Station

Understated

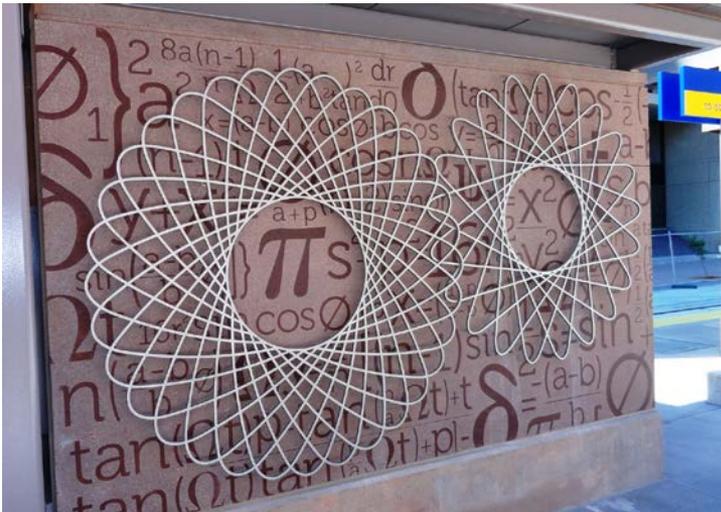


Bold

Integrated Public Art

Integrated Public Art Scope

- Incorporate public art concepts into ongoing station design process
- Enhance unique identity of stations, aid in passenger wayfinding, promote transit use and community pride
- Reflect community values and histories



Green Line East Bank Station

Kenilworth Corridor Landscaping

Kenilworth Landscape Design Scope/Vision

- Reflect existing setting of the Kenilworth corridor
- Design vegetation and landscape with trails, freight rail and light rail
- Ensure quality user experience

Design: Next Steps

- Seek appointments to advisory committees
 - Station Art Committees (SAC)
 - Kenilworth Landscape Design/Station Art Committee (KDLC/SAC)
- Initiate community engagement
 - Hold kick-off meeting with KDLC/SAC
 - Hold open houses on station prototype location and site elements
- Refine station prototype designs to reflect site and public input
- Select artists and hold kick-off meeting with the SACs
- Host public events seeking input on station design and public art design concepts

Kenilworth Channel Bridge Design Concepts

Kenilworth Channel Bridge Design Scope

- Incorporate Section 106 process for historic properties, considerations coordinated with design process
- Reflect input received from consulting parties
 - Maximize natural light between bridges
 - Create more space for skiers and kayakers
 - Use natural materials/dark colors
- Consider vegetation and bridge abutments along embankments
- Meet functional requirements that is tested with structural engineering

Kenilworth Channel Bridge Design

Next Steps

- Continue review with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and consulting parties
- Seek public comments at open houses Q2 2015

Advancing the Environmental Process

National Environmental Policy Act and Minnesota Environmental Policy Act

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- SDEIS will evaluate adjustments that may result in significant adverse impact from the proposed project since publication of the DEIS, including:
 - Eden Prairie alignment adjustments
 - Proposed location of the operations and maintenance facility
 - Kenilworth corridor/freight rail alignment

Next Steps

- SDEIS publication (conferring with FTA)
- Notice of Availability starts the 45 day public comment period
 - Document will be made available online and at public locations
 - Open House & Hearings will be held no earlier than 15 days after publication date
- Comments from DEIS and SDEIS will be responded to in FEIS and through engineering design refinement
- Mitigation will be included in the FEIS and Record of Decision (ROD)

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act

Section 4(f) Overview

- Requires consideration of publically owned parks, recreation areas and wildlife refuges and publically or privately owned historic sites during transportation project development
- Includes coordination with officials with jurisdiction
- Supplemental draft 4(f) analysis included in SDEIS
 - Updates draft analysis included in DEIS
 - Addresses adjustments made during preliminary engineering

Section 4(f) Next Steps

- Coordination with officials with jurisdiction
- Publish full draft 4(f) evaluation (conferring with FTA)
- Publish final 4(f) evaluation in Final EIS

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 Overview

- Requires federal agencies to consider effects of project on historic properties
- Includes consultation with Section 106 consulting parties
 - MN State Historic Preservation Office
 - Cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis
 - Hennepin County
 - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
 - Three Rivers Park District
 - Kenwood Isles Area Association
 - Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association

Section 106 Next Steps

- Continue consultation with Section 106 Consulting Parties
- Make determinations of adverse effects on historic properties impacted by the project
- Develop Section 106 Agreement
 - Identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects

Public Involvement

Outreach and Engagement Activities

Outreach staff

Public meetings

- Tailored formats
- One to 500 participants

Project website,
newsletter,
twitter/Facebook

Direct e-mail

Other materials



2014 Outreach and Communication Activities

- 13 open houses/public hearings; 1,500+ comments
- 110+ community events
- 12 Corridor Management Committee meetings
- 4 Community Advisory Committee meetings
- 4 Business Advisory Committee meetings
- 10 community events with the “mobile project office”
- 4 Extending Track Newsletters
- At times, accounted for 50% of Met Council web traffic
 - Green Line, Green Line Extension, Blue Line Extension

2014: Some Unique Opportunities



January /February
Town Hall Meetings



Mobile Project Office

February 26 President and Secretary Foxx Visit



June 14 Green Line “East” Grand Opening



Municipal Consent Public Hearings



Open House



Public Hearing

Metro Transit Bringing Fans to the 2014 All Star Game

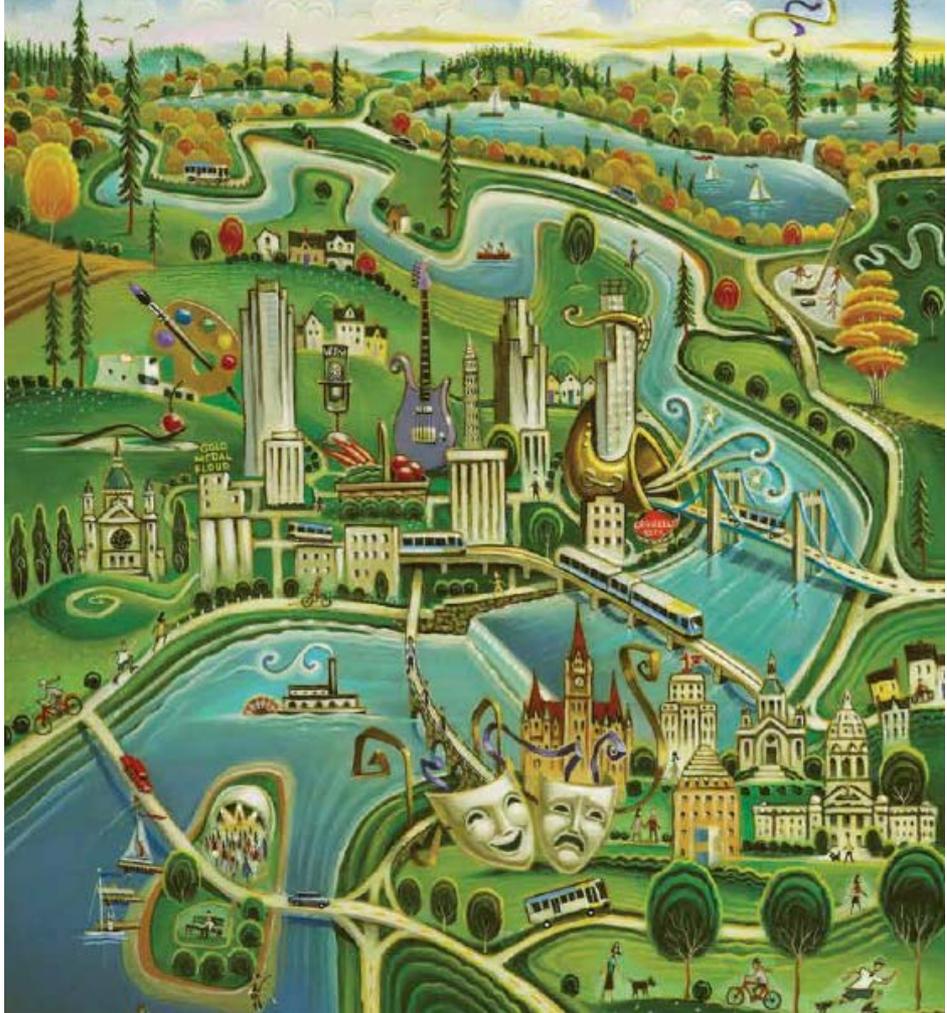


SPO and the “Great Minnesota Get Together”



Rail~Volution

September 21-24, 2014
Minneapolis + St. Paul
Building Livable Communities with Transit



4 days | **1200** people
80 workshops
... dedicated to making places better.
MINNEAPOLIS + ST. PAUL

Get Connected with Rail~Volution!



2015 Public Involvement Overview*

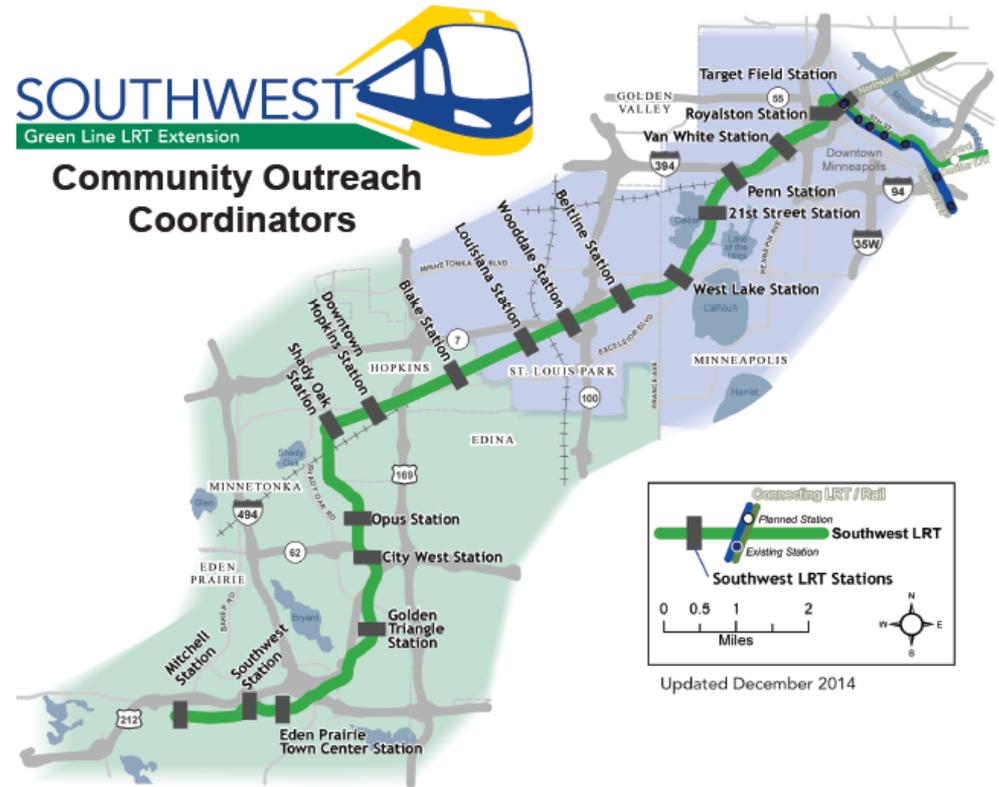
Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Station Design												
Integrated Public Art												
Landscape Design												
Kenilworth Bridge Design												
Historic Properties (Section 106)												
Joint Development												

Advisory Committees	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
BAC/CAC Meetings												
Station Art Committees												

*All schedules are subject to change

Invite Us To Your Events!

- Neighborhoods / Community centers/organizations
- Major employers
- Chambers of Commerce
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Libraries



SOUTHWEST Green Line LRT Extension Community Outreach Coordinators

Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins & Edina
Stations: Blake, Hopkins, Shady Oak, Opus, City West, Golden Triangle, Edin Prairie Town Center, Southwest, Mitchell,



Dan Pfeiffer
 612-373-3897
 Daniel.Pfeiffer@metrotransit.org

St. Louis Park & Minneapolis
Stations: Royalston, Van White, Penn, 21st Street, West Lake, Belpline, Wooddale, Louisiana



Sophia Ginis
 612-373-3895
 Sophia.Ginis@metrotransit.org



Updated December 2014

www.SWLRT.org

swlrt@metrotransit.org

612-373-3888



Questions and Answers

More Information

Online:

www.SWLRT.org

Email:

SWLRT@metrotransit.org

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/southwestlrt

