



Corridor Management Committee

September 5, 2012





Today's Topics

- SWLRT DEIS Process Overview and Outreach
- Preliminary Engineering Services Procurement Update
- Communications and Outreach Update
 - BAC Report
 - CAC Report
- MAP-21 Update
- Station Profiles
- Corridors of Opportunity Grant Recipient: Blake Road Neighborhood Discussion Circles



DEIS Process Overview & Outreach



DEIS Schedule

Apr 6, 2012	HCRRA/Met Council submitted revised DEIS to FTA for Administrative Review
May 21, 2012	FTA sent comments on DEIS to HCRRA
Jun 6, 2012	HCRRA/Met Council submitted revised DEIS to FTA for second screening
Jul 11, 2012	FTA submitted revised DEIS for legal review
Aug 31, 2012	Consultant completes final DEIS revisions
Sep 21, 2012	FTA delivers DEIS to US EPA
Sep 28, 2012	FTA publishes NOA in Federal <i>Register</i>
Nov 12, 2012	DEIS public comment period closes

Required Environmental Documentation

- Required by state and federal laws:
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phases:
 - **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
 - Record of Decision (ROD)



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Purpose

The purpose of the EIS is to conduct a full and open evaluation of environmental impacts and alternatives, and to inform decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives that could avoid or minimize adverse impacts and enhance the environment.





Primary Purposes of the DEIS

1. Describe project alternatives and their potential impacts in the context of
 - existing conditions in the project area
 - foreseeable future conditions in the project area
2. Identify potential mitigation measures that could minimize or avoid impacts
3. Assess project costs and institutional issues



Primary Purposes of the DEIS

4. Provide information on transportation, community and environmental impacts to assist the public and decision-makers
5. Encourage agency and public comments during the review period



DEIS Federal Review/Approval Process

- FTA approves DEIS for circulation
- FTA delivers DEIS to EPA
- Notice of Availability Published
- Circulation of DEIS

DEIS Document Chapters

1. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action
2. Alternatives Considered
3. Social Effects
4. Environmental Effects
5. Economic Effects
6. Transportation Effects
7. Draft Section 4(F) Evaluation
8. Financial Analysis
9. Indirect and Cumulative Impacts
10. Environmental Justice
11. Evaluation of Alternatives
12. Public and Agency Coordination and Comments

DEIS Public Outreach

- Multi-format
- Inclusive
- Transparent



DEIS Process Overview Presentations

SWLRT Technical Implementation Committee:	8/2
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SWLRT Business Advisory Committee:	8/8
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SWLRT Community Advisory Committee:	8/9
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SWLRT Communications Steering Committee:	8/15
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SWLRT Community Works Steering Committee:	8/16
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SWLRT Corridor Management Committee:	9/5
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DEIS Public Hearing Notices

- Official Notice
 - Minneapolis Journal of Finance & Commerce
- Community Ads
 - Local community newspapers
 - Neighborhood newsletters
- Web sites
 - Hennepin County
 - Met Council
 - Cities

Helpful Tools

- DEIS Booklet/CD-ROM
 - DEIS summary and guide to commenting
 - Available in Hmong, Somali and Spanish

- Web Site
 - Information on public hearings
 - Download DEIS documents
 - Submit DEIS comments



Commenting on the DEIS





DEIS Comment Period

- Comment period is required under NEPA/MEPA
- Comment period will last 45 calendar days
- Clock starts when the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register
- Intended for the public as well as public agencies



Submitting Comments on DEIS

Testimony at Public Hearing

Comments will be transcribed for the record. Translation services for non-English speakers and ADA accommodations will be offered to anyone who requests the service.

Written Comments

Paper comment forms will be distributed at a range of locations including the public hearing and will be included as part of the DEIS Booklet. Comment forms can be mailed to Hennepin County during the public comment period or turned in at the public hearing.

Electronic means

On-line form available on project website (website address included in DEIS Booklet and other publications)

E-mail comments

Fax comments



DEIS Public Hearing

- Dates and locations TBD
- Public hearing venues anticipated
 - Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority
 - St. Louis Park
 - Eden Prairie
- Open houses hosted one hour prior
 - Learn more about the project
 - Ask project staff questions
 - Stay involved



DEIS FAQs

- I commented during project scoping; do I have to comment again?
- Who responds to the submitted comments?
- When will my comment be addressed?
- Can I see comments submitted by others?
- How can I stay engaged with SWLRT?

More Information

- Katie Walker
Sr. Administrative Manager, Hennepin County
701 Building Fourth Avenue South – Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55415
612.385-5655
- Web Site:
www.southwesttransitway.org

SOUTHWEST

Green Line LRT Extension



Next Steps and Final Environmental Impact Statement



EDEN PRAIRIE | MINNETONKA | EDINA | HOPKINS | ST. LOUIS PARK | MINNEAPOLIS

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

- Requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)**
 - Record of Decision (ROD)



FEIS Elements

- Provide responses to substantive comments received during the DEIS public comment period
- Develop measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts of the project
- Evaluate adjustments to the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) as a result of Preliminary Engineering activities

Tentative FEIS Timeline

Submit FEIS to FTA for Legal Review

May 2014

Print & Distribute FEIS

June 2014

Waiting Period

July 2014

Prepare Record of Decision

August 2014



Federal Government Participation

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will review and provide comments
- FTA will submit to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for publication



Preliminary Engineering Services Procurement Update



Engineering Services Consultant

Original RFP - 1 Contract, 2012 - 2018 5 Separate Notices-To-Proceed

- Develop work plan and initiate Engineering
- Complete 30% Engineering Detail
- Complete Advanced Engineering
- Complete Final Design
- Provide Design Services during Construction



Engineering Services Consultant Contracts

New RFP Term/Multiple Contracts

- Develop work plan and initiate Engineering
- Complete 30% Engineering detail
- Complete Advanced Engineering (30% - 60%)
- Complete Final Design (60% - 100%)
- Provide Design Services during Construction



Engineering Services Consultant

Original RFP - Quality Management

- Consultant Internal Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- MnDOT Bridge Engineer review and oversight
- Council Southwest Project Office oversight



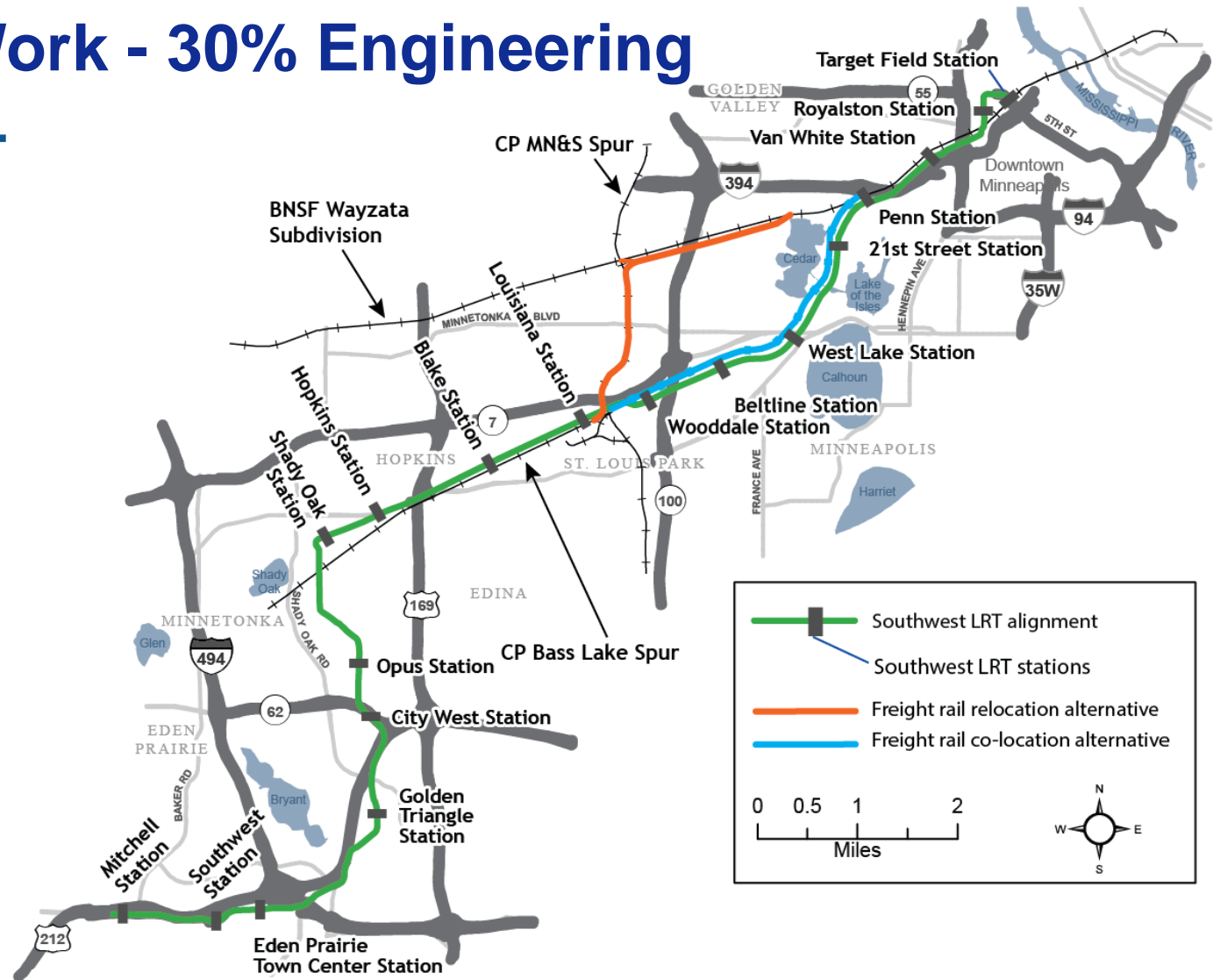
Engineering Services Consultant Contracts

New RFP - Quality Management

- Consultant Internal Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- MnDOT Bridge Engineer review and oversight
- Council Southwest Project Office oversight
- **Independent Engineering Peer Review hired by the Council**

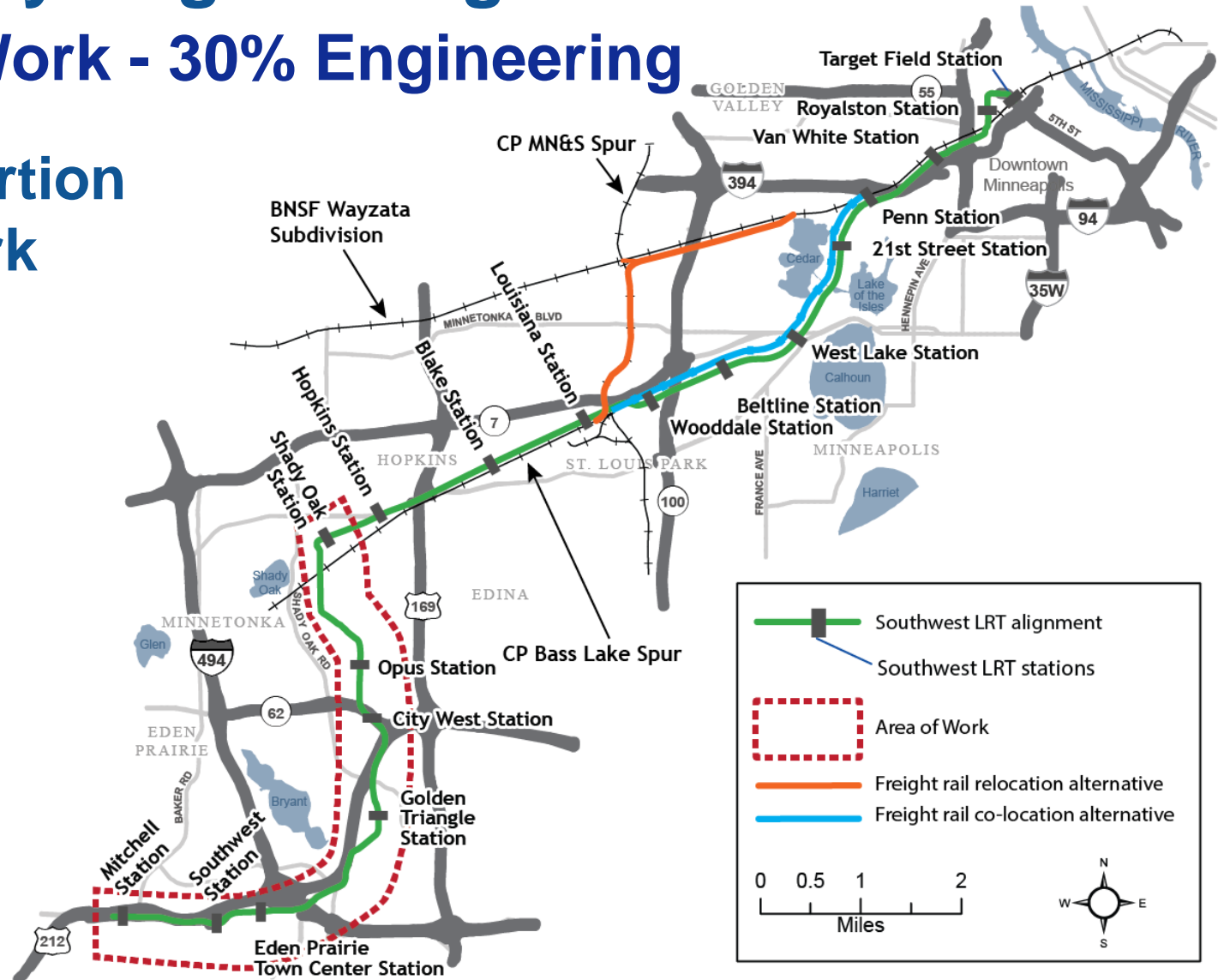
Preliminary Engineering Consultants Scope of Work - 30% Engineering

Full SWLRT alignment



Preliminary Engineering Consultants Scope of Work - 30% Engineering

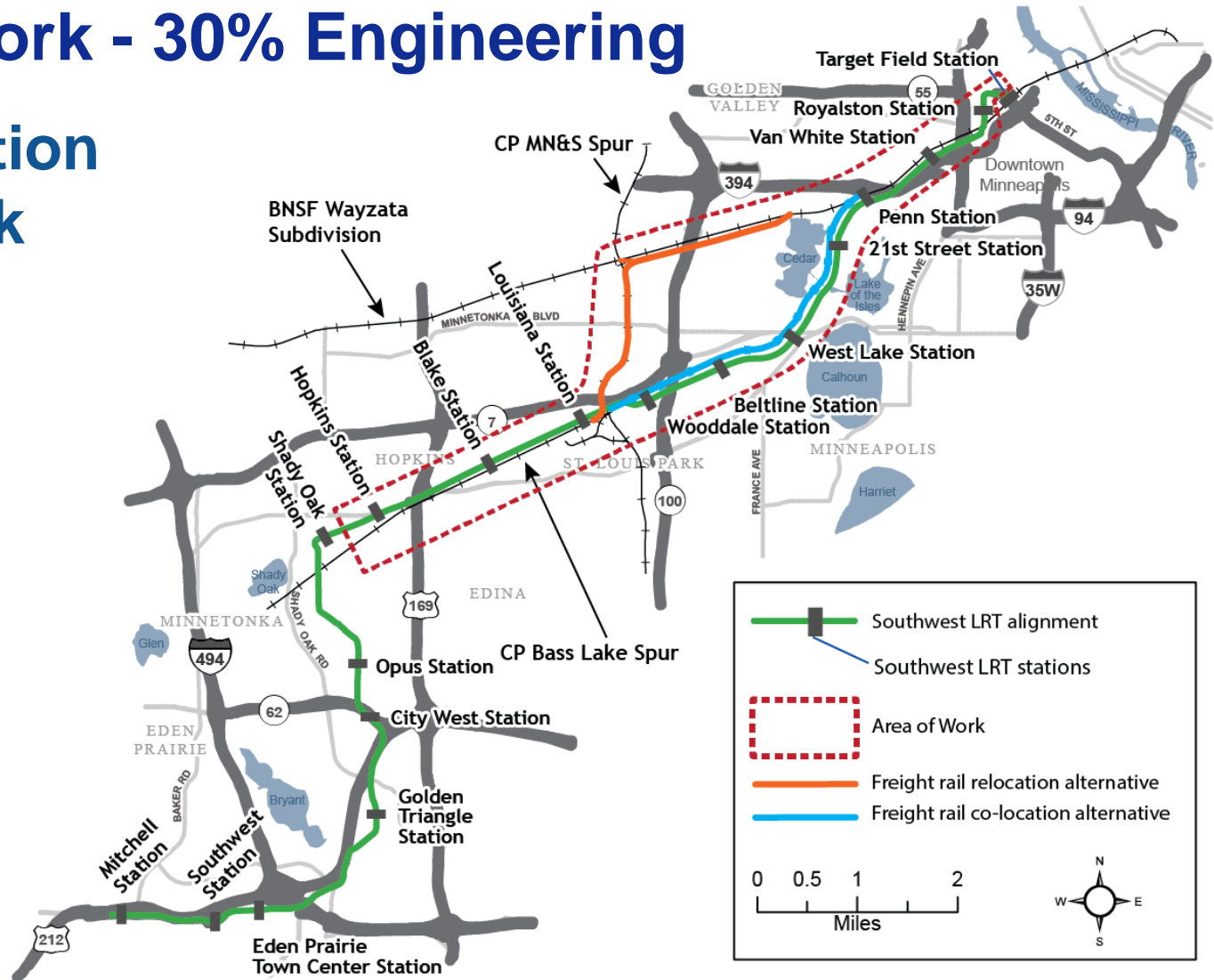
Western Portion Area of Work





Preliminary Engineering Consultants Scope of Work - 30% Engineering

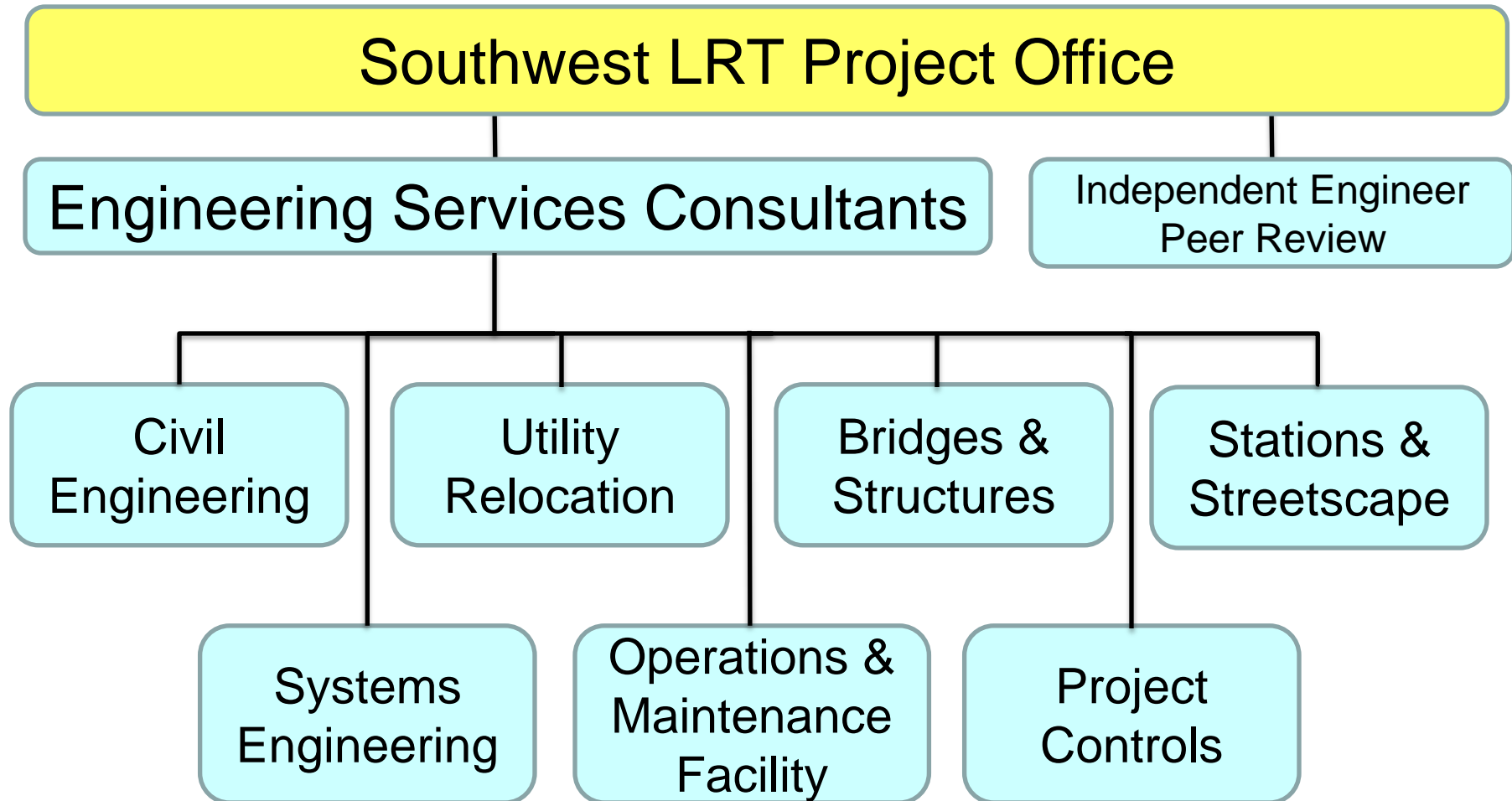
Eastern Portion Area of Work





Preliminary Engineering Consultants

Scope of Work - 30% Engineering



Preliminary Engineering Consultants Procurement Schedule

Major Milestones	Dates
Advertise RFPs	8/17/12
Pre-proposal conference	9/6/12
Response to proposer questions	9/18/12
Proposals due	10/2/12
Interview proposers	Oct/Nov 2012
Proposal evaluations/negotiations	Nov/Dec 2012
Contract Award / Notice to Proceed	Dec 2012 / Jan 2013



Communications and Outreach



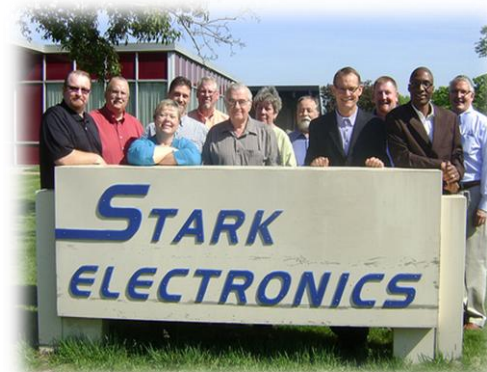


SWLRT BAC Report – August 8 Meeting

- Kick-off With Welcome from Chair Haigh and Commissioner Dorfman
- Southwest LRT Overview
- Charter, Ground Rules, and Committee Communication
- DEIS Process and Overview
- Next Steps and FEIS



**Indulge and
Bloom**



**The Blake
School**



SWLRT BAC Report – Next Meeting September 12

- Tour of Central Corridor
 - Central Corridor “101”
 - Business Stakeholder Perspectives
 - Tour of Central Corridor

SWLRT CAC Report – August 9 Meeting

- Project Updates
- SWLRT CAC Issue Survey Results
- DEIS Process Overview and Outreach
- Next Steps and FEIS
- Committee Reports
 - New Item: CAC Member Reports
- Invitation from Safety in the Park!

SWLRT CAC Report – Next Meeting September 13

- Project Updates
- Penn Station Capstone Project
- Station Profiles
- CAC Management
- Committee Reports
- Public Forum

SOUTHWEST

Green Line LRT Extension



MAP-21

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

Transforming the Way we Build, Manage, and Maintain our Nation's Transit Systems





Today's Topics

- Highlights of Program Changes
- Modified: Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants
- New: TOD Planning Pilot
- Current/MAP-21 Authorized Funding
- FTA MAP-21 Website

Highlights of Program Changes

New

- Safety Authority (5329)
- State of Good Repair Grants (5337)
- Asset Management (5326)
- Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Grants (5339)
- Public Transportation Emergency Relief (5324)
- TOD Planning Pilot Grants (20005(b) of MAP-21)

Repealed

- Clean Fuels Grants (5308)
- Job Access and Reverse Commute (5316) [JARC]
- New Freedom Program (5317)
- Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in the Parks (5320)
- Alternatives Analysis (5339)
- Over-the-Road Bus (Sec. 3038 – TEA-21)

Consolidated

- Urbanized Area Formula Grants (5307) [JARC]
- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (5310) [New Freedom]
- Rural Area Formula Grants (5311) [JARC]

Modified

- Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants (5309)
- Metropolitan and Statewide Planning (5303 & 5304)
- Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment (5312)
- Technical Assistance and Standards (5314)
- Human Resources and Training (5322)

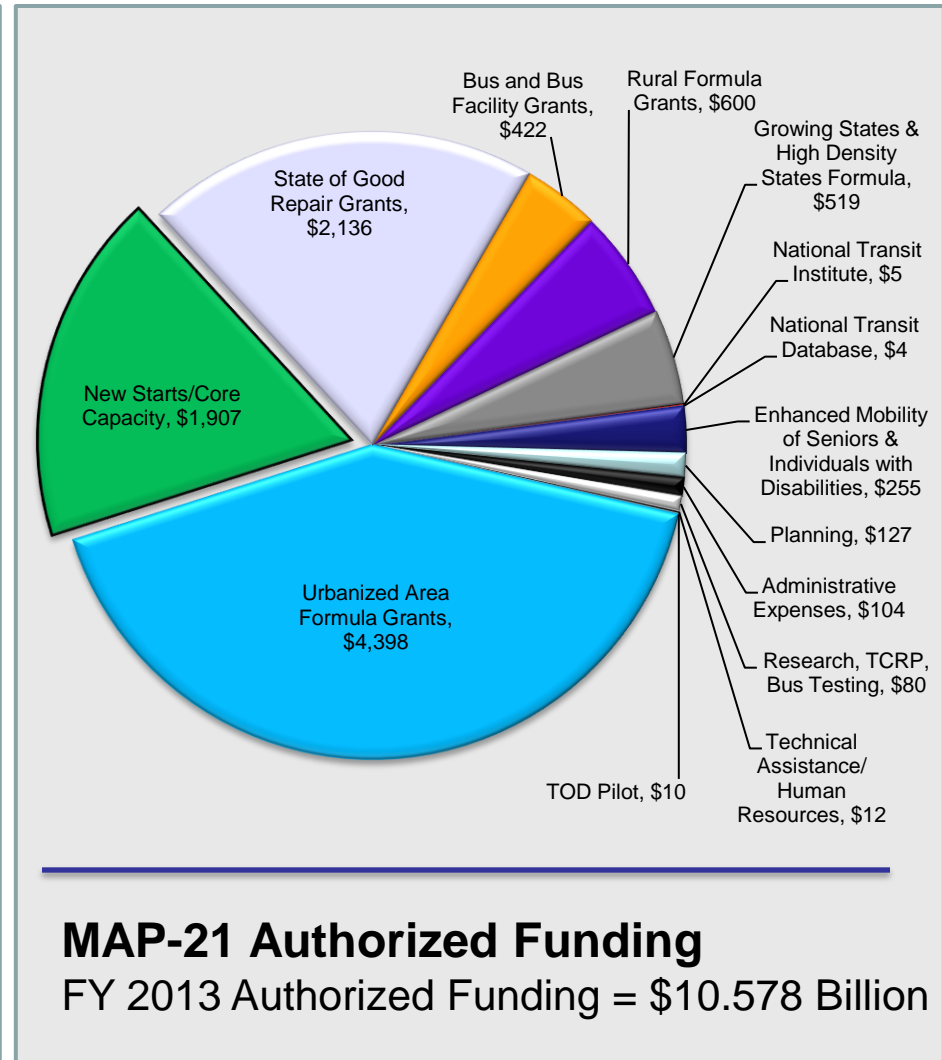
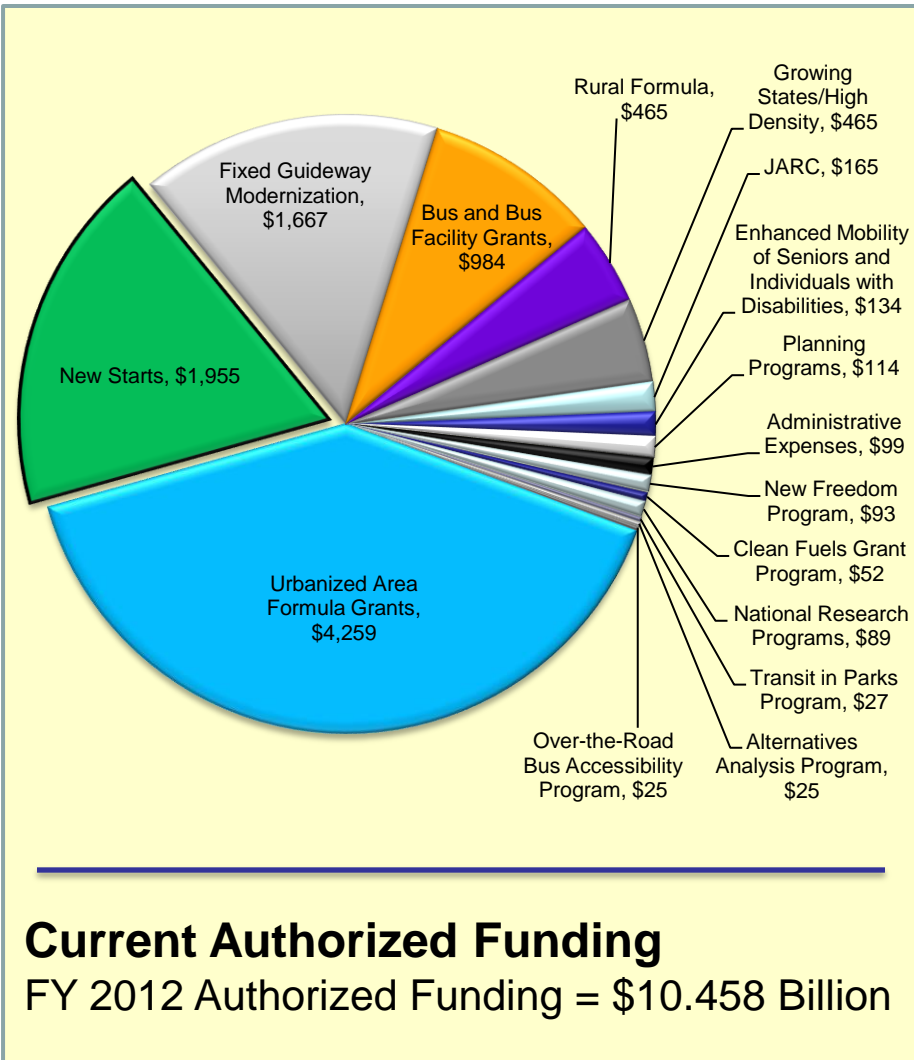
Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants

- Modifies New Starts and Small Starts project approvals by consolidating phases and permitting streamlined review in certain circumstances
- Core Capacity: New eligibility for projects that expand the core capacity of major transit corridors by a minimum of 10%
- Funding: \$1.9 billion (FY 2013) General Fund authorization

TOD Planning Pilot

- Creates a discretionary pilot program for transit-oriented development (TOD) planning grants
- Eligible projects are related to fixed guideway or core capacity projects as defined in section 5309
- Funding: \$10 million (FY 2013) authorized

Current/MAP-21 Authorized Funding



FTA MAP-21 Website

www.fta.dot.gov/map21



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



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[Grants](#)

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MAP-21

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

Transforming the Way we Build, Manage, and Maintain our Nation's Transit Systems

Visit this website often for information on FTA's implementation of MAP-21, including program information and guidance for grantees.

 Sign up for email updates on this topic.



Station Profiles





Opus Station

Metro Green Line extension

August 2012

Overview

The Opus Station, one of the 17 proposed stops on the Southwest LRT line, will serve the Opus Business Park, a major employment center home to several corporate headquarters and over 12,000 jobs. Opus is characterized by its park-like setting and its suburban-style office buildings and multifamily apartments and condominiums, which are served by a unique roadway system and separated pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Demographics

Population:	1,105*
Households:	679*
Employment:	5,028**

Population, Household, and Employment figures are within a half mile of the station stop. There are over 12,000 jobs in the larger Business Park.)

* Source: 2010 Census

**Source: Q2 2010 MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development

Major Employers & Station Area Amenities

- Located centrally within the Opus Business Park, the station area is planned to support large-scale office development and new high density residential.
- UnitedHealth Group recently completed two new 10-story office buildings with over 3,250 employees.
- Major employers include several large medical (United Health Group, American Medical Systems, Vital Images) and high technology businesses (Digital River, Datacard Group, Comcast), as well as Opus, a national real estate developer, and National American University.
- Home to several large clusters of multi-family residential communities.

Vision

The station area will accommodate business and residential demands through higher-density development. Improvements to the street, bicycle, and pedestrian network will ensure that Opus continues to be an attractive area to live, work, and recreate.

Website: www.eminnetonka.com

Location

Minnnetonka. Near where Bren Road East and Bren Road West split (north of State Highway 62 and east of Shady Oak Road).



More than six miles of paved walking and bicycling trails traverse the business park and connect to the MN River Bluffs Regional Trail, Bryant Lake Regional Park, Shady Oak Beach, Lone Lake Park, and the north branch of Nine Mile Creek are within easy cycling distance.

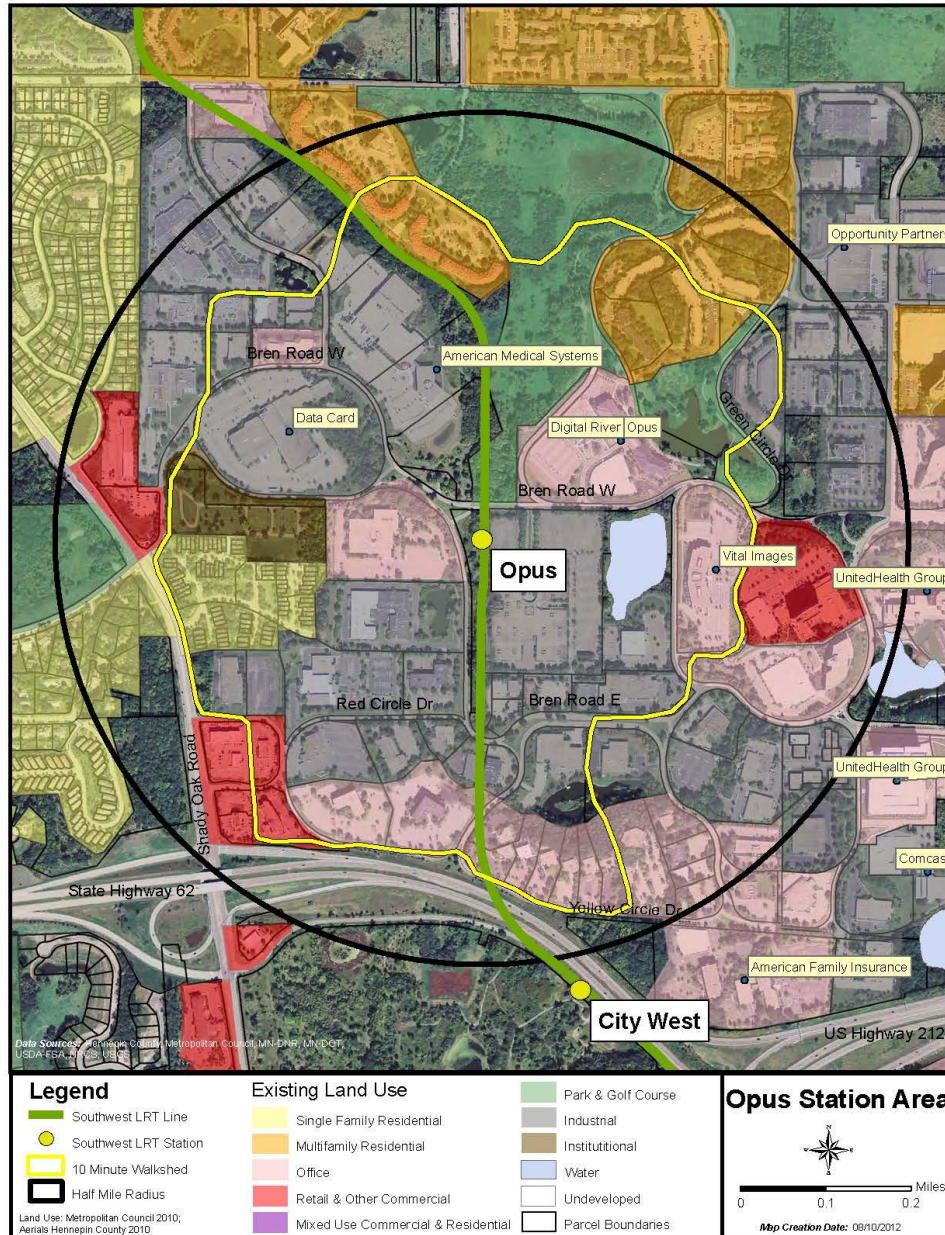


UnitedHealth Group recently completed Phase 2 of their expansion with a 10-story, 354,000 square foot building. Phase I, a 10-story, 350,000 square foot building opened in 2008.

www.southwesttransitway.org



SOUTHWEST LRT
community works





Corridors of Opportunity Grant Recipient: Blake Road Neighborhood Discussion Circles





Safety ♦ Neighborhood Improvement ♦ Youth

**Southwest Management Committee
September 5, 2012**

Blake Road Corridor Collaborative

- **Hopkins Police Department**
- **City of Hopkins**
- **Hopkins School District & Community Ed**
- **Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services**
- **ICA Food Shelf**
- **Resource West**
- **CAPSH**
- **Hennepin County**
- **Shepherd of the Hills Church**
- **43 Hoops Basketball Academy**
- **Twin Cities LISC**

Map of the Blake Road Neighborhood



BRCC Background

- **Began in 2005**
- **Wilder Community Assessment in 2008**
- **Community Action Plan in 2010**
 - Youth
 - Safety
 - Neighborhood Improvements



Blake Road

- **Several Key Upcoming Development Projects**
 - Southwest LRT Construction
 - Cottageville Park Expansion
 - Cold Storage Site Redevelopment



Project Overview

- 1. Engage residents and identify issues through one-to-one and group meetings.**
- 2. Connect residents to governance structures.**
- 3. Support resident-led projects related to transportation and other issues of concern.**
- 4. Increase resident involvement in future development projects.**

Our outreach activities...

**One-to-One and
Small Group
Meetings**



**Participating in
Planning For
Development
Projects**



Supporting and Connecting Resident Leaders



Support for Resident-Led Initiatives



Community Building Events



Transportation Survey



Lessons Learned

Engagement

- **Various communication methods**
 - **One-to-one meetings are powerful**
- **Take it to the neighborhood**
- **Build upon issues of concern for residents**

Lessons Learned

Housing

- **Affordability of housing is a concern**
 - **Rental housing prices are on the rise**
 - **Section 8 is being squeezed out by robust rental market**
- **Housing with more space is needed**

Lessons Learned

Transportation

- **Transit is well used and important to Blake Road residents**
- **Transit doesn't always meet neighborhood needs**
- **Accessibility is limited**

Moving Forward

- **Continue resident-led initiatives**
- **Convene resident advisory board**
- **Open discussions on affordable housing**
- **Educate residents on DEIS process**
- **Engage residents in current and future development projects**



More Information

Online:

www.SWLRT.org

Email:

SWLRT@metrotransit.org

