



SOUTHWEST
Green Line LRT Extension

**SWLRT Community
Advisory Committee**

August 9, 2012








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



Today's Agenda


- Welcome/Approve Minutes
- Project Updates
- CAC Issues Survey Results
- DEIS Process Overview and Outreach Plan
- FEIS/Next Steps
- Reports
 - CAC Member Reports
- Public Forum



CAC Issue Topics: Survey Results

Top 3:


- Trails, parks and bike impacts
- Station location and station area plans/transit oriented development (TOD)
- Bus and other transit connections

 4

CAC Issue Topics: Survey Results

Tied for 4th place:

- Outreach to traditionally underserved members of the community (environmental justice/equity)
- Environmental sensitivity
- Housing
- Freight rail location
- Lessons learned from Hiawatha & Central Corridor
- Safety (freight, pedestrians, schools, neighborhoods)
- Station and platform design

 5


Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Process Overview and Public Outreach

Katie Walker
Sr. Administrative Manager
Hennepin County

 6

DEIS/FEIS Topics


- Background
- DEIS Document
- DEIS Outreach Activities
- Next Steps

SOUTHWEST  7

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)

SOUTHWEST  8

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.



The diagram consists of three green circles. The first circle contains the text 'EIS'. To its right is an equals sign '='. The second circle contains 'DEIS'. To its right is a plus sign '+'. The third circle contains 'FEIS'.


SOUTHWEST  9

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

 10


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

 11

DEIS Federal Review/Approval Process

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

 12


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. Evaluation of Alternatives
11. Public and Agency Coordination and Comments

 13

DEIS Public Outreach

- Multi-format
- Inclusive
- Transparent

 14


DEIS Process Overview Presentations

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

 15

Public Hearing Notices/Community Ads

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

SOUTHWEST  16


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

SOUTHWEST  17


Commenting on the DEIS



SOUTHWEST  18

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

 19


Submitting Comments

Testimony at Public Hearings	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 Public Hearings and will be included as part of the DEIS Booklet. Comment forms will be accepted at Public Hearings or can be mailed to Hennepin County.
Electronic means	On-line form available on project website (website address included in DEIS Booklet and other publications) E-mail comments Fax comments

 20


Public Hearings

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

 21

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?

 22

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

 23

**Next Steps and Final
Environmental Impact Statement**

Nani Jacobson
Assistant Director - Environmental and Agreements
Southwest LRT Project Office









ROSEN BLAISE | MINNETONKA | EDINA | HOPKINS | ST. LOUIS PARK | MINNEAPOLIS

 24


**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)

 25

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

 26


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


 27

Federal Government Participation

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

SOUTHWEST  28

Questions?

SOUTHWEST  29

Next Meeting

- Thursday, September 13 at 6:00 pm

SOUTHWEST  30

More Information



Website: www.swlrt.org

Email: swlrt@metrotransit.org








EDEL PAVILION | MANAYUNK | EDINA | HOPKINS | ST. LOUIS PARK | MINNEAPOLIS
