





# CAC Issue Topics: Survey Results

# Тор 3:

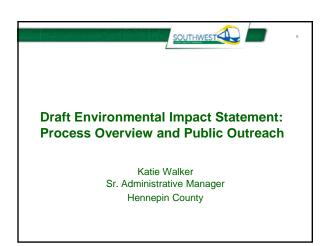
- Trails, parks and bike impacts
- Station location and station area plans/transit oriented development (TOD)
- Bus and other transit connections

# CAC Issue Topics: Survey Results

### Tied for 4<sup>th</sup> 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





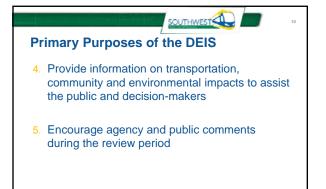
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## **Required Environmental Documentation**

- 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)



# 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



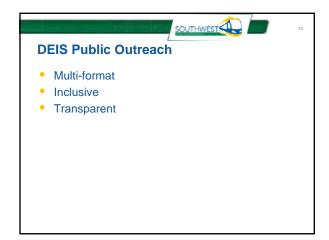
### **DEIS Federal Review/Approval Process**

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

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### **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



<b>DEIS Process Overview Presentations</b>		
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	

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# 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

# **EXAMPLE 1 EXAMPLE 1 EXAMPLE 1 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



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



## **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

### 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?







- 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

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### **Federal Government Participation**

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



