Today’s Topics

• Chair’s Update
• Proposed Corridor Protection Wall Update
• Environmental Update
• 2018 Look Ahead
• Eden Prairie Video
Chair’s Update
Recent Activities

• Feb 23 FTA and Council issued Supplemental Environmental Assessment
• Feb 27 Judge Tunheim ruled on Lakes & Parks Alliance lawsuit
• March 21 Met Council acted to authorize execution of agreements related to freight rail
  ▪ HCRRA Joint and Cooperative Exercise of Powers Agreement
  ▪ CP Real Estate Purchase Agreement
  ▪ HCRRA Property Transfer Agreement
  ▪ TC&W Settlement Offer
Current Freight Rail Owners, Carriers & Operators

- **Glencoe Junction**
  - Property Owner: TC&W
  - Common Carrier: TC&W
  - Rail Operator: TC&W

- **Bass Lake Spur**
  - Property Owner: CP
  - Common Carrier: CP
  - Rail Operator: TC&W

- **Kenilworth Corridor**
  - Property Owner: HCRRRA
  - Common Carrier: HCRRRA
  - Rail Operator: TC&W/CP

Map showing locations of Glencoe Junction, Bass Lake Spur, and Kenilworth Corridor.
Proposed Freight Rail Owners, Common Carrier & Operators
Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition

- STB petition is required to allow the Council to acquire rights-of-way and physical assets of Bass Lake Spur and Kenilworth Corridors subject to the freight rail easements & existing Trackage Rights Agreements

- STB is the federal regulatory agency responsible for reviewing certain railroad property transfers

- After the Council petitions the STB, it is anticipated the STB will rule within 30-60 days
Nearly $8.4B in Development Along LRT

- $2.8B near 5 Blue and Green Line shared stations in downtown Minneapolis.
- $2.9B along Green Line between West Bank and Downtown St. Paul
- $1.0B along Blue Line outside of downtown
- $1.0B development planned or underway along Green Line Extension
- $506M development planned or underway along Blue Line Extension

Development projects within one-half mile of light rail transit stations in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area (December 2017)

Staff compiled data reported by developers about recently completed developments and projects that are under construction or design. For each LRT line, only projects initiated after the beginning of the design process are included.
Proposed Corridor Protection Wall Update
Proposed Corridor Protection Wall

- Proposed corridor protection between LRT and freight tracks
- Current project includes corridor protection between LRT and freight rail
- Track separation not to scale
- Current project includes pier protection on both sides of LRT under I-394 bridge

Legend:
- Light Rail
- Freight Rail
- Proposed Corridor Protection Area
- Current Project Corridor/Pier Protection

Distance Scale:
0 - 0.5 Miles
Corridor Protection Wall: Existing Conditions
Corridor Protection Wall: Proposed

Note: Planned trees not shown
Corridor Protection Wall: Vines & Texture
Outreach Activities

- Bassett Creek Valley Working Group
- Presentations to Communities
- Public and Elected Corridor Tours
- Community Open House and Town Hall
- Pop-Up Events
- Project Website
Environmental Update
Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- The SEA is a federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, which evaluates the significance and the potential impacts of proposed project changes made after the 2016 Record of Decision.
- Preparation of an SEA includes a public input process.
- Under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), the SEA will serve as the state environmental document to evaluate the proposed changes to the project since 2016.
SEA/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

• Evaluated ten proposed changes to Project design since the 2016 Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision

• Analyzed whether there have been significant changes to the proposed action, affected environment, and anticipated impacts or the proposed mitigation measures required

• The SEA will be used by the Met Council to reach an informed and appropriate decision whether to issue a Negative Declaration for the proposed project revisions (pursuant to Minnesota Rules, part 4410.1700) or that a Supplemental EIS is warranted
SEA Topics

- Parcel 322A parking impact near Opus Station
- Minnehaha Creek headwall
- Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail Detour
- 31st Street realignment
- Grand Rounds Historic District: Kenilworth Lagoon Works Progress Administration (WPA) rustic style retaining walls rehabilitation and landscaping
- Right-of-way adjustment near West 21st Street Station
SEA Topics

- BNSF negotiation modifications
- Bryn Mawr Meadows trail mitigation
- Water service to Sharing and Caring Hands
- New potential construction laydown areas
Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

• To mitigate the Project’s impacts on the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba / Great Northern Railway Historic District, several measures have been identified:
  ▪ Designing the Project modifications to meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards to the extent feasible
  ▪ Preparing a Minnesota Historic Property Record for portions of the district
  ▪ Incorporating interpretive elements into the Project
Key Dates

• Feb 23, 2018: SEA/Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation published
  ▪ 45-day public comment period commences
• March 22, 2018: Community Town Hall held to receive public comments
Public Comments

• 45-day comment period: Feb 23 - April 9, 2018

• Comments can be submitted by:
  ▪ Using online comment form: swlrt.org
  ▪ Emailing written comments: swlrt@metrocouncil.org
  ▪ Written/spoken testimony at March 22 town hall
  ▪ Mailing written comments to the address below:
    Southwest LRT Project Office
    ATTN: Kelcie Campbell, Environmental Project Manager
    Park Place West Building, Suite 500
    6465 Wayzata Boulevard
    St. Louis Park, MN 55426
Next Steps

- Respond to substantive comments received
- Document agency’s decision and basis for decision
- Document Final Section 4(f) Finding
- FTA issues an Amended Record of Decision (AROD)
- Met Council decides whether to issue a Negative Declaration under Minnesota Rules
2018 Look Ahead
Peer “New Starts” Projects (February 2018)

Project Development (PD)                 Engineering                                    FFGA

Seattle, WA
Portland, QR
San Francisco
San Jose
San Carlos (Caltrain)
Los Angeles (3)
Los Angeles
Santa Ana
San Diego

Minneapolis – St. Paul, MN

New York, NY
NJ-NY
Suburban Maryland
Cambridge, MA

Charlotte, NC
Durham, NC

Los Angeles (3)
San Carlos (Caltrain)
Phoenix, AZ (2)

Source: Feb 2018 FTA CIG Report
FTA Capital Investment Grant Program
Federal Funding Levels 2010 to 2018

Note: Horizontal axis represents federal fiscal years
FTA Capital Investment Grant Program
2018 Funding by Subprogram

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<th>Subprogram</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Core Capacity</td>
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<td>Oversight</td>
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Total: $2,645

In Millions

- $0
- $500
- $1,000
- $1,500
- $2,000
- $2,500
- $3,000
## Overall Project Schedule

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**ROD**: Record of Decision  
**AROD**: Amended ROD  
**LONP**: Letter of No Prejudice  
**FFGA**: Full Funding Grant Agreement
## 2018 Major Project Milestones

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
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| February  | • Published Supplemental Environmental Assessment  
               • Published Quality Management Services for Civil Construction RFP |
| March     | • Completed Congressional Funding for 2018  
               • Freight Rail Agreements/Surface Transportation Board Filing |
| May       | • FTA Environmental Finding/Met Council Environmental Declaration  
               • Open Civil Construction Bids  
               • Request FTA & Hennepin County Letters of No Prejudice (LONP) |
| July      | • FTA & Hennepin County Approve LONPs                                      |
| August    | • Met Council Awards Civil Construction Contract                           |
| September | • Begin mobilizing for Civil Construction                                  |
Eden Prairie Video
More Information

Online:
www.SWLRT.org

Email:
SWLRT@metrotransit.org

Twitter:
www.twitter.com/southwestlrt