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
- 3040 Urban Service Area

EDEN PRAIRIE | MINNETONKA | EDINA | HOPKINS | ST. LOUIS PARK | MINNEAPOLIS
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)
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 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 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

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>• Project Development</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>• Municipal Consent</td>
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<td>2014-15</td>
<td>• Engineering, SDEIS</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>• Final EIS, Full Funding Grant Agreement</td>
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<td>2017-18</td>
<td>• Heavy Construction</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>• Passenger Operations</td>
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Your Vision
Roles, Responsibilities and Resources
Southwest LRT Committee Structure

- Metropolitan Council
- Southwest LRT Corridor Mgmt Committee
- Southwest Project Office

Shared Advisory Committees
- CAC, BAC

Supporting Committees

- Community Works Steering Committee
- Technical Implementation Committee

Hennepin County
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
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.swlrtcommunityworks.org
Hennepin County
Community Works Update
Southwest LRT Community Works
**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*
Vibrant and Connected Communities

- Employment Development
- Connected Communities
- Transit Oriented Places
- Housing Opportunities
- Natural Systems
- Technical Assistance
- Recruitment/Retention
- Purchasing/Procurement
- Business incubators
- Moving the Market grant
- SW Investment Partnership
We are here

- Needs Assessment/Scoping
- Planning/Project Design
- Implementation
- Asset Management
For more information, visit

www.swlrtc.org

green means go.
2015 Look Ahead
Peer “New Starts” Projects Recommended for FFGA

February 2015 Status

Minneapolis – St. Paul, MN
Green Line Ext. (Southwest)

Baltimore, MD
Maryland/D.C.

Los Angeles, CA
San Diego, CA

Fort Worth, TX

Denver, CO
# New Starts Project Rating

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<tr>
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<th>SWLRT (Sept. 2011)</th>
<th>SWLRT (Nov. 2014)</th>
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<td>Project Justification Rating</td>
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<td>Local Commitment Financial Rating</td>
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<td>Overall Project Rating</td>
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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”
Get Connected with Rail~Volution!

4 days | 1200 people workshops
80 ... dedicated to making places better.

MINNEAPOLIS + ST. PAUL
# 2015 Public Involvement Overview*

## Activities

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## Advisory Committees

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*All schedules are subject to change*
Invite Us To Your Events!

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

Community Outreach Coordinators

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

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

St. Louis Park & Minneapolis
Stations: Royalton, Van White, Penn, 21st Street, West Lake, Beltline, Wooddale, Louisiana
Sophia Gims
612-373-3895
Sophia.Gims@metrotransit.org

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