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Draft Environmental Impact Statement Overview

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
December 2, 2009

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

HENNEPIN COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY - SPONSOR



National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.

Minnesota Environmental Policy Act

The Minnesota Environmental Policy Act of 1973 is based on the federal act, and establishes the formal process for reviewing the environmental impacts of major development projects. The process operates according to rules adopted by the Environmental Quality Board, but the actual reviews are usually conducted by a local governmental unit or state agency.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- Joint FTA, Met Council, and Hennepin County document
 - FTA is required to complete environmental review under NEPA
 - Hennepin County and Met Council share responsibility for compliance with MEPA
- DEIS is the second key part of the environmental review process:
 - Scoping
 - DEIS
 - Public and Agency Review/Public Hearing
 - FEIS
 - Record of Decision (ROD)
- Addresses:
 - Affected Environment (what is present in the project area)
 - Environmental Consequences (what are the impacts of the project)
 - Mitigation Measures (how will the impacts be offset)

What is Included in the DEIS?

➤ Purpose and Need

- Will be based on the purpose and need identified during the AA process

➤ Alternatives Considered

- Will be based on the results of scoping and the LPA decision process

➤ Social Effects

Includes:

- Land Use & Socioeconomics
- Neighborhood, Community Services & Community Cohesion
- Acquisitions/Displacements & Relocation
- Cultural Resources
- Parklands/Recreation Areas
- Visual Quality & Aesthetics
- Safety & Security
- Environmental Justice

What is Included in the DEIS? (cont.)

➤ Environmental Effects

Includes:

- Groundwater & Soil Resources
- Water Resources
- Biota & Habitat
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Vibration
- Contaminated Properties & Hazardous Materials
- Electromagnetic Fields & Utilities
- Energy

What is Included in the DEIS? (cont.)

➤ Economic Effects

Includes:

- Economic Conditions
- Station Area Development
- Development Effects

➤ Transportation Impacts

Includes:

- Transit
- Roadways
- Other Transportation Impacts (such as bicycle, pedestrian, parking)

➤ Section 4(f) Evaluation

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What is Included in the DEIS? (cont.)

➤ Financial Analysis

Includes:

- Capital Funding Strategy
- Operating Funding Strategy

➤ Indirect and Cumulative Effects

➤ Evaluation of Alternatives

➤ Public and Agency Involvement



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Questions?

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