



**SOUTHWEST POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION NO. 2009-1**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE HENNEPIN COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY (HCRRRA) REQUEST FOR \$5 MILLION IN 2009 STATE BONDING TO ASSIST IN FUNDING THE SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING (PE)

WHEREAS, transportation infrastructure forms the backbone of the State's economy as well as its quality of life, and has a direct impact on economic development; and

WHEREAS, a well designed and functional transportation system with multiple mode choices is essential to maintaining long-term mobility throughout the metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council's long-range transportation plan identifies a future fixed transitway corridor in the Southwest Metro Area through the cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Metro Area has experienced unprecedented population and employment growth over the last 20 years resulting in increasing congestion; and,

WHEREAS, a Light Rail Transit (LRT) line servicing the cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie will improve mobility and will help maintain a competitive business environment and high quality of life for the entire Southwest Metro Area; and

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority in partnership with the affected cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Edina, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie and the Metropolitan Council is presently conducting an Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which includes the selection of a locally preferred alternative (LPA) to address the current and future travel needs of the Southwest Metro; and,

WHEREAS, once the locally preferred alternative (LPA) is selected and approved by the Metropolitan Council, and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is complete, preliminary engineering (PE) will commence; and,

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) has requested that the Governor and the State legislature include \$5 million in 2008 State Bonding for the State portion of the Southwest Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Preliminary Engineering; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Policy Advisory Committee supports the request by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) for \$5 million in 2009 State Bonding for the Southwest Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Preliminary Engineering (PE).

Adopted by the Southwest Policy Advisory Committee on January 21, 2009.