



Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee

Thursday, August 20, 2015

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Council Chambers, St. Louis Park City Hall

Agenda

- | | |
|---|---|
| I. Welcome and Announcements
<i>Chair Jan Callison</i> | 1:30 to 1:35 PM |
| II. Approval of the May 2015 Meeting Minutes*
<i>Chair Jan Callison</i> | 1:35 to 1:40 PM
<i>(Action)</i> |
| III. Committee Updates
<i>Technical Implementation Committee (TIC)</i>
<i>Business & Community Advisory Committees (BAC/CAC)</i> | 1:40 to 1:50 PM
<i>(Information)</i> |
| IV. Southwest LRT Project Status Update
<i>Mark Fuhrmann, Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO)</i> | 1:50 to 2:10 PM
<i>(Presentation)</i> |
| V. Bike Facilities Assessment
<i>Hannah Pritchard , Toole Design Group</i> | 2:10 to 2:30 PM
<i>(Presentation)</i> |
| VI. Southwest Community Works Funding Commitment | 2:30 to 2:40 PM |
| VII. Hopkins Station Area Development Update
<i>Kersten Elverum, City of Hopkins</i> | 2:40 to 3:00 PM
<i>(Presentation)</i> |

**enclosed*

*The next Southwest Community Works Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, **November 19, 2015** at the St. Louis Park City Hall at 1:30 PM.*



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Southwest LRT Community Works
Steering Committee

2015 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 PM at the St. Louis Park City Hall, Council Chambers.

February 19

March 19

May 21

July 16

August 20

September 17

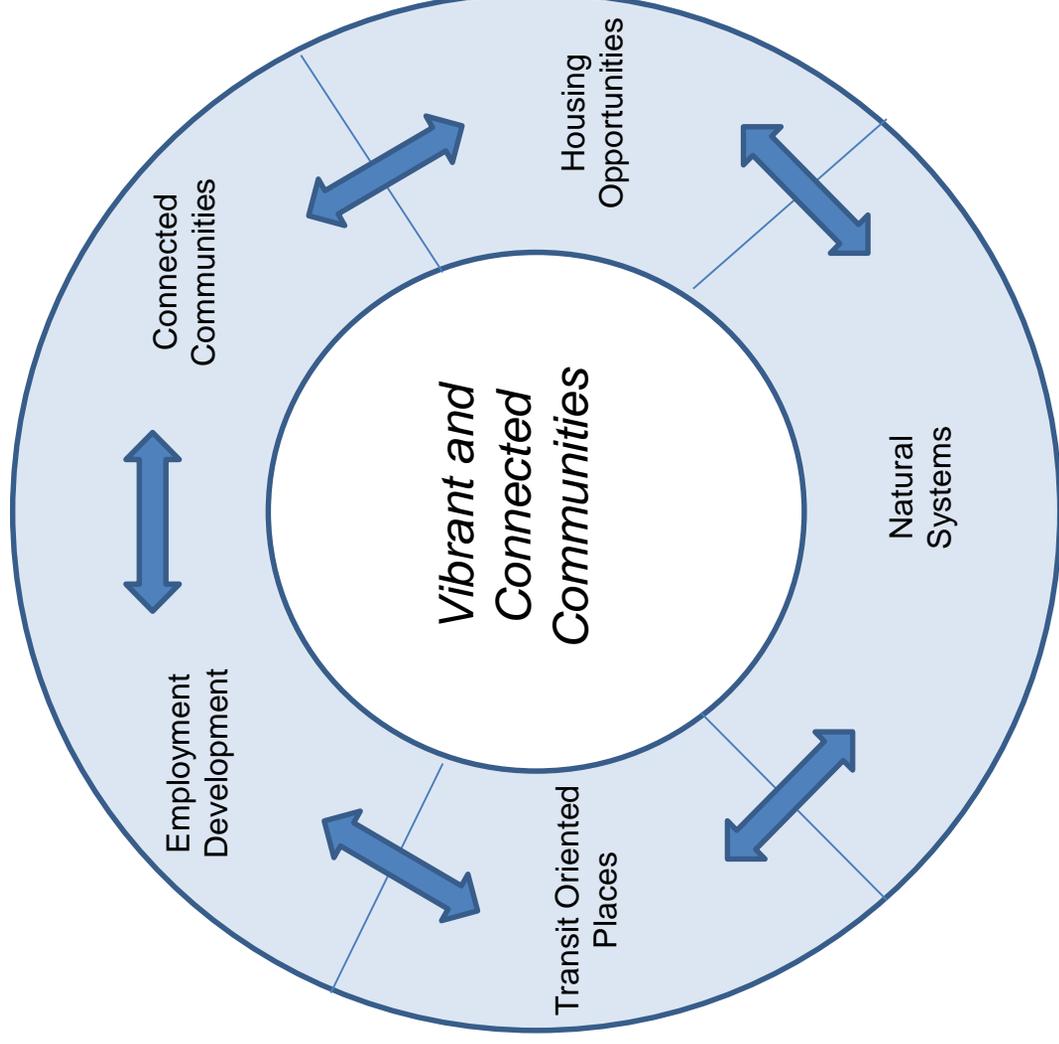
November 19

Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee Roster (August 2015)

Representing	Name	Member	Email Address
Hennepin County	Jan Callison (Chair)	Member	jan.callison@hennepin.us
	Linda Higgins	Member	Linda.higgins@hennepin.us
Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority	Marion Greene	Member	Marion.greene@hennepin.us
	Peter McLaughlin	Alternate	Peter.mclaughlin@hennepin.us
Metropolitan Council	Jennifer Munt	Member	jennifer.munt@metc.state.mn.us
City of Minneapolis	Linea Palmisano	Member	Linea.palmisano@minneapolismn.gov
	Lisa Goodman	Alternate	Lisa.goodman@minneapolismn.gov
City of St. Louis Park	Anne Mavity	Member	anne@annemavity.org
	Sue Sanger	Alternate	suesanger@comcast.net
City of Edina	James Hovland	Member	jhovland@ci.edina.mn.us
	Mary Brindle	Alternate	mbrindle@comcast.net
City of Hopkins	Kristi Halverson	Member	khalverson@hopkinsmn.com
	Aaron Kuznia	Alternate	akuznia@hopkinsmn.com
City of Minnetonka	Tony Wagner	Member	twagner@eminnetonka.com
	Terry Schneider	Alternate	tschneider@eminnetonka.com
City of Eden Prairie	Kathy Nelson	Member	knelson@edenprairie.org
	Brad Aho	Alternate	baho@edenprairie.org
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Dick Miller	Member	dickrmiller@gmail.com
	Jeff Casale	Alternate	jasale@minnesotahomes.com
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Anita Tabb	Member	atabb@minneapolisparcs.org,
	Meg Forney	Alternate	megf@visi.com
SouthWest Transit	Nancy Tyra-Lukens	Member	ntyra-lukens@edenprairie.org
Urban Land Institute-Minnesota	Caren Dewar	Ex-officio	caren.dewar@uli.org
	Cathy Bennett	Alternate	Cathy.bennett@uli.org
Community Advisory Committee	Russ Adams	Ex-officio	russ@metrostability.org
Business Advisory Council	Will Roach	Ex-officio	Will.Roach@bakertilly.com

Southwest Community Works Vision

“connecting people to jobs, housing, shopping and fun”





Southwest Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2015 – 1:30 – 3:00 PM, St. Louis Park City Hall

swlrtccommunityworks.org

Beyond the Rails

Meeting Attendees:

Steering Committee Members and Alternates:

Chair Jan Callison, Hennepin County member
Linea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis member
Tony Wagner, City of Minnetonka member
Linda Higgins, Hennepin County member
Dick Miller, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District member
Anne Mavity, City of St. Louis Park member
Kristi Halverson, City of Hopkins member
Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Southwest Transit member
Kathy Nelson, City of Eden Prairie member
Mary Bridle, City of Edina alternate

Other attendees: Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Kathryn Hansen (SPO), Chuck Darnell (Hennepin County), Karen Lyons (Met Council), Janet Jeremiah (Eden Prairie), Greg Hunt (St. Louis Park), Meg McMonigal (St. Louis Park), John Doan (Hennepin County), Ray Hoover (Hennepin County), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County)

1. **Welcome and Announcements:** Chair Callison called the meeting to order and announced that Hennepin County recently approved TOD awards including three projects along the Southwest LRT line. These include \$470,000 to Eden Prairie for W. 70th Street expansion at the Golden Triangle station, \$400,000 to PPL for Oxford Village housing near the Blake station, and \$430,000 to Encore near the Beltine and West Lake stations.
2. **Approval of March 2015 meeting minutes:** Chair Callison requested action on the March 2015 minutes. Dick Miller moved approval; Linda Higgins seconded. Minutes were approved on a voice vote.
3. **Committee updates:** Katie Walker provided an update on the TIC activities which include continued work to identify funding sources for the Investment Framework infrastructure improvements, the Bike Facilities Assessment, the Corridor Wide Housing Strategy, and sharing lessons learned from TOD projects. No verbal updates from the BAC or CAC were provided, but copies of their meeting minutes were included in the packet.
4. **Southwest LRT Project Status Update:** Kathryn Hanson provided an update on the LRT project, including recent budget information. SPO is working on ways to trim the budget back to the previous \$1.65 billion dollar amount, which will result in scope changes that need to be communicated back to FTA. They will use the adopted scoping principles to inform this process. The project budget will be discussed at CMC meetings

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on 6/3, 6/24 and 7/1 with the Met Council taking final action on 7/8. In addition, the SPO will conduct a transit options review, a construction cost estimate review, and a technical capacity review.

5. **New Starts Application:** Kathryn Hanson provided information on the next New Starts application which will be submitted in September 2015. The current project rankings for land use and economic development are medium and medium-high, respectively. FTA provided guidance as to what should be included in the next update. Suggestions include: continue to document new development; continue to invest in pedestrian connectivity, document TOD implementation strategies building off of station area plans, document site plans and renderings depicting more urban character in station areas, especially in Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, document adoptions of transit supportive zoning, and document use of affordable housing tools and implementation of SW Corridor Housing recommendations. SPO will meet with the TIC in June to start collecting materials for an August draft and September submission. After September, the next submission is to request entry into engineering in Spring 2016.
6. **St. Louis Park Station Area Development Update:** Meg McMonigal and Greg Hunt from St. Louis Park provided an overview of current and future development at the Beltline, Wooddale and Louisiana Stations. At the Beltline station there are three active projects - Shorham, Elipse on Excelsior and E2. In addition, there is a potential FTA joint development project being planned for this station. At the Wooddale station area there is activity on the former McGarvey Coffee site. And the city continues to see redevelopment occurring along Excelsior Boulevard and at the West End. A question was asked about what tools were used to get affordable units in West End. Staff replied that the developer agreement called for affordable housing and that St. Louis Park has adopted a 10% minimum inclusionary housing policy. Anne Mavity noted that the inclusionary housing policy has been very successful and also that the city has been very aggressive in securing land to control what happens. She also strongly suggested that every development include art.
7. **Investment Framework Infrastructure Updates:** Katie Walker noted that the meeting packet included 3 handouts to update the group on the Bike Facilities Assessment, the Blake Road Corridor Study, and the West Lake Multimodal Transportation Study.



Agenda Item III – Committee Updates

Steering Committee Action Requested:

Information

Background:

The Business Advisory Committee met on June 17th and the Community Advisory Committee met on June 30th. Meeting information can be found at <http://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Current-Projects/Southwest-LRT/SWLRT-Committees.aspx>

The July meetings for both committees were cancelled.

Previous Action on Request:

Recommendation:

Attachments:

Comments:





Agenda Item IV – SW LRT Project Update	
	<p>Steering Committee Action Requested:</p> <p>Information</p>
<p>Background/Justification: Mark Fuhrmann from the Southwest Project Office will provide an update on the progress of the Southwest LRT project as well as the current project budget and scope.</p>	
<p>Previous Action on Request:</p>	
Recommendation:	<p>Financial Implications? None</p> <p>Are These Funds Budgeted?</p>
Attachments:	
Comments:	





Agenda Item V – Bike Facilities Assessment

Steering Committee Action Requested:

Information and Discussion

The purpose of this assessment is to assist in the prioritization of future bicycle facilities in the Southwest Corridor. The Southwest LRT Project and the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework have included bicycle facilities – both at the station sites and potentially off of the station sites – as line items for future capital improvements at each of the Southwest LRT stations. This assessment will identify the strategic placement and specific type of bicycle facilities at each station, building on past planning work and providing greater definition of the location, type, and design of the bicycle facilities. The recommendations from this assessment will ensure that LRT project partners are providing appropriate bicycle facilities at each LRT station and are allocating their resources in a cost effective and efficient manner. The overarching goal of this assessment is to enhance LRT ridership by supporting bicycle use in the Southwest Corridor and maximizing the placement of bicycle support facilities at and around the Southwest LRT stations.

Previous Action on Request:

Recommendation:

Attachments:

Comments:



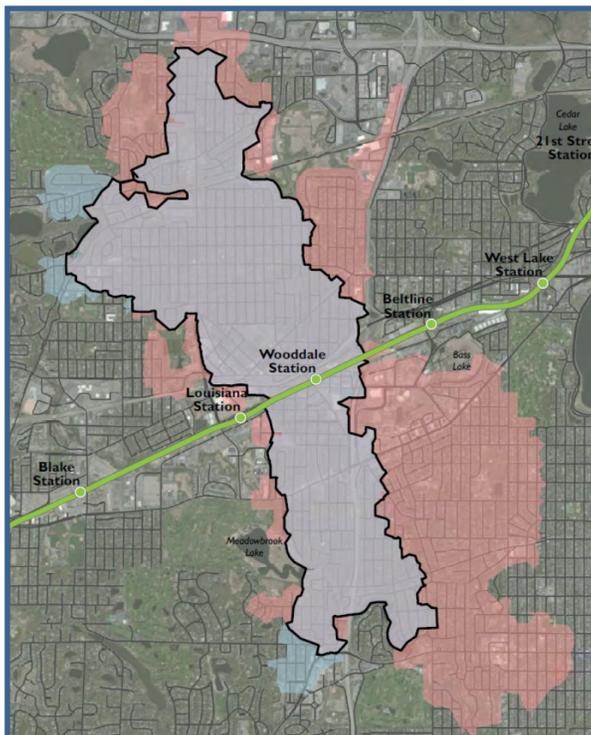
Southwest Corridor Bike Facility Assessment

Project Information Sheet



The Southwest Corridor Bike Facility Assessment is currently being undertaken by Hennepin County's Southwest LRT Community Works project. The Assessment is being completed in close partnership with the corridor cities, Three Rivers Park District, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Southwest Project Office. Major goals of the Assessment include:

- Expand on the TSAAP work and the Hennepin County Bike Plan, specifically focusing on the trail network within 3 miles of the Southwest LRT stations. This distance is consistent with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) most recent designation of the area that is accessible via bicycle from LRT stations.
- Analysis of bicycle traffic modeling to determine how the 3-mile trail network is currently being used and how trail users will change their patterns of use after LRT is introduced to the Southwest Corridor.
- Prioritization of the most important access routes, or "desire lines", to the LRT stations.
- Determine stations that will see the highest demand from trail users.
- Recommendations of the specific number, type, location, and design of bicycle parking and other bicycle amenities at each LRT station. The Southwest Project Office will consider these recommendations as they are completing Advanced Design through 2015.



Above: Wooddale Station Bikedshed. Outbound bikeshed shown in red; Inbound bikeshed shown in blue; Unique bikeshed shown in grey.

Existing Conditions Analysis & Online Survey

An existing conditions analysis was complete, and an online survey was used to gather feedback on the bike network and how users will use the bike network in conjunction with LRT. Total number of completed surveys was 1,292, with feedback from every city along the corridor. The feedback gathered from the survey was incorporated in to the recommendations for bike facilities at each of the LRT stations.

Bikeshed Development

A GIS analysis was completed to determine the areas that are accessible within each station area by bike, based on the actual physical characteristics of the station areas. The GIS analysis was based on the energy required to travel 3 miles to/from each LRT station.

Factors included in analysis:

- Energy expenditure - measured in kilojoules (KJ)
- Classification of roadways
- Turning between roadways and traveling through intersections
- Starting and stopping at intersections
- Topography and changes in grade
- Major barriers – highways, bodies of water, etc.
- Existing bike and trail network

Staff Contact Information

Chuck Darnell, Planning Analyst, Hennepin County Community Works, charles.darnell@hennepin.us, (612) 543-1094



General Bike Facility Recommendations

All of the information gathered from the existing conditions analysis, survey results, and bikeshed results were used to develop general recommendations for bike facilities at each of the LRT stations. These recommendations include:

- Provide Short & Long Term Parking
- Short Term: Covered Bike Racks
- Long Term: More Secure Bike Cages
- No Bike Lockers – Inefficient



Left: Potential bike repair station to be provided at each LRT station. Above: Example of covered bike racks for short-term parking.

Bike Parking Estimates

Table 5. Bike parking demand by station with overlapping bikesheds

Stations	Low Parking Estimate	Medium Parking Estimate	High Parking Estimate
Royalston	8	8	9
Van White	8	10	13
Penn	21	41	61
21st Street	65	130	195
West Lake	69	138	206
Beltline	12	56	100
Wooddale	29	142	255
Louisiana	8	30	54
Blake	9	43	77
Hopkins	15	73	132
Shady Oak	10	46	83
Opus	8	10	16
City West	8	8	11
Golden Triangle	8	9	14
Eden Prairie Town Center	17	39	61
Southwest	24	54	85
Mitchell	19	43	67

Bike Project Prioritization

Planned bike and trail improvements located within and immediately adjacent to the identified bikesheds were studied and prioritized based on a number of evaluation criteria. This prioritization will assist city and county staff in identifying funding and advancing the implementation of the projects, with the ultimate goal of improving bike access to the LRT stations.

Next Steps

The recommendation from the Assessment is to build out to the low or medium parking estimate for LRT opening day. However, the bike parking estimates will be reviewed station by station, as staff make decisions on the level of parking demand that should be pursued at each station. The total space necessary for the high parking estimate has been provided to the Southwest Project Office, and the space required for that level of parking will be identified and potentially reserved for eventual full build-out. Prioritized bike projects will be added to the Hennepin County Bike Plan, which will make them eligible for annual Hennepin County bicycle infrastructure funding programs.



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Updates/Information





October 25 – 28, 2015
Dallas, Texas
www.railvolution.org

Railvolution Scholarship Opportunity

Want to learn about how leaders across the nation are investing in transportation and transforming their communities? Know others who do, too?

You should plan to join other Minnesota leaders for this year's Rail~Volution conference!

The Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) is committed to ensuring that Twin Cities community leaders have the opportunity to benefit from participating in this incredible national event. The board has committed all unexpended funds raised for last's Rail~Volution conference here in Minnesota toward supporting conference participation in 2015 and 2016.

The Counties Transit Improvement Board is pleased to offer **\$1,000 scholarships** toward the cost of this year's conference in Dallas, October 25-28. Dallas has the longest light rail system in the country and a growing livability movement and this is a great opportunity to see what the buzz is all about.

Scholarship funds will cover registration fees and certain travel expenses. Scholarship applicants must be affiliated with a non-profit in the 7-county metro area that is actively engaged in transitway planning efforts. City elected or appointed officials that participate on transitway management/policy committees will also be considered.

Applications are due August 20. See the attached document for details on how to apply. Please pass this email/information to anyone who is involved in the planning of the region's transitways so they are aware of the opportunity.

More information on Rail~Volution 2015 can be found [here](#). **Be sure to read the attached document before registering for the conference or filling out the scholarship application.**

If you have questions you can contact Lyssa at Lyssa.Leitner@co.washington.mn.us or 651-430-4314.

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Experiment brings Hopkins' Artery concept to life

By: Cali Owings  July 13, 2015 5:00 pm  0

The city of Hopkins plans to line Eighth Avenue with art, outdoor seating and bike infrastructure to make a better connection between its downtown and a future stop on the Southwest Light Rail Transit line.

The city on Saturday tested out its concept – called the Artery – with a temporary installation of art, furniture and a two-way bike lane. While the light rail stop is planned a quarter-mile south, at Eighth Avenue and Excelsior Boulevard, the city hopes to use the avenue to draw more transit riders to businesses on Mainstreet.

To open up space for pedestrians and a two-way off-road bike track, Eighth Avenue will be converted into a one-way street between First Street South and Mainstreet. The future bike lane will offer a north-south connection between two popular trails – the [Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail](#) and the [Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail](#).

In addition to the roadway changes, the city plans to build a plaza just south of Mainstreet with a structured canopy, outdoor seating and “vegetated” screens with plants to separate the area from adjacent parking.

Many of the Artery concepts will be incorporated into existing and future development along Eighth Avenue. The Gallery Flats, a 163-unit apartment complex completed in 2014, will have adjacent art features on the expanded sidewalk. The plan calls for



Eighth Avenue between Mainstreet and Excelsior Boulevard in Hopkins will be converted into a one-way roadway to allow room for a two-way bike lane and other pedestrian amenities. Upgrades will be incorporated into development projects along the avenue, like the Gallery Flats apartment complex at 825 First St. S. (Staff photo: Cali Owings)

an "iconic art piece" at the former Johnson Building warehouse site on the corner of Eighth and Excelsior, where Bloomington-based Doran Cos. plans a housing project with structured parking for LRT riders.

The city's temporary installation was an opportunity to get feedback for the final design of the project, which is expected to start construction in 2016. The test-run included art sales, outdoor furniture, a temporary plaza, a bike lane and greenery.

The estimated cost of the project is \$2.8 million, according to the city. So far, the city has received more than [\\$2 million in grants](#) from Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council. Property owners will not be assessed for the project.

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Previous: [Minneapolis adopts new parking ratios for transit areas](#)

Next: [Mid-year transit ridership increases](#)

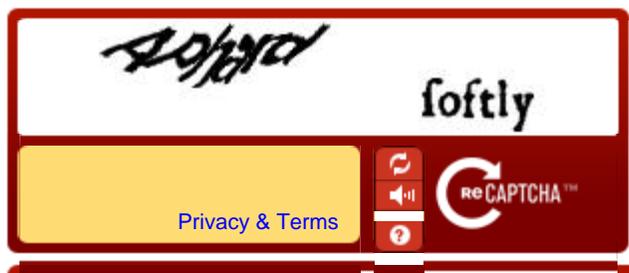
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SOUTHWEST LRT JOINT PUBLIC HEARING IS AUGUST 27

Posted In: [Transportation](#)

Date: 8/27/2015 5:00 PM -

Event Locations: Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis



The Corridor Management Committee made up of elected officials throughout the corridor and others recommended making Southwest Station in Eden Prairie the westernmost stop, eliminating the original westernmost station at Mitchell Road, and deferring construction of Town Center Station. Plans for public art were eliminated, plans for landscaping and amenities off station platforms were reduced, parking spaces were trimmed from 3,834 to 2,487 and the opportunity for joint development deleted at Blake Station.

The changes address the need to reduce project costs while maintaining strong ridership projections that will help secure federal funding. The 14.5-mile line with 15 stations is scheduled to open in 2020, and around 34,000 average weekday boardings are expected by 2040.

Joint public hearing is Aug. 27

The Metropolitan Council/Hennepin County Board of Commissioners/Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) will jointly hold the first public hearing on the revised Southwest LRT preliminary design plans on Aug. 27. The five corridor cities will set their own hearing dates. The municipal consent process must be completed between July 23 and Oct. 11.

Location & schedule

Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

- 5 p.m. - Open house for the public to review layouts
- 6 p.m - The public comment

Comment by Sept. 11

The Council will accept public comments until 4 p.m. Sept. 11, 2015.

How to comment

In addition to the public hearing, comments may also be submitted as follows:

- U.S. Mail to: Southwest LRT Project Office, 6465 Wayzata Blvd., Ste. 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426, ATTN: Nkongo Cigolo
- E-mail to: swlrt@metrotransit.org
- TTY: 651.291.0904
- Fax to: 612-373-3899

[More information about the municipal consent proces and the public hearing.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Public Hearing August 17 for the draft 2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program](#)

Public Hearing for the draft 2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program is Monday, August 17, 2015 at 4 p.m.

Date: 8/17/2015

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Metropolitan Council Chambers
390 N. Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

[More Details](#)

[Public Hearing August 17 on adoption of Public Housing Agency Plan Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program](#)

The Council's Community Development Committee will conduct a public hearing August 17, 2015 to receive public comment on the proposed 2016 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Annual Plan.

Date: 8/17/2015

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 Robert St, Saint Paul

[More Details](#)

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Where to view the revised preliminary design plans

Online

See the revised preliminary design plans for the entire alignment.

Print

Print copies of the revised preliminary design plans for the entire alignment will be available for review on July 28 for review at the following locations:

- Hennepin County Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Second Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55415
- Southwest LRT Project Office, 6465 Wayzata Blvd, Ste. 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426
- MnDOT Transportation Library, 395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155
- Metropolitan Council Library, 390 Robert St. N., St Paul, MN 55101
- Edina City Hall (Courtesy Copy), 4801 W. 50th St., Edina, MN 55424

Minneapolis-only plan sets will be available starting on July 28 at:

- Minneapolis City Hall, Minneapolis City Engineer's Office, Room 203, 350 S. 5th St., Minneapolis, MN 55415
- Franklin Library, 1314 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404
- Linden Hills Library, 2900 W. 43rd St., Minneapolis, MN 55410
- Minneapolis Central Library, (Entire corridor alignment available), 300 Nicollet Mall, Second Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401
- Sumner Library, 611 Van White Memorial Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55411
- Walker Library, 2880 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55408

St. Louis Park-only plan sets will be available starting on July 28 at:

- St. Louis Park City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416
- St. Louis Park Library, 3240 Library Lane, St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Hopkins-only plan sets will be available starting on July 28 at:

- Hopkins City Hall, 1010 1st St. S., Hopkins, MN 55343
- Hopkins Library, 22 11th Ave. N., Hopkins, MN 55343

Minnetonka-only plan sets will be available starting on July 28 at:

- Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345
- Minnetonka Library, 17524 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345

Eden Prairie-only plan sets will be available starting on July 28 at:

- Eden Prairie City Hall, 8080 Mitchell Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55344
- Eden Prairie Library, 565 Prairie Center Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344

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