



Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee Charter

Adopted by the Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee on October 6, 2010

PURPOSE

1. The Steering Committee will provide overall guidance and direction for the Southwest LRT Community Works Project, the goal of which is to support infrastructure, development, and public space improvements in concert with LRT design and construction in order to maximize public benefits, improve economic equity, provide affordable housing opportunities and improved access to jobs, protect the natural environment, and strengthen communities along the Southwest LRT line.
2. The Steering Committee will provide a forum for its members to (a) become familiar with the LRT project implementation process, design elements, and associated opportunities for land use and economic development adjacent to the LRT line; (b) influence development plans and investments of its members to take maximum advantage of development opportunities along the SW LRT line; and (c) leverage funds to solicit private sector investment and attract Living Cities, Sustainable Communities, TIGER II, and other grant dollars.
3. The steering committee will liaison with Southwest LRT Corridor Management Committee to ensure policy coordination and the strong integration of land use/economic development and LRT engineering.

ACTIVITIES

A critical initial activity of the Steering Committee will be to establish its work plan and activities. It is anticipated that this plan and activities will include the following elements:

- Establishment of a development vision for the Southwest LRT corridor
- Develop and oversee a Strategic Investment Framework and Leverage Strategy
- Identify public, private and other resources to support implementation of projects consistent with the corridor vision, investment strategy and municipal plans
- Coordinate the orderly and equitable development of projects across jurisdictions
- Ensure broad-based, diverse public participation in the development process

COMPOSITION

The initial membership of the Steering Committee shall consist of the following:

- Two (2) Hennepin County Commissioners
- One (1) Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority Commissioner
- One (1) City of Minneapolis Mayor/Councilmember
- One (1) City of St. Louis Park Mayor/Councilmember
- One (1) City of Edina Mayor/Councilmember
- One (1) City of Hopkins Mayor/Councilmember
- One (1) City of Minnetonka Mayor/Councilmember
- One (1) City of Eden Prairie Mayor/Councilmember
- One (1) Metropolitan Council Chair/Councilmember



The Steering Committee may expand its membership over time to include additional public, business or other community representatives that the Steering Committee determines to be appropriate to advance the goals of the SW LRT Community Works Project.

ORGANIZATION

- The steering committee will select a chair and vice-chair.
- The Steering Committee will determine if subcommittees, project committees and/or advisory committees should be established and, if so, the role, composition, reporting relationship and method of selection for such committees. (It is recommended that planning for subcommittees and advisory committees be done in consultation with the Metropolitan Council as it establishes the Corridor Management Committee for the Southwest LRT Project).
- The Steering Committee will also determine if the SW LRT Community Works Project should be formalized via some form of inter-organizational partnership agreement such as a joint powers agreement, an inter-jurisdictional agreement (as used for other Hennepin County community works projects) or a memorandum of understanding.
- In addition to determining if a formal agreement is required, the Steering Committee will also establish other requirements of membership including financial contributions.

STAFFING AND BUDGET

- The Steering Committee will determine the number and types of professional staff needed to support its goals and work program and how to secure these services. Options include dedication of staff from one or more of the participating organizations (County, Cities, and Metropolitan Council), contracting for professional services from a consulting organization, or some combination of the two. (It is recommended that Hennepin County be requested to provide start-up staffing services through the end of 2010 at which time it is expected that organizational and staffing decisions will be made by the Steering Committee).
- The Steering Committee will also establish an expenditure budget and revenue sources for 2011 and annually thereafter. (It is estimated that administrative costs are likely to be \$80,000 for 2011. In addition, SW LRT Community Works work program is expected to be supported by \$25,000 from a McKnight Foundation Grant and, potentially, \$300,000 from a Living Cities grant and \$800,000 from a federal Sustainable Communities Grant. Additional funding opportunities through the Ford Foundation are currently being explored). A key task for the Project will be to fully define and integrate the work to be done by these various sources of funding.