



Southwest LRT Project Receives Over \$500,000 in Federal FY '09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

On March 11, 2009, President Obama signed the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R. 1105) which included \$534,000 for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) project. The funds can be used for analysis of the proposed light rail alternatives.

"Federal support of this important transportation project is incredibly valuable," said Gail Dorfman, Hennepin County Commissioner and Chair of the Southwest Policy Advisory Committee. "We appreciate broad political support, that of Congressman Ellison and others in the Twin Cities and Washington D.C." Ellison noted the appropriation bills, which include these funds, passed the House 245 -178. "These projects help to build healthy and vibrant communities that prosper and contribute to strengthening our economy," the Fifth District Congressman stated in a press release.

http://ellison.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=212&Itemid=91

Southwest LRT Project included in Minnesota House and Senate Bills

Representative Steve Simon introduced HF 383 which includes \$5 million in State Bonds for Preliminary Engineering (PE) and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Southwest LRT line. Representatives Winkler, Ruud, and Hornstein are co-authors. Senator Ron Latz introduced SF 377 which includes \$5 million in State Bonds for Preliminary Engineering (PE) and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Southwest LRT line. Senators Dibble and Bonoff are co-authors.

Station Area Planning Progressing

The HCRRA has partnered with the cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, and St. Louis Park, to complete Station Area Planning in each of the suburban communities connected by the Southwest Transitway.

Visioning sessions for each of the station locations have been conducted at which key business and property owners gathered to develop a framework for creating concept plan alternatives which include sidewalk and street locations, landscaping, transit station approaches and exits, public open space and parks, building types, density, and locations, land use, and pedestrian and bicycle paths. Concept plans have not been developed and will be presented at public meeting for review and comment. Please check the southwest LRT project website for dates/times/locations at southwesttransitway.org.



Committee Activity

Southwest Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Southwest PAC met on March 11, 2009 to review the criteria which will be used to screen the LRT alternatives in order to identify the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). A preliminary LPA recommendation is expected to be received by the Southwest PAC this summer and presented to the public for review and comment. The Southwest PAC is expected to take action to recommend an LPA for consideration by the HCRRA in late Summer/early Fall of 2009.

The next Southwest PAC meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2009 at 8:00 AM at the St. Louis Park City Hall.

Southwest Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC met on March 26, 2009, to review Technical Memorandum #3: Screening Methodology and Technical Memorandum #4: Planning Compatibility.

Southwest Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Southwest CAC met on March 25, 2009 to review the proposed screening methodology and public outreach plan for 2009.

The next Southwest CAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 29, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Wolfe Lake Professional Building. The meeting is tentative and will only be held if there are sufficient agenda items. Please check the southwest LRT project website (southwesttransitway.org) for confirmation of the meeting.

Southwest Business Advisory Committee (BAC) (under development)

The Southwest PAC requested that a business advisory committee be formed to provide a stronger voice in the DEIS process for specific business interests. Project staff is working on the formation of the Southwest BAC.

Public Outreach Meetings

Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)	March 3
Stevens Square Neighborhood Association	March 5
Eden Prairie City Council Workshop	March 6
Loring Park Annual Meeting	March 9
Whittier Alliance Community Issues	March 9
East Isles	March 10
Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA)	March 10
Whittier Business Alliance	March 11
Lowry Hill East Planning and Zoning	March 11
Harrison Neighborhood	March 17
North Loop	March 18
Citizens for a Loring Park Community	March 23

