



Monthly Report

February 2009

Scoping for Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Completed

On September 8, 2008, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) launched the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Scoping Process, designed to provide the community and public agencies with an opportunity to provide comments on (1) the purpose and need for the project, (2) the alternatives to address the purpose and need for the project, and (3) the social, economic, environmental and transportation impacts to be analyzed during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The public and agencies were given the opportunity to submit comments during three (3) public hearings held before the HCRRA and through email, fax and US mail to swcorridor@co.hennepin.mn.us or 417 North 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Over 900 comments were received during the Scoping comment period. These comments were used to finalize the scope of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Scoping Summary Report documents the scope (alternatives and environmental issues) of the analysis to be conducted during the DEIS. It also documents the comments received during the Scoping comment period and responses provided. The Scoping Summary Report is available on the Southwest LRT website (www.southwesttransitway.org).

During the Scoping comment period a new LRT alternative, LRT 3E was submitted by the Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) and a new LRT sub-alternative (LRT 3C(11th\12th sub-alternative) was submitted by Minneapolis Councilmember Ralph Remington for inclusion in the DEIS. LRT 3E and LRT 3C (11th/12th sub-alternative) were evaluated to determine if they warranted inclusion in the DEIS.

The Southwest Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) met on January 21st to consider the Southwest Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendation regarding the inclusion/exclusion of LRT 3E and LRT 3C (11th/12th sub-alternative). The Southwest PAC voted unanimously to include LRT 3C 11th/12th Street Sub-Alternative, (excluding Blaisdell Avenue north of Franklin Avenue) in the DEIS and to exclude LRT 3E from further study.

Station Area Planning Underway

Hennepin County contracted Hay Dobbs, PA to partner 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. Each of the cities have completed the first round of visioning sessions 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.



Committee Activity

Southwest Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Southwest PAC met on January 21, 2009 to consider the Southwest TAC recommendation on the Scoping Summary Report which included LRT 3E and LRT 3C (11th/12th sub-alternative). The Southwest PAC voted unanimously to exclude the LRT 3E alternative from study in the DEIS. The PAC also voted unanimously to include the LRT 3C (11th/12th sub-alternative) with the Nicollet, First, and Blaisdell Avenue (south of Franklin Avenue) options, in the DEIS. In addition, the Southwest PAC passed a resolution supporting the HCRRRA request for \$5 million in state bonding to complete the EIS and move the LRT project into Preliminary Engineering (PE).

The next meeting of the Southwest PAC is scheduled for March 11, 2009 from 8:00 to 9:30 AM at the St. Louis Park City Hall.

Southwest Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Southwest TAC met on January 15, 2009 to review the two new alignments proposed for inclusion in the DEIS. The TAC unanimously voted to recommend to exclude LRT 3E from study in the DEIS, and to include the LRT 3C (11th/12th sub-alternative) along Nicollet Avenue, eliminating Blaisdell and First Avenues from the DEIS. The TAC met again on January 29, to discuss the screening and evaluation process for selecting an LPA.

Southwest Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Southwest CAC met on January 28, 2009 to review the Scoping Summary Report accepted by the HCRRRA on January 27, 2009.

The next meeting of the Southwest CAC is scheduled for March 25, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Wolfe Lake Professional Building in St. Louis Park.

Southwest Business Advisory Committee (BAC) to be formed

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 Lake Shore Townhome Residents
Calhoun Isles Townhome Residents

January 29, 2009
January 29, 2009