

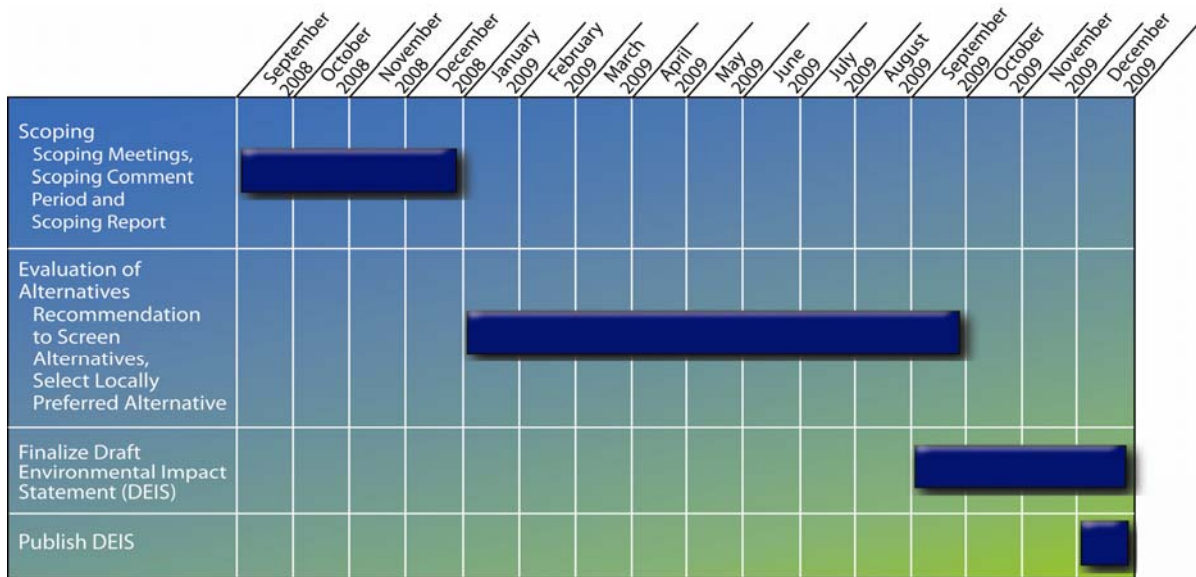


Monthly Report

March 2009

Southwest Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Underway

The DEIS scope of work was officially set on January 27th, when the HCRRA approved the Scoping Summary Report. 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).



Station Area Planning Progressing

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.

The concept plans are being reviewed at the second visioning sessions occurring this week. Recommendations from these visioning sessions will then be presented at public meetings in each of the communities. Dates and locations for the public meetings are yet to be announced, please check southwesttransitway.org.





SOUTHWEST
transitway

green means go.

Committee Activity

Southwest Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The Southwest PAC met again on February 11, 2009 to review the schedule for deciding upon a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), and to hear updates on a Hennepin County sponsored freight rail study in St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, as well as Southwest-related activities at the Minnesota State Legislature.

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 February 11, 2009 to begin the process of developing screening criteria to assist with the identification of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Proposed criteria include planning compatibility, performance (transit mobility and cost), critical environmental impacts, and other factors.

Southwest Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Southwest CAC did not meet in February 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

Minneapolis Parks Board Meeting

February 18, 2009

