



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: July 14, 2015

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: Southwest Community Investment Framework

Recommendation:

- A. Pass a Resolution accepting the Southwest Community Investment Framework.
- B. Authorize the proper City Officials to enter into and execute a cooperative agreement with Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority to further the goals of the Southwest Community Investment Framework.

Previous Directives:

August 19, 2014 Authorize proper City officials to enter into and execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Minneapolis (City) and Metropolitan Council on the Proposed Redesign of a Portion of Southwest Light Rail Project (SWLRT). Authorize proper City officials to enter into and execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Metropolitan Council on the Preservation of Kenilworth Corridor in Public Ownership and Control. Authorize proper City officials to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) regarding SWLRT. Approve the preliminary design plans for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project that were submitted to the City by the Metropolitan Council on July 10, 2014, in order to fulfill the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Section 473.3994, Subd. 3.

March 7, 2014 Approving submission of comments to the Metropolitan Council on their recent studies related to the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project and resolving support for freight rail relocation and LRT operations at-grade in the Kenilworth Corridor and reaffirming Minneapolis' opposition to co-location.

August 20, 2013 Receive and File; Report regarding freight rail options from Southwest Light Rail Project Office.

June 4, 2013 Receive and File; Preliminary Engineering Update from Southwest Light Rail Project Office.

December 4, 2012 Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Southwest Corridor LRT. Approve the proposed comments on the DEIS for the Southwest Corridor LRT project and direct the Public Works Department to submit the comments to Hennepin County.

January 15, 2010 Approve resolution supporting Locally Preferred Alternative as recommended by the Southwest Transitway Technical Advisory Committee, Policy Advisory Committee and Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority and forwarded to the Metropolitan Council for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Policy Plan.

October 2, 2009 Receive and File; Report from Hennepin County Housing, Community Works, and Transit.

January 2, 2006 Appoint City Council Member Robert Lilligren and City Council Member Ralph Remington to serve as Policy Advisory Committee members for the Southwest Corridor.

September 5, 2005 Receive and File; SW Corridor study update.

July 1, 2005 Appoint City Council Member Dan Niziolek and City Council Member Gary Schiff as Policy Advisory Committee members for the Southwest Corridor Alternatives Analysis process.

November 21, 2003 Approve the process of the LRT Corridor study and that the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority to pursue the next phase of study as amended; with the understanding that the HCRRA will work with Minneapolis in further evaluating alternative route configurations, which would directly connect Uptown into this regional corridor.

Department Information

Prepared by: Jenifer Hager, Principal Professional Engineer 612-673-3625

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Donald Pflaum Transportation Planner TE&D, Brian Schaffer Planner CPED

Financial Impact

Action is within the approved budget.

Community Impact

- City Goals:
 - Living Well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life. High-quality and convenient transportation options connect every corner of the city.
 - Great Places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected.
 - A City that Works: City government runs well and connects to the community it serves.

Background

The Southwest LRT Corridor passes through five municipalities over 15 miles. Although generally characterized as a "jobs line" a closer look at this rail line and its 17 stations reveals that it is much more. From 2002-2010 staff developed The Transitional Station Area Action Plans (TSAAP) that are intended to promote opening day readiness by identifying and prioritizing infrastructure improvements that enhance existing businesses, support mixed-income housing opportunities and encourage transit-oriented development, while supporting short-term development and facilitating long-term phased development. By following local and national precedent, each station area plan was developed with a focus on a long-term vision (2030 and beyond). The goal is to create unique transit-oriented developments that enhance the Southwest light rail as a whole.

These 17 individual TSAAP have been compiled into the Southwest Corridor investment framework, which will act as a living document that guides the public and private sector investments necessary to facilitate the evolution of the station areas into transit-oriented developments. When it opens, Southwest LRT will connect a range of diverse communities

and types of places along its route, including places to work, mixed use centers, public institutions and important recreational and open space assets.

Request for Authorization

The cooperative agreement between the City and Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority outlines the terms for continued collaboration between the two agencies to achieve the vision and goals set forth in the investment framework.

- Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 383B.79 the agencies agree to work cooperatively with the City retaining jurisdiction over all issues of local concern and that the full faith and credit of the City not be pledged as a source of payment.
- Details of any project or projects developed pursuant to the agreement shall be described in an amendment to the agreement.
- Hennepin County may contribute funds to a project or projects.

Source: <http://www.swlrtccommunityworks.org/beyond-rails/planning-information/investment-framework>

Attachment: Southwest Community Investment Framework Document

<http://www.swlrtccommunityworks.org/beyond-rails/planning-information/investment-framework>

RESOLUTION NO 2015R-XXX

By Council Member Reich

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AND TRANSITIONAL STATION AREA ACTION PLANS IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 09-0596 in 2009 establishing the Southwest LRT Community Works program in consultation with the cities of Eden Prairie, Edina, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St Louis Park and Minneapolis, and other Southwest LRT partners, and

WHEREAS, the Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee, comprised of Southwest LRT Community Works partners from cities and other agencies along the Southwest corridor, was formed in 2010 to provide overall guidance and direction for the Southwest LRT Community Works Project, and

WHEREAS, Southwest LRT Community Works goals include stimulating economic development, building bridges for effective planning and implementation, maintaining and improving natural systems, strengthening communities through connections and enhancing the tax base, and

WHEREAS, a key activity of the Southwest LRT Community Works program is collaborative work on station area planning activities and preparation of a corridor-wide framework for on-going investment, and

WHEREAS, in late 2012, Hennepin County, in consultation with the city partners, contracted with Hoisington Koegler Group Inc. on behalf of the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee to conduct transitional station area action planning activities, funded through a grant from Corridors of Opportunity/HUD as well as funds from Hennepin County, resulting in the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework, and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework will guide activities of the Southwest LRT Community Works partners to prepare areas around proposed stations for transit oriented development, access improvements and other efforts to support the Southwest LRT project, and

WHEREAS, the Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee accepted the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework as a document to guide ongoing collaborative activities by partner agencies in achieving Southwest LRT Community Works goals, and

WHEREAS, the Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee referred the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework to member cities and partner organizations for individual action(s) as deemed appropriate, and

WHEREAS, the City of Minneapolis will utilize the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework to guide implementation of the various projects through the city's long range planning and capital improvement programming.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Minneapolis hereby accepts the contents and recommendations of the Southwest Investment Framework pertaining to Minneapolis.