



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 Corridor (Green Line Extension) Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments (SDEIS)**

Recommendation:

Approve the attached comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Southwest Corridor (Green Line Extension) LRT project and direct the Public Works Department to submit the comments to the Metropolitan Council.

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 (HCRRA) 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

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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.

Supporting Information

In 2012 the City of Minneapolis commented on the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest LRT Corridor. Since that point the Southwest Corridor project office (SPO) has continued with design and has presented a municipal consent package to the City of Minneapolis. The Metropolitan Council also released a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to discuss a number of items that the original document did not address including the operations and maintenance facility location and scope, the adjusted Eden Prairie alignment, and the shallow tunnel design along the Kenilworth Corridor. A number of public hearings were held in late June 2015 to address the SDEIS.

Comments provided from stakeholders and the public will be taken into consideration when preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement. It is expected that the FTA Record of Decision and Full Funding Grant Agreement will be pursued in 2016 with construction taking place between 2017 and 2018. The Metro Green Line extension is expected to open in 2020.

Attachment #1 – Excerpt from the Guide to the SW LRT SDEIS

Attachment #2 – SDEIS Comments