

**SOUTHWEST POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION NO. 2009-3**

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (LPA) FOR
THE SOUTHWEST LIGHT RAIL LINE**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council's long-range transportation plan identifies a future fixed transitway corridor in the Southwest metro area through the cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie; and

WHEREAS, a Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) line servicing the cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie will improve mobility and will help maintain a competitive business environment and high quality of life for the entire Southwest Metro Area; and

WHEREAS, because of the growing need for transit improvements to better serve the Southwest metro area, Hennepin County and its partners are taking steps needed to advance the Southwest LRT project in a timely fashion into the preliminary engineering project phase, then to final design and construction, and ultimately, operation; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) took action on September 10, 2009, that LRT 3A be identified as the preliminary LPA for the Southwest LRT project because, based upon the technical analysis, it is the alternative that will best meet the Southwest Transitway's purpose and need statement as expressed by the goals of improving mobility, providing a cost-effective and efficient travel option, preserving the environment, protecting quality of life, and supporting economic development with the following three amendments:

- (1) Amendment #1: Freight Rail Relocation as a Parallel Process
This recommendation is contingent upon the following conditions, that Hennepin County, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, TCW, and Mn/DOT will work cooperatively to identify impacts, mitigation requirements, and mitigation funding options to address the potential of rerouting freight rail; a plan of action to address this issue in a parallel process with the SW LRT DEIS be developed; and, the freight rail issue and impacts are identified as a part of the "secondary and cumulative impacts" in the DEIS
- (2) Amendment #2: Trail System
That the regional trail operated by Three Rivers Park District and the City of Minneapolis in the 3A corridor, as an important transportation link in the region, be addressed in the project development process as to design, funding and construction as a separate disconnected action.
- (3) Amendment #3: Midtown Corridor
The region continue to explore the development of the Midtown Corridor as a transit connection between the Southwest and Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Policy Advisory Committee supports the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation that LRT 3A be identified as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Southwest LRT project, with the following three amendments:

- (1) Amendment #1: Freight Rail Relocation as a Parallel Process
This recommendation is contingent upon the following conditions, that Hennepin County, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, TCW, and Mn/DOT will work

cooperatively to identify impacts, mitigation requirements, and mitigation funding options to address the potential of rerouting freight rail; a plan of action to address this issue in a parallel process with the Southwest Transitway DEIS be developed; and, the freight rail issue and impacts are identified as a part of the "secondary and cumulative impacts" in the DEIS

(2) Amendment #2: Trail System

That the regional trail operated by the Three Rivers Park District and the City of Minneapolis in the 3A corridor, as an important transportation link in the region, be addressed as an integral part of the project development process as to design, funding and construction as a separate disconnected action

(3) Amendment #3: Midtown Corridor

That the region continue to explore the development of and commitment to the Midtown Corridor as a rail transit connection between the Southwest and Hiawatha LRT lines

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southwest Policy Advisory Committee recommendation be forwarded to the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority for their consideration.