



Bloomington Central Station

## Station Area Planning in Minneapolis

Station area strategic planning is underway for the five Minneapolis LRT stations: West Lake, 21st Street, Penn, Van White, and Royalston Stations.

The planning process includes a multimodal access analysis and a market feasibility study which together with input from residents and businesses, will form the basis for conceptual designs for the station area, a detailed land use plan for a half mile radius around each station, and an implementation plan for each station area. It is expected that the station area plans will be adopted by the Minneapolis Planning Commission and City Council. Station area strategic planning will also inform the next phase of planning for the Southwest LRT project, Preliminary Engineering.

To get involved in the Minneapolis station area strategic planning process, attend a Community Members' Working Group meeting or an open house. The Community Members' Working Group is composed of neighborhood and business stakeholders convened to raise local issues that inform the station area site, concept, and implementation plans as they are developed. Public open houses are opportunities to view station area planning progress and information, and dialogue with staff. Please check [www.southwesttransitway.org](http://www.southwesttransitway.org) for meeting details.

For more information, go to [www.southwesttransitway.org](http://www.southwesttransitway.org)

Starting the station area planning process early allows planners to anticipate what will work best for Minneapolis neighborhoods and set the stage for future development near stations, which enhances the value of the Southwest LRT project.



**"As the Southwest LRT project advances to its next stage of development under the leadership of the Met Council, I would like to thank our city and community partners for their hard work and leadership in moving this project forward."**

—Hennepin County Commissioner  
Gail Dorfman



## Southwest LRT to move into Preliminary Engineering

In August, the Southwest LRT project submitted an application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to progress the project into the next phase, Preliminary Engineering (PE). The project expects to move into PE under the leadership of the Metropolitan Council in late 2010/early 2011.

## Southwest LRT Project

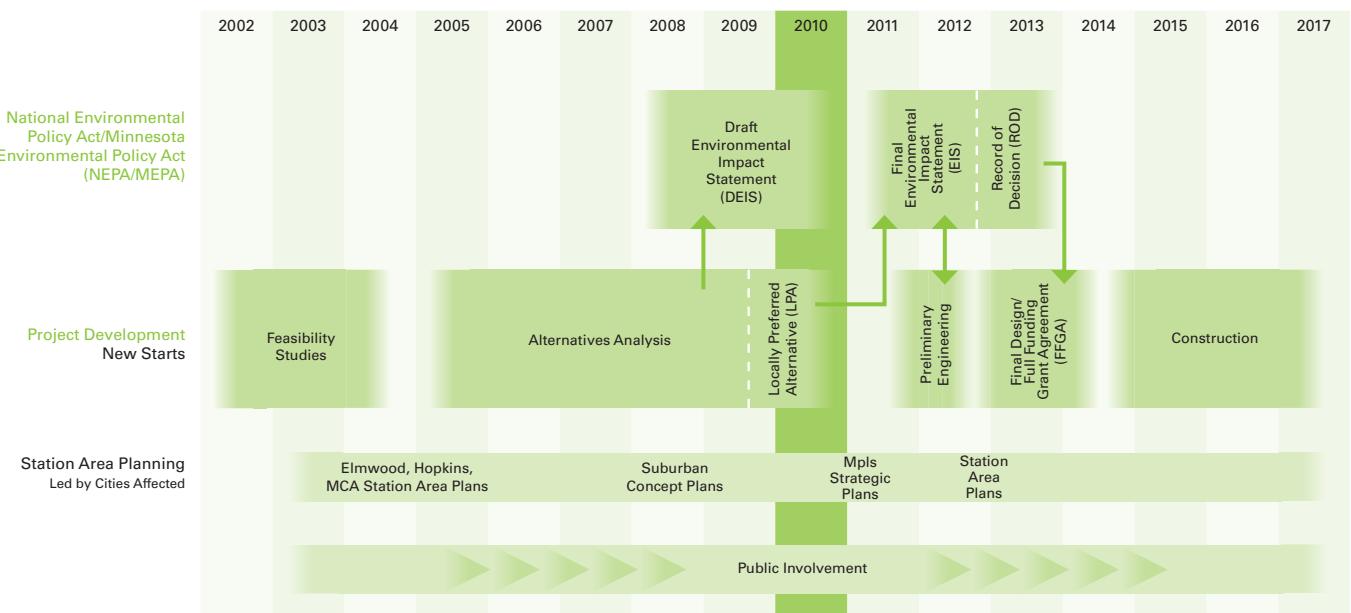
The Southwest LRT project is a proposed 15-mile high-frequency light rail line to serve the rapidly growing southwest metro area with 17 stations in Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis.

The Southwest LRT line will connect to the Hiawatha and Central Corridor LRT lines, the Northstar Commuter Rail line, and high-frequency bus routes in downtown Minneapolis, providing connections to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, Mall of America, University of Minnesota, State Capitol, and downtown St. Paul.

The line is expected to serve over 29,000 trips per day (2030), cost \$1.2 billion (2015 \$) to construct, and achieve a cost-effectiveness index (CEI) of approximately \$30.

## Project Schedule

It's a long and somewhat complicated process!



## Route Selection Finalized (The Locally Preferred Alternative)

In May 2010, the Metropolitan Council selected LRT 3A as the locally preferred alternative for the Southwest LRT project. LRT 3A, referred to as the "Kenilworth-Opus-Golden Triangle alignment" (see map on opposite page) will proceed into the next phase of project development, Preliminary Engineering, and will eventually be constructed. The selection of the preferred route is a major milestone for the project.



## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The Southwest Transitway DEIS documents the potential social, economic, transportation and environmental benefits and impacts of the Southwest LRT line. The DEIS document is currently under review by the Federal Transit Administration

(FTA) and its publication for comment is expected in late Fall 2010. To receive notification, please sign up for our email list at [www.southwesttransitway.org](http://www.southwesttransitway.org).

## Southwest LRT Community Works

In December, 2009 the Hennepin County Board designated Southwest LRT as a Community Works project. This designation will result in a shared vision and implementation strategy to provide housing choices, stimulate Transit Oriented Development (TOD), expand transportation options, address corridor-wide issues, leverage public and private investment and resources, and create sustainable communities. In line with recent federal initiatives to bring together housing, transportation, and environmental programs, the Southwest LRT Community Works project will bring together cities along the line, the Metropolitan Council, and private sector interests to maximize the community benefits of the Southwest LRT project – and in doing so, create an LRT project that will be a stronger competitor for federal funding.



**"Through Southwest LRT Community Works, we'll be able to integrate engineering and design of the light rail with opportunities for housing and economic development all along the corridor."**

—Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman

