What is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?
The purpose of a DEIS is to provide a full and open evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Southwest LRT line to ensure that decision-makers and the public are aware of the impacts and of reasonable alternatives, to avoid or minimize adverse impacts prior to implementing the transit line. During the DEIS, the public is invited to review and comment on the elements, which include the following:

- Identify and explain the purpose and need for improved transit to serve the area
- Develop and describe the alternatives for the proposed action being considered
- Identify the environmental and community effects of the three LRT alternatives and measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts of their implementation
- Describe agency and public coordination efforts
- Serve as the basis for a decision to move forward with the Southwest LRT line
- Allow opportunities for public and agency input

What is the proposed Southwest LRT line?
The proposed Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) line is a high-frequency train serving the rapidly growing southwest metro area - Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, as well as Minneapolis neighborhoods and downtown Minneapolis.

The Southwest LRT line will connect to other rail lines (Hiawatha, Central, and Northstar) and high-frequency bus routes in downtown Minneapolis, providing access to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, Mall of America, the State Capitol, and downtown St. Paul.

Overall, the Southwest LRT line will improve quality of life by helping metro area residents spend less money on transportation and more time with their families because of less time in traffic, while also benefiting our economy and environment.

Upcoming Meetings
Community Meetings: We are meeting with community members and business groups to provide information about the Southwest LRT project and solicit input.

Timing: Ongoing, please check www.southwesttransitway.org for upcoming meetings

Scoping Meetings:
The “scoping” process is a formal opportunity for the community to comment on what will be evaluated during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS is proposed to include the three light rail routes (see map inside) and environmental issues including, but not limited to, noise, vibration, air quality, parks, lakes, rivers, floodplains, historic and cultural properties, and traffic. Check our website for information about upcoming scoping meetings.

www.southwesttransitway.org

Timing: Fall 2008

Southwest LRT Goals
1. Improve Mobility
2. Cost-Effective and Efficient
3. Protect the Environment
4. Preserve Quality of Life
5. Economic Development

Metro area commuters waste an average of 43 hours a year stuck in traffic. (Metropolitan Council, Texas Transportation Institute)
**Potential Routes**

After a two-year study of transit alternatives, three light rail transit routes were identified for further evaluation to determine which would best serve our communities.

**LRT 1A:**
Downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie via the Kenilworth Corridor and the HCRRA property.

**LRT 3A:**
Downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie via the Kenilworth Corridor and Opus/Golden Triangle area.

**LRT 3C:**
Downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie via Nicollet Avenue, the Midtown Corridor, and the Opus/Golden Triangle area.

**Major Employers**
- ADC
- Telecommunications
- Golden Triangle
- Opus
- SuperValu
- Cargill
- Methodist Hospital
- Calhoun Commons/Calhoun Village
- Target Corporation
- American Express
- Wells Fargo
- Eat Street
- Minneapolis Convention Center
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- Minneapolis College of Art and Design

**Activity Centers**
- Eden Prairie Center
- Excelsior/Grand
- Chain of Lakes
- Uptown
- Twins Stadium
- Target Center Arena
- HHSI Metrodome
- Walker Art Center
- Guthrie Theater
- Hennepin Ave. Entertainment District

**Fast Fact 2**
Southwest LRT trains will operate 20 hours a day, 7 days a week.

(Southwest Alternatives Analysis, 2007)

**Fast Fact 3**
Southwest LRT ridership is projected at approximately 28,000 trips per day.

(Southwest Alternatives Analysis, 2007)

**Fast Fact 4**
Trains will arrive/depart every 7.5 minutes during rush hour.

(Southwest Alternatives Analysis, 2007)