
Southwest Transitway Alternatives Analysis



*Technical Memorandum No. 2
Goals and Objectives*

*Prepared for
Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority*

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1. Introduction

This technical memorandum documents the methodology, assumptions, and results of the identification of Goals and Objectives for the Southwest Transitway Alternatives Analysis (Southwest Transitway AA).

2. Background and Assumptions

When developing the goals for the Southwest Transitway, the Southwest Transitway Technical and Policy Advisory Committees began by reviewing the goals developed for a Southwest Rail Transitway during the *Southwest Rail Transit Study, 2003*. This was done in an effort to build upon previous planning efforts conducted for the proposed Southwest Transitway.

Southwest Rail Transit Study, 2003

In 2003, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) completed a feasibility study of rail transit in the Southwest Transitway Corridor. As part of that study, the following goals were established for a Southwest Rail Transitway:

- Improve mobility
- Efficiently and effectively move people
- Provide a reliable, competitive travel choice
- Serve population and employment concentrations
- Reasonable capital and operating costs
- Protect the environment
- Enhance the study area and region's quality of life
- Promote economic development and redevelopment

During the *Southwest Rail Transit Study*, these goals were used to develop performance measures to evaluate which rail transit technology and alignment alternatives should be considered for future evaluation.

In the current *Southwest Transitway AA*, the Southwest Transitway Technical and Policy Advisory Committees reviewed these goals and refined them into a new set of Southwest Transitway Goals based upon the transportation needs outlined in *Technical Memorandum No. 1, Purpose and Need Statement*.

3. Methodology

The *Southwest Transitway AA* is intended to be compliant with current Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines and as such provides a more comprehensive analysis of potential transportation solutions than the previous *Southwest Rail Transit Study, 2003*. To address how well the alternatives evaluated also meet the transportation goals and objectives of the state, region and

corridor communities, those goals developed in the previous *Southwest Rail Transit Study* were refined, as necessary.

On February 11, 2005, the Southwest Transitway Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) developed goals and objectives and forwarded them for consideration by the Southwest Transitway Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). On March 2, 2005, the Southwest Transitway PAC unanimously approved the goals and objectives forwarded by the Southwest Transitway TAC. These goals and objectives are shown in the following section.

Southwest Transitway AA Goals:

1. Improve Mobility
2. Provide a Cost-Effective, Efficient Travel Option
3. Protect the Environment
4. Preserve and Protect the Quality of Life in the Study Area and the Region
5. Support Economic Development

In addition, the Southwest Transitway PAC decided to prioritize the goals into two tiers. Tier one goals are those that must be achieved in order for a project to move forward. Tier two goals are those that should be achieved once it is determined a viable project exists. The tier one goals are Improve Mobility and Provide a Cost-Effective, Efficient Travel Option. The tier two goals are Protect the Environment, Preserve and Protect the Quality of Life in the Study Area and the Region, and Support Economic Development.

These goals and related objectives are based upon the identified transportation needs in the study area as described in *Technical Memorandum No. 1, Purpose and Need Statement*. They were used to develop alternatives to address transportation needs, and form the basis of the evaluation measures which led to the selection of a local preferred course of action.

4. Results: Southwest Transitway Goals and Objectives

Tier 1 goals are defined as those goals that must be achieved or a project does not exist.

GOAL 1: Improve mobility

Objectives:

- Provide a travel option competitive with other modes in terms of journey time
- Provide a reliable travel option that improves mobility throughout the day
- Provide a travel option that serves population and employment concentrations
- Provide a travel option that adds capacity and access to the regional and local transportation system
- Provide a travel option that serves people who depend on transit
- Provide a travel option that enhances pedestrian and bicycle activity and access to community nodes

GOAL 2: Provide a cost-effective, efficient travel option

Objectives:

- Provide a travel option with acceptable capital and operating costs
- Provide a travel option that efficiently and effectively moves people
- Provide a travel option that integrates efficiently with other modes and avoids substantial negative impacts to the existing roadway system
- Provide a travel option that supports regional system efficiency

Tier 2 goals are defined as goals to be achieved assuming a project results from the application of the Tier 1 goals.

GOAL 3: Protect the environment

Objectives:

- Provide a travel option beneficial to the region's air quality
- Provide a travel option that avoids or minimizes alterations to environmentally sensitive areas
- Provide a travel option that supports efficient, compact land use that facilitates accessibility
- Provide a travel option that avoids major environmental impacts on adjacent properties, such as noise and vibration

GOAL 4: Preserve and protect the quality of life in the study area and the region

Objectives:

- Provide a travel option that contributes to the economic health of the study area and region through improving mobility and access
- Provide a travel option that is sensitively designed with respect to existing neighborhoods and property values
- Provide a travel option that protects and enhances access to public service and recreational facilities
- Provide a travel option that supports sound planning and design of transit stations and park-and-ride lots
- Provide a travel option that enhances the image and use of transit services in the region

GOAL 5: Support economic development

Objectives:

- Provide a travel option that supports economic development and redevelopment with improved access to transit stations
- Provide a travel option that supports local sustainable development/redevelopment goals
- Provide a transportation system element that facilitates more efficient land development patterns and saves infrastructure costs
- Provide a travel option that accommodates future regional growth in locations consistent with local plans and the potential for increased transit ridership