

Appendix B: Public Involvement

Southwest Corridor Rail Transit Study Public Involvement Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this public involvement plan is to outline the techniques used during the Southwest Corridor Rail Transit Study to involve Potentially Affected Interests (PAIs) in the study process. The public involvement techniques chosen are targeted to encourage involvement of the PAIs throughout the study process.

Development

Staff from the cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, Hennepin County, and the consulting firm, Richardson/Richter & Associates, developed this public involvement plan utilizing the principles contained in the Systematic Development of Informed Consent (SDIC) process. This process includes identify those individuals or groups most likely to be affected by the proposed action and then ensuring the public involvement techniques employed provide them with opportunities to participate in the decision making process.

Potentially Affected Interests (PAIs)

The following groups were identified as those that are potentially affected by the proposed Southwest Rail Transit line.

- ◊ Future Generations
- ◊ Area (five cities) Residents
- ◊ Residents adjacent to potential routes
- ◊ City Council Members (five cities)
- ◊ The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA)
- ◊ State Legislators
- ◊ The Governor
- ◊ Local Chambers of Commerce
- ◊ Businesses adjacent to potential routes
- ◊ Transit users
- ◊ Metro Transit
- ◊ Southwest Metro Transit
- ◊ Other Transit Providers
- ◊ Neighborhood Associations
- ◊ Trail users
- ◊ Three Rivers Park District
- ◊ Midtown Greenway Coalition
- ◊ Freight Rail Companies (CP, BNSF, & TCW)
- ◊ Potential employees (reverse commute to five cities)
- ◊ Agencies/Associations/Organizations (Mn/DOT, LRT JPB, Hennepin County, Golden Triangle TMA, Minneapolis TMO, Downtown Council, I-494 Corridor Commission, Citizens League, Metropolitan Council)

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Public Involvement Techniques

Technique	Potentially Affected Interest (PAI)	Timing	Description
Newsletters	City Councils Planning Commissions Legislators Neighborhood groups General public	Project Initiation (April 2002) Purpose and Need, Alternatives (July 2002) Ridership, costs, evaluation (Sept 2002) (April 2003) Recommendations, next steps (August 2003)	4-color multi-page newsletters distributed to PAC, TAC, councils, legislators, agencies, local media, and other interested parties (mailing list in excess of 500) and posted on website.
Press Releases	Local Media	At key milestones	One-page
Web Site	General public	Ongoing	www.co.hennepin.mn.us/tcw/southwest/swhome.htm Provide study information and announcement of open houses. Developed and maintained by Hennepin County.
E-mail	General Public	Ongoing	Swcorridor@co.hennepin.mn.us Collection of comments and questions. Responses to questions. Broadcast emails announcing open houses, press releases, and newsletters.
Hot Line	General Public	Ongoing	Established and monitored by URS
Open Houses	General public Adjacent property owners Transit users	Study Initiation (Spring 2002) Key Findings (Fall 2002) Recommendation (Spring 2003)	
Special Presentations	Neighborhood groups Chambers of Commerce Other Business Groups Resident Groups	Ongoing	Request time on regular meeting agendas
City Council Meetings	City Councils (five cities)	Project Initiation (Spring 2002) Recommendation (Fall 2003)	Presentations to City Councils
HCRRA	Hennepin County Commissioners	Study Initiation Key Findings (July 2003) Recommendation/Next Steps (Dec. 2003)	Presentations to update HCRRA on study process and recommendations. Aired on cable television.
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Cities (5) Hennepin County Three Rivers Park District Mn/DOT Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit SW Metro Transit TCW Rail	Monthly meetings	TAC composed of technical staff charged with providing technical guidance to and review of the consultant's work. TAC study recommendation forwarded to PAC for their consideration.
Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)	Cities (5) Hennepin County Three Rivers Park District Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit SW Metro Transit Twin West Chamber Eden Prairie Chamber	Quarterly meetings	PAC composed of elected officials or representatives from member groups charged with providing policy guidance to and review of the consultant's work. PAC study recommendation forwarded to HCRRA for consideration.

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RESULTS

Table B1: Open Houses

Date	Location	Attendees
April 24, 2002	Walker Library - Minneapolis	12
April 25, 2002	Southwest Metro Transit Station	25
April 27, 2002	Eden Prairie Center	32
April 30, 2002	Minnetonka Community Center	15
May 2, 2002	St. Louis Park Recreational Center	26
May 7, 2002	Walker Library - Minneapolis	15
May 9, 2002	Hopkins Depot	5
October 9, 2002	Southwest Metro Transit Station	91
October 16, 2002	Hopkins Depot Coffee House	107
October 17, 2003	Walker Library - Minneapolis	45
May 19, 2003	Kenwood Recreation Center	41
May 21, 2003	Hopkins Depot Coffee House	65
May 22, 2003	Southwest Metro Transit Station	41

Table B2: City Council Meetings

Meeting	Date
Eden Prairie City Council	April 16, 2002
Minnetonka City Council	April 22, 2002
Hopkins City Council	April 30, 2002
St. Louis Park City Council	April 22, 2002
Minneapolis City Council members (Lilligren, Goodman, Zimmerman, Niziolek, and Shift)	April 29, 2002
Eden Prairie City Council	August 19, 2003
Minnetonka City Council	August 25, 2003
Hopkins City Council	September 2, 2003
St. Louis Park City Council	September 8, 2003
Minneapolis Transportation/Public Works Committee	November 17, 2003

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Table B3: Special Meetings & Presentations

Organization	Date
Southwest Metro Transit Commission	April 25, 2002
Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association	September 3, 2002
Kenwood Isles Neighborhood Association	September 9, 2002
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee	September 10, 2002
CARAG Neighborhood Association	September 17, 2002
Minnetonka - City Open House (Southwest Study booth)	October 8, 2002
Minneapolis Kenilworth Condo/Townhome Group Representatives	October 23, 2002
Kenilworth Rail Issues Community Meeting	October 23, 2002
Southwest Area Candidate Meeting at Depot Coffee House	October 23, 2003
Hopkins Rotary Club	October 31, 2002
John Erickson	November 13, 2002
Lyndale Neighborhood Association	November 25, 2002
Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association	December 11, 2002
Twin West Chamber Committee	January 28, 2003
Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association	February 4, 2003
Lyndale Avenue Business Association	February 26, 2003
Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association	April 1, 2003
Bryn Mahr Neighborhood Association	April 9, 2003
Twin West Chamber of Commerce	April 11, 2003
Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association	May 6, 2003
Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce Staff	May 15, 2003
Minneapolis Councilmember Nzielock	May 19, 2003
Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association	June 3, 2003
Midtown Greenway Coalition	June 5, 2003
Trails Without Rails Group	June 18, 2003
Hiawatha Community Advisory Committee	July 23, 2003
St. Louis Park Community Development Staff	September 17, 2003
Twin West Chamber of Commerce	September 23, 2003
Hopkins School District Staff	October 9, 2003
Hopkins Business Council	October 21, 2003
Kenwood Isles Neighborhood Association	November 3, 2003
Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce	November 20, 2003

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Table B4: Summary of News Articles

Date	Newspaper	Article
05/15/03	Southwest Journal	Public meeting on SW rail corridor is May 19
05/15/03	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Southwest rail system open houses scheduled
05/15/03 05/08/03	Eden Prairie News	Southwest Rail Study open houses next week
04/23/03	Eden Prairie News	Bad news, then good on LRT option
04/10/03	Eden Prairie News	For light rail
04/08/03	Lakeshore Weekly	Don't stifle transit debate
03/26/03	Eden Prairie News	Bill aims to stop light-rail study for southwest area in its tracks
03/21/03	Southwest Journal	Bill threatens SW transit plans
03/20/03	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Bill would ban trains on SW Corridor
02/26/03	Southwest Journal	Kenilworth or Lyndale Avenue? Southwest rail study delayed
02/20/03	Eden Prairie News	Light-rail study completion date is pushed back
01/28/03	Lakeshore Weekly News	Letters to the Editor
01/02/03	Southwest Journal	Rich 'hoods, poorer 'hoods toss LRT hot potato
12/30/02	Lakeshore Weekly News	Group organizes to oppose Southwest Corridor light rail line
12/19/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Survey released on light rail option in SW Corridor
12/12/02	Eden Prairie News	Survey: Support high in southwest area for LRT
12/11/02	Star Tribune	Southwest LRT - Pawlenty voters favor new line
12/8/02	Star Tribune	Survey finds support for southwest light-rail line
11/07/02	Eden Prairie News	Letters to the Editor - Against light-rail
11/06/02	Eden Prairie News	Study likely to keep LRT reality a far-off dream
10/31/02	Eden Prairie News	Case/Davis/Douglas/Young/Seymour-Position's on the LRT trail
10/31/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie	Web site collects opinion on LRT
10/31/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie	Council opposes light rail on trail
10/24/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Residents discuss transit proposal for SW Corridor
10/16/02	Eden Prairie News	City weighs in on light-rail transit study
10/15/02	Lakeshore Weekly News	Community Calendar - Open House Announcement
10/03/02	Eden Prairie News	LRT study open house in EP on Wednesday
10/01/02	Lakeshore Weekly	Rail study open houses slated
09/11/02	Eden Prairie News	This Minnetonkan wants light rail in suburbs
08/28/02	Lakeshore Weekly News	County agency identifies eight route options for light rail
08/28/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie	EP Golden Triangle redevelopment recommended
08/22/02	Eden Prairie News	Group hits trail to raise awareness of study
08/21/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Hiking trails can carry rail too, McLaughlin says
08/21/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie	Opponents meet on Southwest Corridor trail
08/14/02	Eden Prairie News	Activists call Saturday 'Celebrate Our Trail Day'
08/14/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	EP group publishes guide to embattled trail
08/13/02	Lakeshore Weekly News	Trails and rails can co-exist

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Date	Newspaper	Article
05/15/03	Southwest Journal	Public meeting on SW rail corridor is May 19
08/07/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Residents speak out against trains on hiking trail
08/07/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Southwest rail system could follow highways
08/06/02	Lakeshore Weekly News	Group organizes to oppose Southwest Corridor light rail line
07/02/02	Eden Prairie News	Residents gear up to fight light-rail plan
07/11/02	Eden Prairie News	Letters from the July 11 Eden Prairie News
06/14/02	Southwest Journal	County studies diesel-powered cars for Kenilworth track
06/11/02		Residents object to newest light rail plans
06/06/02	Eden Prairie News	Letters from the June 6 Eden Prairie News
06/02/02	Star Tribune	Will light rail get a southwestern flavor?
05/29/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	EP, Minnetonka residents rally against rail
05/15/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Eden Prairie to Minneapolis rail system is a possibility
05/01/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie	Light rail plans draw opposition
05/01/02	Southwest Journal	Meetings to consider SW rail
04/24/02	Sun Current - Eden Prairie Sun Sailor - Hopkins, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park	Eden Prairie-Minneapolis transit route meetings set

Table B5: Southwest Policy Advisory Committee Meetings

Regular Meetings	Special Meetings
September 9, 2002	October 25, 2003 - Alignment Tour (west end)
November 20, 2002	November 15, 2003 - Alignment Tour (east end)
December 18, 2002	June 20, 2003 - Hiawatha LRT Tour
February 12, 2003	
April 9, 2003	
May 14, 2003	
July 9, 2003	

Table B6: Southwest Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings

Meetings
May 22, 2002
July 24, 2002
August 26, 2002
October 2, 2002
November 6, 2002
December 11, 2002
January 31, 2003
March 21, 2003
June 5, 2002
June 26, 2003
August 6, 2003