



A Guide to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Scoping Meetings for the Southwest Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The Southwest Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is a joint effort of the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The first step in the DEIS process is to conduct Scoping, which includes the hosting of Scoping Meetings/Hearings.

The Scoping process is designed to inform the public, interest groups, affected tribes and government agencies of the DEIS and to present the following for comment:

- (1) purpose and need for the project.
- (2) the alternatives to be studied.
- (3) the potential social, economic, environmental and transportation impacts to be evaluated.

As part of the NEPA Scoping process, the HCRRA is required to hold at least one public Scoping meeting which includes a public hearing. In order to ensure all voices are heard, the HCRRA has scheduled the following three (3) Scoping meetings:

- ➔ Tuesday, October 7, 2008, Hennepin County Government Center
Public Open House at 2:00 PM, Public Service Level (PSL)
Public Hearing at 3:00 PM, Board Room
- ➔ Tuesday, October 14, 2008, St. Louis Park City Hall
Public Open House at 5:00 PM
Public Hearing at 6:00 PM, Council Chambers
- ➔ Thursday, October 23, 2008, Eden Prairie City Hall
Public Open House at 5:00 PM
Public Hearing at 6:00 PM, Council Chambers

The HCRRA Public Hearing will follow the one hour public open house. Testimony before the HCRRA will be preceded by a short presentation by the Southwest LRT Project Manager, Katie Walker. Commissioner McLaughlin will chair the Public Hearings. Persons testifying at the Public Hearings will each be given three (3) minutes to address the HCRRA. The proceedings of the Public Hearings will be transcribed for the record and available for streaming from the Hennepin County and Southwest Transitway websites.

Public comments will also be collected through the Southwest website (www.southwesttransitway.org), U.S. mail, and fax. Comments should be addressed to Katie Walker, Transit Project Manager, 417 North 5th Street, Suite 320, Minneapolis, MN 55401, fax to 612.348-9710, and email through www.southwesttransitway.org. All comments become part of the public scoping record and must be received no later than 5:00 PM CST on Friday, November 7, 2008.



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Interpreter services have been offered and the Southwest Scoping Booklet is being translated into Spanish, Somalian, and Hmong. The booklet will be translated into other languages as requested.

Press articles with scoping meeting dates, times and locations have appeared in Eden Prairie News, Life on the Prairie, Hopkins Highlights, Minnetonka Memo, St. Louis Park Perspective, and the Metro Transit website. Articles are also expected to run in the Southwest Journal, One Nation News, and Sun Newspapers. In addition, advertisements were placed in the Star Tribune, Sun Newspapers, One Nation News, Lakeshore Weekly News, Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, and Insight News.

More than 2,000 Scoping Booklets have been distributed to public agencies and interested individuals. This count does not include Scoping Booklets downloaded from the Southwest Transitway web site (www.southwesttransitway.org).

