STATION AREA PLANNING

The Hennepin County Rail Authority has funded a series of station area planning activities in partnership with the city of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, and St. Louis Park.

Station area planning is intended to build upon the past work of each community. The primary objectives are to look at how LRT riders will get to/from the transit stations and how development patterns will likely change near each station. Strategies and recommendations for each station have been developed resulting in land-use planning within a half-mile radius around each of the 12 stations in the Southwest Transit Corridor.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
Prior to LRT construction, it is anticipated that each community will consider amending their comprehensive plans to incorporate station area planning recommendations. The process and level of public participation will be determined by each of the participating communities.

WHEN WILL LIGHT RAIL BE HERE?
The southwest transitway is anticipated to be operational in 2015. The anticipated schedule for planning, funding, and design are outlined below:

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFO?
Stay connected and get announcements and updates from the Southwest Transitway Website:

WWW.SOUTHWESTTRANSITWAY.ORG

The Southwest Station will function primarily as a park-and-ride station similar to the way it currently functions. It is anticipated that the existing parking capacity will be nearly doubled to accommodate local and regional users of LRT. As new structured parking is designed and constructed, it is desirable to introduce retail and services into the parking structure on the lower levels. This is intended to increase the quantity of these uses on site while providing a more pleasant visual environment for pedestrians and drivers. Few additional changes are anticipated due to limitations imposed by the surrounding highway locations, roadways and wetlands.
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In addition to the existing parking ramp, the guidance of this study recommends adding structured parking for an additional 900 cars. This will nearly double the current parking capacity of the station area. Ground floor retail and services uses are encouraged within the new structured parking facility. This will promote and support the needs of transit users, as well as patrons of existing retail and restaurant uses.

View from Southwest Station looking south towards the wetlands.

Illustration of Southwest Station transit plaza.