

SOUTHWEST LRT COMMUNITY WORK STEERING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT STATE FUNDING FOR THE SOUTHWEST LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT) PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 09-0596 in 2009 to establish the Southwest LRT Community Works program in consultation with the cities of Eden Prairie, Edina, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis, and other Southwest LRT partners, and

WHEREAS, the Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee, composed of Southwest LRT Community Works partners from cities and other agencies along the Southwest corridor, was formed in 2010 to maximize the benefits of the Southwest LRT project through transit oriented development and enhanced tax base; and,

WHEREAS, the Southwest LRT project represents an opportunity to build upon the region's integrated system of transitways by expanding access, improving mobility, and enhancing the economic competitiveness of the region and the state; and,

WHEREAS, an integrated system of transitways including the Southwest LRT project is vital to attract and retain jobs, residents, and visitors to the region and state; and,

WHEREAS, the Southwest LRT project is projected to provide over 34,000 trips per day; and,

WHEREAS, the Southwest LRT project will support new job opportunities by offering quick, convenient and inexpensive access to over 210,000 jobs; and,

WHEREAS, the Southwest LRT station areas are anticipated to generate over \$5 billion in economic development for the region and Greater Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has rated the Southwest LRT project as Medium-High for both overall project rating as well as the local financial commitment rating; and,

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed \$125 million for the Southwest LRT project in his 2017 budget; and,

WHEREAS, the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) has committed \$496 million for the Southwest LRT project; and,

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) has committed \$165.3 million for the Southwest LRT project; and,

WHEREAS, Hennepin County and the cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, and St. Louis Park have collectively committed \$61 million for the Southwest LRT project; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has committed \$30.3 million of the \$165 million required as their local funding share; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council requires \$135 million from the Minnesota State Legislature this session for the Southwest LRT project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee supports the provision of \$135 million from the Minnesota State Legislature to fully fund the Southwest LRT project.