



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

**Date:** October 7, 2014  
**To:** Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **Promoting Equity Through and Around Improved Transit Service**

**Recommendation:** Receive and file

### Previous Directives:

- September 9, 2014: Receive and file report postponed two cycles.
- August 29, 2014: City Council staff direction for the Intergovernmental Relations Department to convene appropriate staff from Public Works, Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), Civil Rights, City Coordinator, Mayor's Office and City Council Offices to complete development of a written response by the City to the equity concerns and ideas raised during SW LRT deliberations and to report back to the Transportation and Public Works Committee by September 9, 2014.

### Department Information:

Prepared by: Gene Ranieri, Director, Intergovernmental Relations  
Peter Wagenius, Policy Director, Mayor's Office

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Staff from Mayor's Office, IGR, Public Works and CPED

### Supporting Information

As part of the Southwest LRT deliberations, citizens of Minneapolis, including a broad range of community, neighborhood and advocacy organizations, have put forward ideas to promote equity through and around improved transit service. Leaders from those organizations have met with City leaders to advance those ideas. Some of the concerns and ideas about equity are outlined at [www.peoplestransit.org](http://www.peoplestransit.org) and [www.equityccforswlrts.weebly.com](http://www.equityccforswlrts.weebly.com).

On August 29, 2014, as part of its consideration of Southwest LRT, the City Council directed City staff to develop a written response to those concerns and ideas. The City has developed responses to requests regarding transit, economic development (capital fund), an employment strategy (Anchor Institutions) and housing. The "Response" discusses current City activity related to the issue and outlines possible strategies in each policy area related to the Southwest LRT.

The City's role in each policy area varies. Although the City does not operate transit, the City is and will continue to be an advocate for public transit. The City does operate business development and housing programs. Many of the programs are a collaborative effort with public and private partners. Resources to sustain the programs include City, State, Federal, regional and private funds. The programs provide financial as well as technical assistance. In many projects the availability of transit and highway access is important in siting or expanding a business and housing.

Regarding the development along the Southwest LRT, the City is committed in collaboration with its partners to grow minority and women-owned businesses not only on the corridor within the City, but also along other transitways and business areas throughout the City. The City would welcome an additional funding source like the capital fund so that it could increase its business development efforts.

The City has participated in the formation of an Anchor Institution strategy for the Central Corridor and continues to monitor its progress. Recognizing that trains will not operate on the Southwest LRT until 2019, the City would like to work with interested partners to examine the anchor institution strategy to the region's largest concentration of businesses and employees: Downtown Minneapolis.

The City's investments in housing generally align with the housing choices articulated by advocates. The location of affordable housing will be a regional discussion as indicated in the Housing Policy Plan being developed by the Metropolitan Council. The City will be engaged in the discussion and will be active with its partners in housing development, both new construction and rehabilitation.

## **Attachment**

Presentation – Promoting Equity