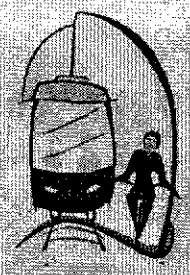
Exhibit B #17

Southwest Rail Transit Study



Study Process

Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA)

↑

Southwest Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

↑

Southwest Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Southwest Policy Advisory Committee

Role: **Provide policy guidance and develop a recommendation for the HCRRA regarding future study/planning for a Southwest Rail Transitway.**

Elected official or their representatives from:

- Hennepin County
- Eden Prairie
- Minnetonka
- Hopkins
- St. Louis Park
- Minneapolis
- Metropolitan Council
- Metro Transit
- Southwest Metro
- Three Rivers Park District
- Twin West Chamber of Commerce
- Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce

Southwest Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

Recommendations

Continue Study of LRT for the Southwest Transitway

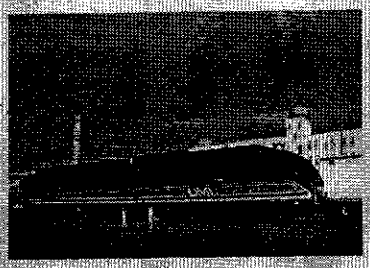
- Do NOT include the DMU technology in future studies
- Do NOT include the Lyndale Avenue alignment in future studies
- Do include the remaining alignment alternatives

Recommendation #1:

The Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) Technology should *NOT be considered in future studies*

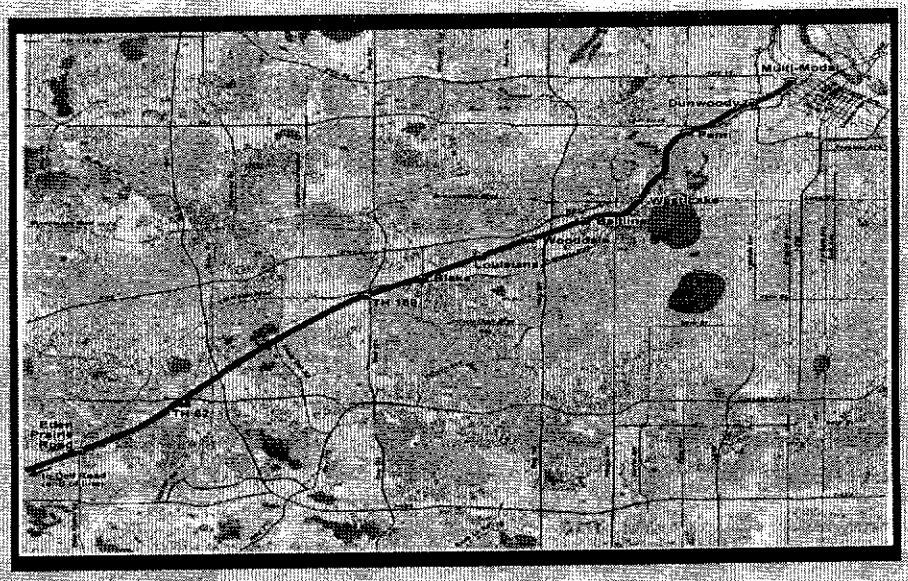
Reasons

- Aero DMU is an unproven technology
- Aero DMU is not appropriate for frequency of service
- Lease Agreement with private freight rail companies
- Higher O & M costs
- Lack of seamless connection
- Less competitive travel time
- Concern over environmental impacts



Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU):

Dell Road to Minneapolis via the CP Rail line & the Kenilworth Corridor



Recommendation #2:

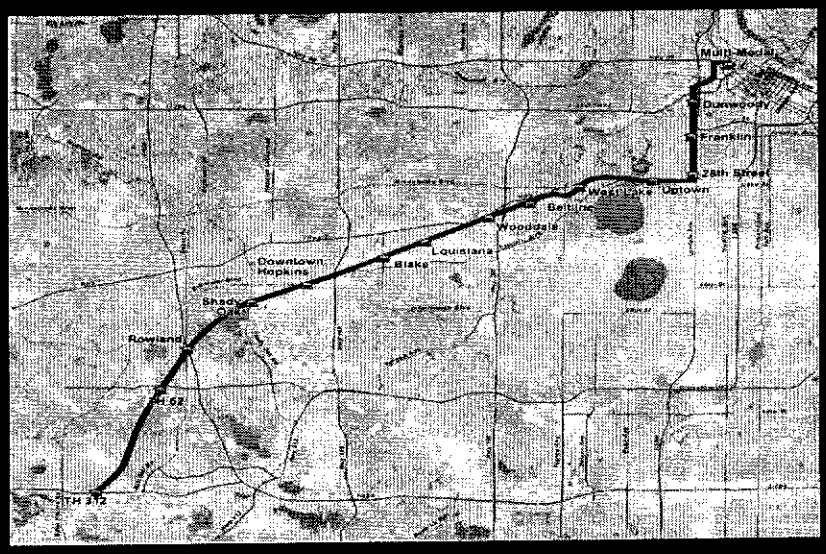
The *Lyndale Avenue alternatives (1B, 2B, 3B, & 4B) should* *NOT* *be considered in future studies*

Reasons

- Traffic Impacts
- Business Impacts
- Aesthetic Impacts
- Capital Cost

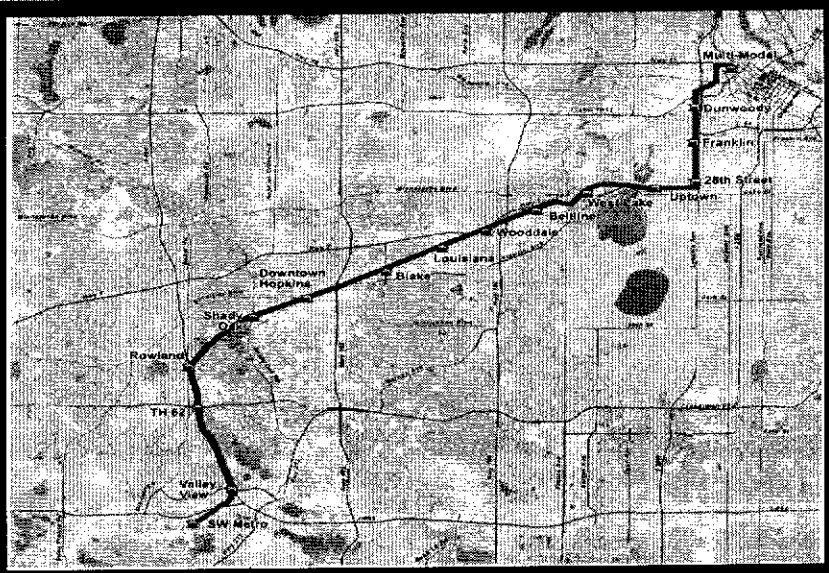
LRT 1B: HCRRA - Lyndale

(TH 312 to Minneapolis via the HCRRA property, the Midtown Greenway, & Lyndale Ave.)



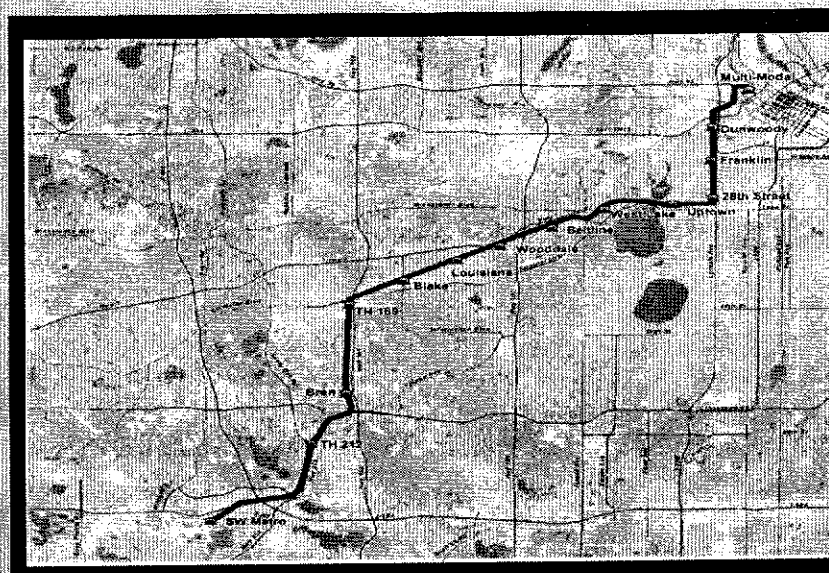
LRT 2B: I-494 - Lyndale

(SW Metro to Minneapolis via I-494, the HCRRA property, the Midtown Greenway, & Lyndale Ave.)



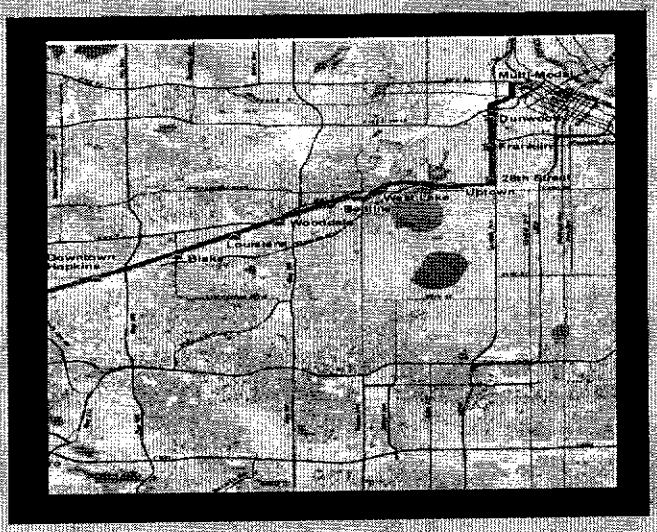
LRT 3B: TH169/212 - Lyndale

(SW Metro to Minneapolis via TH212, TH 169, the HCRRA property, the Midtown Greenway, & Lyndale Ave.)



LRT 4B: Hopkins - Lyndale

(downtown Hopkins to Minneapolis via the HCRRA property and Kenilworth)

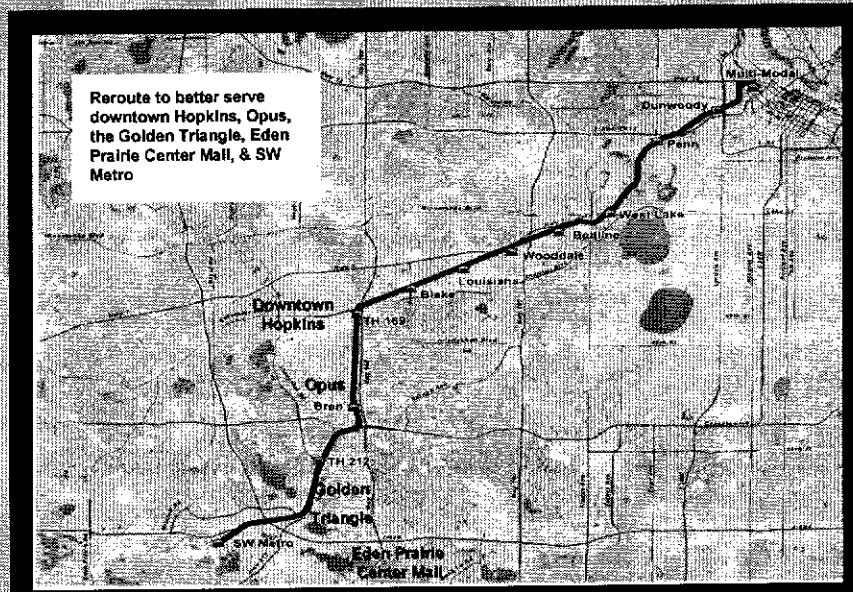


Recommendation #3:

Further study of a modified 3A alternative to more directly serve downtown Hopkins, Opus, Golden Triangle, the Eden Prairie Center Mall, and the Southwest Metro Transit Station should be conducted and that modified alternative should be included in future studies regarding the Southwest Transitway.

LRT 3A: TH 169/TH 212 - Kenilworth

(SW Metro to Minneapolis via TH 212/169, HCRRA, & Kenilworth)

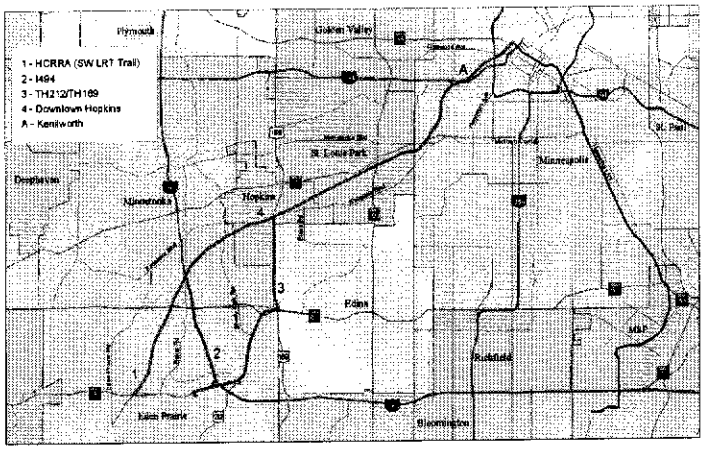


Recommendation #4:

Study of light rail transit (LRT) alternatives 2A, modified3A as specified in Recommendation#3, 4A, and 1A (identified as the least preferred alternative) should continue for the Southwest Transitway with consideration of a rail transit connection along the Midtown Greenway, identification of environmental impacts and mitigation measures, involvement of the public, and retention of the trails.

* A motion was made to delete the reference to LRT 1A being the least preferred alternative. This motion was defeated on a vote of 4 to 8 with 1 member abstaining.

SW PAC Recommendation



Next Steps

July 2003	Present PAC Recommendations to HCRRA
August/Sept. 2003	Present PAC Recommendations to City Councils (Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, & Minneapolis)
Sept./Oct. 2003	Return to HCRRA for Direction

Southwest Corridor
Rail Transit Study

Visit the Southwest Rail Transit Study website at
www.co.hennepin.mn.us/tcw/southwest/swhome.htm