



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: June 21, 2005
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Southwest Corridor Alternatives Analysis**

Recommendation:

- Appoint Council Member Dan Niziolek and Council Member Gary Schiff as Policy Advisory Committee members for the Southwest Corridor Alternatives Analysis process

Previous Directives:

Prepared by: Donald Pflaum, Transportation Engineer, 612-673-2129
Approved by:

Klara A. Fabry, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Donald Pflaum, Transportation Engineer, 612-673-2129

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase – Capital Only

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Southwest Corridor Alternatives Analysis:

Purpose:

The purpose of the Alternatives Analysis (AA) is to identify and compare the benefits, costs, and impacts of a range of transit alternatives for the Southwest Corridor in order to determine a preferred course of action.

Timeframe:

January 2005 through September 2006 (18 to 21 months)

Scope:

The objective of this study is to expand upon previous work by further evaluating transit alternatives to reach a broad consensus on a preferred course of action. Major study tasks will include development of a refined purpose and need statement, generation of refined capital and

operations/maintenance cost estimates, estimates of year 2030 ridership, identification of the potential economic, social, and environmental impacts of the transit alternatives, and implementation of an extensive and inclusive public involvement program.

Anticipated Outcome:

A number of routing alternatives will be evaluated during the study process. Ridership projections, capital costs, and operational costs will be evaluated for each alternative. General consensus among the stakeholders on a preferred course of action will result in a “preferred alternative” which will be carried into preliminary design and eventually final design.

Future Steps:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)/Preliminary Engineering (PE)
New Starts Application
Final Design (FD)
Construction

Charge of the SW Corridor Policy Committee:

Purpose:

A policy group composed of elected officials or designated representatives from the five affected cities (Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, Hopkins and Minneapolis), Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, the Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, Southwest Metro Transit, the Three Rivers Park District, and the business communities has been assembled to provide policy direction, provide information regarding community concerns/issues, and communicate with community groups, elected officials, and other key stakeholders.

Meetings:

The group meets at major milestone points during the Southwest Alternatives Analysis (AA) Study. The group meets quarterly to review information from the consultant, provide policy direction to the consultant and to the technical advisory committee, and share information regarding policy level issues/concerns.