

Southwest Light Rail Transit Project

Minneapolis, Minnesota

(December 2020)

The Metropolitan Council (MC) is constructing a light rail transit (LRT) extension of the METRO Green Line from the existing Target Field LRT station in downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie in suburban Hennepin County, serving the suburban municipalities of Minnetonka, Hopkins and St. Louis Park. The proposed 14.5-mile alignment generally parallels freight rail and roadway rights-of-way, with several grade-separated crossings and a short tunnel segment. The project includes construction of nine park-and-ride facilities with approximately 2,500 total spaces and a new railcar light maintenance facility as well as the purchase of 27 light rail vehicles. Service is planned to operate from 4:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily with trains every 10 minutes during the day on weekdays, every 10 to 30 minutes during the evening on weekdays, and every 10 to 15 minutes on weekends.

The total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$2,003.15 million. The Section 5309 funding share is \$928.84 million.

Status

Following completion of an alternatives analysis for the corridor in May 2010, MC selected LRT as the locally preferred alternative and adopted it into the region's fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan. Under SAFETEA-LU, FTA approved the project into New Starts Preliminary Engineering in September 2011. When MAP-21 took effect, the project was in the New Starts Project Development phase since the environmental review process was not yet complete. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released in October 2012, followed by a Supplemental Draft EIS in May 2015 that accounted for changes to the western end of the project alignment, the relocation of the operation and maintenance facility, and a revised configuration for the Kenilworth Corridor segment of the line in Minneapolis. The Final EIS was released in May 2016, followed by FTA's issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) in July 2016. FTA approved the project into Engineering in December 2016. FTA issued an Amended ROD in May 2018 that accounted for additional project modifications. MC was awarded a Full Funding Grant Agreement in October 2020. The start of revenue service is projected to be December 2024. All major construction contracts have been awarded with nearly 50% of construction completed.

Section 3005 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation ("FAST") Act (Pub. L. 114-94; Dec. 4, 2015) authorized FTA to award Federal major capital investment funds for final design and construction of the Southwest LRT Project. Through FY 2020, Congress has appropriated \$15 million in Section 5309 funds for the project.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars

Source of Funds	Total Funding (\$million)	Appropriations to Date
Federal: Section 5309 FHWA STP Funds	\$928.84 \$9.85	\$15.00 million in total appropriations through FY 2020
Local:	\$1,064.46	
Total:	\$2,003.15	

NOTES: The Source of Funds and Total Funding numbers are as established at the signing of the FFGA. The sum of the figures may differ from the total as listed due to rounding.

Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Map

Southwest LRT (METRO Green Line Extension)

