

Twin Cities Region Transitway Decision Making Overview

County Regional Rail Authority: Initiates corridor planning and engineering, Alternative Analysis (route & mode study), initiates Draft Environmental Impact Statement, recommends Locally Preferred Alternative. Plans and funds rail transportation corridors within the county connecting to the regional Transportation Policy Plan.

Metropolitan Council (MC): Owner/Operator, chooses LPA – Locally Preferred Alternative, Draft & Final Environmental Impact Statement (federal document), and Preliminary/Final Design. Prepares and approves for the 7 county metro area: the Transportation Improvement Program which identifies the schedule and funding of transportation projects; and the Transportation Policy Plan which defines overall policies and plans.

Federal Government:

- Federal Transit Administration – New Starts approval; Draft & Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Environmental Protection Agency – Environmental study review
- Congress – Appropriations and allocations for planning processes and New Starts construction

Transitway Policy Advisory Committee (PAC): Advises County Regional Rail Authority on planning and engineering, recommends final alignment to County. Membership includes elected officials at state, county and local levels of government as well as representatives of government agency, business and institutional stakeholders along the transitway corridor. Evolves into the Transitway Management Committee which advises the Met Council.

State of MN: State funding contribution to construction. Department of Transportation oversees the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program which identifies the annual state schedule and funding of transportation projects.

Counties Transit Improvement Board: Largest local funding contribution. 5 counties – Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington – have utilized a quarter-cent sales tax and \$20 motor vehicle sales tax, permitted by the Legislature, to invest in and advance transit projects by awarding annual capital and operating grants. The Board works in collaboration with the Metropolitan Council and Carver and Scott counties.

Technical Advisory Committee: Engineering and planning staff advises PAC on technical studies

Business Advisory Committee: Advises PAC on the business community issues throughout the service area

Community Advisory Committee: Advises PAC on community issues throughout the service area

Cities: Municipal Consent for support of the project; and Station Area Plans addressing 1/4 mile around the proposed transit stations with the planning and implementation of land use such as: zoning, infrastructure, multimodal access, economic development and green space. Station area plans are adopted into each cities' comprehensive plans and are submitted to the Met Council Regional Development Framework.

Local communities: neighborhood groups, cultural groups, community associations involved in planning and decision making about transitway development through the Community Advisory Committee, their city, county, state, federal elected officials and Metropolitan Council member representatives.

