



## Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

**Publication Date: January 11, 2016**  
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**Next Publication (8:00 AM): January 18, 2016**  
Submittal Deadline (4:00 PM): January 11, 2016  
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)  
View the [2016 EQB Monitor Schedule](#)

### Changes are coming to the EQB *Monitor*!

- The EQB *Monitor* has now switched to a weekly publication schedule. Submissions will be due for the *Monitor* **by 4:00 pm on the Monday** one week prior to the intended publication date. Please see the [2016 EQB Monitor schedule](#) for additional details.
- The EQB *Monitor* submission process is moving towards an **entirely electronic format**. The [EQB Monitor submission form](#) has been updated to standardize the submission process while also capturing more information regarding environmental review. We strongly encourage the use of the online submission form to submit notices to the EQB *Monitor*.

- [Notice](#)

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#### Notice

### Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation Available

**Comment Deadline:** February 25, 2016

**Project Title:** Southwest Light Rail Transit

**Project Description:** The proposed project is a 14.5-mile light rail transit service that would connect downtown Minneapolis to the southwestern region of the metropolitan area through the cities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The Amended Evaluation includes Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) preliminary determination of de minimis impact on two park properties located within the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota. Pursuant to 23 CFR § 774.5, FTA requests public and agency comments only on the two properties discussed in Amended Evaluation. Comments received on the Amended Evaluation and the preliminary Section 4(f) de minimis impact determinations will be included, and responded to, in the Project's Final EIS, which will include the Southwest LRT Final Section

4(f) Evaluation.

**Summary:** This notice announces the availability of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation. The Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation provides additional information on the Project's Section 4(f) properties and determinations since publication of the Project's Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation Update. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation Update was published in May 2015 within the Southwest LRT Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation provides preliminary Section 4(f) de minimis impact determinations for two newly identified Section 4(f) properties in Minnetonka, Minnesota (i.e., Unnamed Open Space B and the Opus development area trail network); the FTA is only seeking comment on these two newly identified preliminary determinations.

**Documents Available for Public Review:**

The Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation is available for review online at [www.swlrt.org](http://www.swlrt.org). Hard copies of the Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation are available for public review at the following locations:

- **Southwest LRT Project Office:** 6465 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426
- **Minnetonka City Hall:** 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345
- **Minnetonka Public Library:** 17524 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345
- **Metropolitan Council Library:** 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101
- **Minnesota Department of Transportation Library:** 395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155
- **Minnesota Legislative Reference Library:** 645 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155

To obtain a copy of the Amended Evaluation, please visit the Project's website at [www.swlrt.org](http://www.swlrt.org) or by request by contacting Nani Jacobson at [swlrt@metrotransit.org](mailto:swlrt@metrotransit.org) or Maya Sarna at [maya.sarna@dot.gov](mailto:maya.sarna@dot.gov).

**Comment Period and Instructions for Commenting:**

Comments on the Amended Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation will be accepted between January 11, 2016 through February 25, 2016. Comments may be submitted to Nani Jacobson, Assistant Director, Environmental and Agreements, Metro Transit-Southwest LRT Project Office, 6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500, St. Louis Park, MN 55426 or via email at [swlrt@metrotransit.org](mailto:swlrt@metrotransit.org).

**For Further Information Contact:** Kathryn Loster, FTA Regional Counsel at (312) 353-3869, [kathryn.loster@dot.gov](mailto:kathryn.loster@dot.gov); Maya Sarna, FTA Office of Environmental Programs at (202) 366-5811, [maya.sarna@dot.gov](mailto:maya.sarna@dot.gov).

**Federal Lead Agency:** Federal Transit Administration

**Project Sponsor:** Metropolitan Council