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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The I-35W Solutions Alliance Board of Directors

FROM: Robert J. Tennesen

RE: Legislative Report

DATE: July 11, 2013

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### **Southwest LRT**

Metropolitan Council has scheduled two community meetings to discuss concepts for resolving the location of freight rail in the design of the Southwest LRT project. One meeting will be held July 17 at a residence located at, 3700 Cedar Lake Ave., Minneapolis at 4:30 pm; the second will be held July 18 at St. Louis Park High School, 6425 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, St. Louis Park at 4:30 pm. Both meetings will include an open house, presentation, and Q&A session.

The discussion will revolve around ideas for co-locating freight and LRT tracks in Minneapolis and options to reroute freight rail traffic in St. Louis Park to make way for LRT tracks. The concepts discussed at the meetings will be different than the ones laid out in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

### **Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP)**

MnDOT is taking public input on the draft 20-year State Highway Investment Plan at a public hearing from 4-5:30 p.m. on July 29, at the MnDOT Central Office, Room G15, 395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, and at other offices statewide. The draft MnSHIP is here [www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/mnship/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/mnship/). The MnSHIP unites the GO 50-year vision and policies established in the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan to capital improvements in the state highway system. It establishes priorities for spending, identifies planned investments over the next seven years, and details strategies to ensure the effective use of resources. The final plan is due in August.

The 2014-2033 Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan states:

*System needs exceed projected revenue that will be available over the next twenty years.  
In addition, MnSHIP will respond to recent federal legislation (MAP-21) that requires*

*MnDOT to prioritize improvements on major routes included in the National Highway System. [State](#) and federal requirements, the Governor, technical experts, and public opinion will all guide the development of MnSHIP in the National Highway System. [State](#) and federal requirements, the Governor, technical experts, and public opinion will all guide the development of MnSHIP.*

## **Transportation Economic Development Program (TED)**

In partnership with DEED, MnDOT has awarded \$15.7 million in grants under the TED Program to five state trunk highway projects that are expected support growing industry and businesses and improve the transportation network for all users. The funds granted will help leverage an additional \$25 million in other federal, state, local and private funding for a total construction program of \$40 million. For information on the selected projects, see [www.dot.state.mn.us/funding/ted.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/funding/ted.html). One metro area project was chosen, the I-94 7<sup>th</sup> Street off ramp and repurposed 5<sup>th</sup> Street off ramp for \$9.7 million.

## **Corridor Investment Management Strategy (CIMS)**

MnDOT has awarded \$30 million in grants through CIMS to ten highway projects. MnDOT was aided in the selection process by a state agency advisory group including the departments of Health, Public Safety, Natural Resources, Commerce, Education, Employment and Economic Development, as well as Explore Minnesota Tourism and the Pollution Control Agency.

The grants will help leverage an additional \$65 million in other federal, state and local funding for a total construction program of almost \$100 million. The one metro area project chosen was the Robert Street Improvements for \$3.5 million.