



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8095 / 763-593-8109 (fax)

Executive Summary For Action
Golden Valley City Council Meeting
March 15, 2016

Agenda Item

METRO Blue Line Extension Update

Prepared By

Jason Zimmerman, Planning Manager

Summary

On March 2, the City of Robbinsdale approved Municipal Consent plans for the METRO Blue Line Extension, providing the last municipal approval needed to allow the light rail project to move forward. Staff at the Project Office will continue to work with the Federal Transit Administration to gain approval of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, which is expected to be published in June of this year. By August, the project will have reached the 30% level of design and is expected to be ready for application into the two year Engineering phase of work.

City staff has been engaged in discussions at Design Resolution Team meetings with staff from the Project Office, Hennepin County, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to refine the design elements of the Golden Valley Road station and surrounding area. On Tuesday, March 8, Project Office staff attended the Council/Manager meeting to share new designs for the park and ride, intersection options at Golden Valley Road and Theodore Wirth Parkway, and a new trail connection between Theodore Wirth and Sochacki Parks.

At a recent Hennepin County Community Works Steering Committee meeting, Metropolitan Council staff presented information about the current and projected demographics along the light rail line and compared them to both Hennepin County and the Twin Cities region as a whole. For Golden Valley, trends suggest a widening income gap with rising median household incomes as well as an increasing percentage of the population below the poverty line. At the same time, the housing-cost burden—as measured by the number of households paying 30% or more of their income for housing—is expected to continue to increase.

Recommended Action

Motion to receive and file METRO Blue Line Extension Update.