

Description of Transit Modes Studied



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Express Bus – Express bus service already operates in portions of the Gateway Corridor. Express bus service is a peak period commuter service, typically operating in mixed traffic on freeways. Express buses may operate on highway shoulders when the mixed traffic lanes are congested (operating at less than 35 mph). Buses may not travel more than 15 mph faster than the mixed traffic when operating on freeway shoulders that are not designed as bus lanes. Express bus is included in all alternatives for the Gateway corridor.



BRT Managed Lane

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Bus rapid transit (BRT) is an enhanced bus system that operates at faster speeds and provides service reliability, convenience, services and facilities very similar to LRT. BRT can operate in mixed traffic lanes but in the Gateway corridor it would operate in exclusive lanes. These lanes may be located in the center of a street or freeway, in the curb lanes, or in separate lanes along one side of the roadway. BRT can include both peak period express and all-day station-to-station service. There are two BRT alternatives being considered for the Gateway corridor.



Light Rapid Transit (LRT)

BRT Managed Lane - The "BRT Managed Lane" alternative is very similar to the Mn/PASS lanes that currently exist on I-35W south of downtown Minneapolis and I-394 west of downtown Minneapolis. These lanes are reserved during peak periods for only buses, high occupancy vehicles (carpools and vanpools), and single occupant vehicles that pay to use the lanes. Pricing varies depending on the level of congestion. The lanes are electronically controlled. Stations and other special facilities are provided for BRT buses.

Light Rail Transit (LRT) – Light rail transit (LRT) is an electric railway powered by an overhead electric line. Passenger rail cars operate singly or in 2-3 car trains in shared or exclusive right-of-way. Stations typically have high platforms for level boarding but may use low platforms and are spaced 1/4 - 2 miles or more apart. There are two LRT alternatives being considered for the Gateway corridor.



Commuter Rail

Commuter Rail – Commuter rail is typically diesel rail service operating in metropolitan areas on rail lines shared with freight railroad operations. It typically runs during morning and afternoon peak commuter periods with stations spaced 2-5 miles or more apart. Commuter rail is not the same as High Speed or Inter-city Passenger Rail (i.e. Amtrak). High speed and inter-city rail are types of passenger rail service that operate on existing railroad freight lines and provide connections between regional destinations (i.e., Twin Cities to Chicago).