



GATEWAY CORRIDOR



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Greetings!

Recent agendas have been packed for the Gateway Corridor Commission. Meeting highlights below.



\$5 Million Bonding Request Approved by Commission

The Commission passed a resolution of support for a \$5 million 2014 state bonding request for the Gateway Corridor made by Washington County, Gateway's fiscal agent.



The money, if approved, will be used toward project development and engineering work, the next phase in the federal transitway development process.

The anticipated capital funding formula is 30 percent Counties Transit Improvement Board, 10 percent State of

Minnesota, and 10 percent local funds. Local, regional and state funds leverage a 50 percent contribution from the federal government.

State funds will be critical to keep the project on schedule. The Draft EIS wraps up in 2015. New funding will be needed to keep the project moving forward.



Committees Recommend Alignment, Confirm AA Findings

The Federal Transit Administration asked that B1 and B2 alignments be revisited during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It is not uncommon to re-evaluate decisions during the federal environmental process.

The B1 alignment runs primarily along Hudson Road adjacent to I-94 through St. Paul and the B2 alignment would run up East 7th Street and back down White Bear Avenue before reaching Hudson Road.

The findings of a technical memo were reviewed in October by the Technical, Community and Policy Advisory Committees which advise the Gateway Corridor Commission. They all agreed and made a recommendation to the Commission:

Alignment B2 should not advance for further study; thereby affirming the decision reached during the Alternatives Analysis process. Reasons include:
B2 (White Bear Ave./7th St. alignment) has:

- * greater cost
- * slower travel time
- * extensive neighborhood, traffic and property impacts
- * neighborhood concerns (i.e., business/traffic impacts, longer travel times)
- * partial overlap with other planned regional transitway investments

Alignment B1 will be recommended for further study because it is faster, less expensive and more adaptable to the neighborhoods.

The recommendations will be included in the scoping booklet for review and comment by the public and agencies in December and January. The official action regarding alignments/stations to be evaluated in detail in the Draft EIS will be made as part of the scoping decision process in February/March 2014.

Learn more about the Draft EIS scoping process with the scoping handout available on our [Transit Study page](#) under Study Materials.



Public Input Welcome at PAC

Every Policy Advisory Committee agenda has time devoted for public comment. You'll find the PAC public comment process [here](#) under PAC Materials.



Meetings are held every other month on the second Thursday of the month, 2 p.m., at Woodbury City Hall.



Meet the CAC Leadership

The Community Advisory Committee in September elected a chair and vice chair.



Michael Meyer, corporate director of sales for Morrissey Hospitality Companies of St. Paul, was elected chair. Mr. Meyer's primary interest group is downtown St. Paul businesses. He is a member of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee and involved with their Transportation Committee.

Michael Meyer

"It's a privilege to work with a group of dedicated community leaders who want to help shape transit

services in the Gateway Corridor," said Meyer. "I am impressed with the many different stakeholder groups represented on the committee which I think will help shape the best project design."

Tom Sorel, president and CEO of AAA Minneapolis, and past commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, was elected vice chair.

"The Gateway Corridor project is all about enhancing the quality of life and economic vitality for citizens on the east side while providing sustainable transportation solutions that will serve future generations," Sorel said.



Tom Sorel

Meetings are open to the public. Every agenda includes a question and comment period. Learn more about the CAC [here](#).

About the Gateway Corridor Commission: The Commission was created in 2009 to study and plan alternative transportation options for the area along Interstate 94 in the eastern metro of the Minneapolis-St. Paul region. The Commission is comprised of local elected officials and business leaders. The Commission in early 2013 identified a preferred route for a fixed-guideway alternative in the Gateway Corridor. The project seeks to improve transit service from the Union Depot in St. Paul to the eastern metro, while providing a focal point for more concentrated development as the region grows.