



## Gateway Corridor Commission News Release

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### **Gateway Corridor Commission members, project stakeholders meet with federal leaders** *Gold Line BRT proposal well received*

Members of the Gateway Corridor Commission, business representatives and elected officials returned last week with heightened optimism for the Gold Line bus rapid transit project after two days of meetings with federal officials in Washington, D.C.

“We went to D.C. with a broad coalition of people from the Twin Cities,” said Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik, chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission, which is comprised of elected officials and community members. “We were very well received by elected officials and policy makers. Therese McMillian, the acting administrator for the Federal Transit Administration, told us the Gold Line BRT is an example of how to right-size transit technology to ridership and development opportunities.”

Adam Duininck, chair of the Metropolitan Council, said, “The mix of business people, labor, education, and policy makers who made the trip demonstrates the far reaching support for the Gold Line BRT. It was great to also see our federal delegation excited about this project, which is a part of our growing regional transit system.”

Members of the Minnesota delegation, including Congresswoman Betty McCollum, indicated strong support.

“I’m going to work with our federal delegation to advance Gateway because it’s a great project that clearly has local support and technical merit,” McCollum said.

In addition to asking for continued support as the project prepares to move into the Project Development phase, the visitors also thanked federal officials for past support, according to Gary Kriesel, Washington County commissioner.

“We thanked them for the new, \$1 million transit-oriented development federal grant and for including the BRT project on the Federal Permitting Dashboard, which expedites the process,” Kriesel said.

The Gateway Corridor is in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement phase of the Federal Transit Administration process. Reports will be submitted for federal review after local public hearings this winter. Federal funds will be requested to cover 45 percent of total project costs.

With necessary approvals and funding in place, the Gold Line BRT could be operational as early as 2022, providing all day, frequent service in an exclusive lane between Union Depot in Saint Paul and Woodbury/Lake Elmo, along Interstate 94 and Hudson Road.

Traveling together to Washington D.C. Oct. 7 and 8 were: Tom Cook, Metro State University; Adam Duininck, Metropolitan Council chair; Susan Kent, state senator; Gary Kriesel, Washington County commissioner; Kyle Makarios, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters; Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County commissioner; Lisa Palermo, Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce/Globe University; Paul Reinke, Oakdale council member; Will Schroeer, East Metro Strong; Nora Slawik, Maplewood mayor; Mary Giuliani Stephens, Woodbury mayor; JoAnn Ward, state representative; Lisa Weik, Washington County commissioner; and Amy Williams, Lakeland mayor.

Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega, vice chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission, says the benefits of the trip continue to be evident.

“The positive energy from our experiences in D.C. keeps us enthused and working hard to deliver Minnesota’s first BRT in a dedicated lane,” said Ortega.

### **About the Gateway Corridor rapid transit project**

The Gateway Corridor Gold Line BRT is a proposed bus rapid transit line that would run next to Interstate 94 for 12 miles in an exclusive lane on Hudson Road between the Union Depot in downtown Saint Paul and Woodbury/Lake Elmo. All-day transit service would stop at 13 stations and include connections to the growing regional transit system. The system could open for service by 2022 and will provide a focal point for new economic development opportunities

as the region grows. This would be Minnesota's first BRT line in an exclusive lane. The work is led by the Gateway Corridor Commission, which is comprised of local elected officials, business and community leaders. More information is available at [www.theGatewayCorridor.com](http://www.theGatewayCorridor.com).

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Photo cutline:

Broad support for the Gold Line BRT was demonstrated Oct. 7 and 8 by a group of project stakeholders in Washington, D.C. Pictured are: Tom Cook, Metro State University; Gary Kriesel, Washington County commissioner; JoAnn Ward, state representative; Paul Reinke, Oakdale council member; Amy Williams, Lakeland mayor; Adam Duininck, Metropolitan Council chair; Betty McCollum, congresswoman; Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County commissioner; Mary Giuliani Stephens, Woodbury mayor; Lisa Weik, Washington County commissioner; Will Schroeer, East Metro Strong; Susan Kent, state senator; Kyle Makarios, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters; Nora Slawik, Maplewood mayor; and Lisa Palmero, Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce/Globe University.

