



Gateway Corridor Commission News Release

Contacts:

Lyssa Leitner
Gateway Corridor Project Manager
Ph: 651-430-4314
Lyssa.Leitner@co.washington.mn.us

For immediate release: Dec. 21, 2015

Gold Line awarded \$6.75 million in grants

Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit is the beneficiary of two grants worth a combined \$6.75 million announced recently by the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB). The grants will help pay for environmental and engineering work and for project support work necessary to transition from the current phase to the next.

“We are extremely pleased that CTIB recognizes the merits of the Gateway Gold Line BRT project,” said Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik, chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission. “Their confidence in the viability of this important east metro transportation alternative is critical.”

One grant, for \$5.4 million, will help pay for the Project Development phase of the Federal Transit Administration process. During the two-year Project Development phase, a Final Environmental Impact Statement and 30 percent of the project’s engineering work will be completed. In addition, cities and counties along the corridor will have an opportunity to provide direct input on the design plans, and the FTA will issue a Record of Decision, which allows the project to complete engineering and qualify for federal funds for construction and equipment.

The second grant for \$1.35 million supports the work to enter into Project Development, station area planning and public engagement.

“The timing of these grant awards is perfect,” said Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega, vice chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission. “This means all but one of the funding sources needed for the next phase of work are in place. We will aggressively seek the last source of funds, \$3 million, from the state of Minnesota during the 2016 legislative session.”

CTIB is expected to fund 35 percent of the Gold Line BRT project’s \$485 million capital cost, with 45 percent from the federal government, ten percent from the state and five percent funded by each of Ramsey and Washington counties.

CTIB, made up of five Twin Cities metropolitan counties, advances transit projects by awarding annual capital and operating grants. The grants are funded by a quarter-cent sales tax and a \$20 motor vehicle sales tax. CTIB provided a total of \$77 million in grants for the metro region in this latest round of awards.

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 and 4th Street 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.

###