



## Gateway Corridor Commission News Release

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### **National Experts to Share Ideas for Optimizing the Development Response to the Gold Line BRT**

Business people and policy makers will learn how the proposed Gold Line bus rapid transit line can support development and help create prosperous communities at the Gateway Corridor Development Forum Tuesday, April 14, 12:30 p.m., at Globe University, 8147 Globe Drive, Woodbury.

The event is presented by the Gateway Corridor Commission and sponsored by East Metro Strong, Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce, and Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce. This is the second Development Forum presented by the Commission. The first, in 2013, focused on lessons from the BRT system in Cleveland.

Two national experts, Dena Belzer and Roger Millar, will present and lead a discussion Tuesday about local goals for the Gold Line.

Belzer is the president of Strategic Economics, a national leader in urban economics techniques that guide local public policy decisions and are based on sound market principles and analysis.

Millar, PE, AICP, is the director of Smart Growth America's Leadership Institute. Projects in which he played a leadership role, including the development of Portland, Oregon's Pearl District and the Roaring Fork Valley BRT system, are seen as national models. Millar is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The Gateway Corridor Commission expects the event to spark conversations about the role cities and the business community play in transit-oriented development, said Lisa Weik, Washington County commissioner and chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission.

“Ms. Belzer and Mr. Millar bring national experience in how bus rapid transit investment, public engagement, and private development can work together to create prosperous communities,” Commissioner Weik said. “This is a tremendous opportunity to network and learn.”

There is no cost to attend the Development Forum. A light lunch will be provided. Registration is required and space is limited. The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce is coordinating registrations online at [www.SaintPaulChamber.com](http://www.SaintPaulChamber.com). Look under events. Questions about the forum may be directed to Andy Gitzlaff, Gateway Corridor project manager, at 651-430-4330 or [andy.gitzlaff@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:andy.gitzlaff@co.washington.mn.us).

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

The Gateway 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. All-day transit service would stop at 12 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 Cutlines: Dena Belzer and Roger Millar are the keynote speakers at the Gateway Corridor Development Forum, April 14, 12:30 p.m., Globe University, Woodbury.