



Gateway Corridor Commission News Release

Contact:

Andrew J. Gitzlaff
Gateway Corridor Project Manager
Direct: 651-430-4338 | Fax: 651-430-4350
andy.gitzlaff@co.washington.mn.us

For immediate release: Aug. 14, 2015

Public Input Requested on Gateway Gold Line BRT Eastern Alignment, Station Locations *Hearing Set for Sept. 10*

The Gateway Corridor Commission, comprised of elected officials, and business and community leaders in the East Metro, made an initial recommendation for public comment Aug. 13 on a refinement of the Gold Line bus rapid transit alignment and station locations in Woodbury and Lake Elmo.

Public comment will be accepted on the recommendation through Sept. 24. A public hearing will be held Sept. 10, 5:30 p.m., at Woodbury City Hall. Information boards and staff will be available to answer questions. A short presentation will begin at 6 p.m. with testimony taken directly following.

Prior to the Commission's action, a Technical Advisory Committee, a Policy Advisory Committee and a Community Advisory Committee each reviewed the data on travel time, projected ridership, capital costs, and operating considerations for multiple alignment options. They unanimously recommended, and the Commission accepted, a route that serves both communities in an efficient manner.

The recommended route would follow Fourth Street North/Hudson Boulevard east through Oakdale and Lake Elmo with a station near Keats Avenue, and turn right on Lake Elmo Avenue. It would cross Interstate 94 south into Woodbury and turn left to continue east on Hudson Road with a station near Settler Ridge Parkway. The route would then turn left on Manning Avenue, concluding north of Interstate 94 at a proposed Metro Transit park and ride station.

Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik, chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission, has confidence in the recommendation.

Public Comment Welcome on Eastern Alignment and Station Locations

“After reviewing the engineering, environmental and operational data during several meetings with city officials, we believe we’ve selected the most cost effective and efficient option,” Commissioner Weik said. “We welcome comments from community members and encourage people to attend the Sept. 10 public hearing where questions can be answered.”

The cities of Woodbury and Lake Elmo have played an integral role in the development of the refined route, and will help finalize station locations. Mayor Mary Giuliani Stephens expects her community will support the recommended route.

“Woodbury residents and businesses want transportation options and the economic opportunities that come with fixed transit services,” Mayor Giuliani Stephens said. “We’re excited about the Gateway Gold Line and pleased to be included on the route.”

Lake Elmo Mayor Mike Pearson said, “The Lake Elmo City Council is very interested in focusing economic development along our southern border. Gold Line BRT could provide that focus while also providing a transportation alternative for our residents. Lake Elmo has worked very hard over the last 18 months and we appreciate that the Commission has included us in the route.”

Comments will be accepted at the Sept. 10 public hearing and by phone, email or mail through Sept. 24 at:

- 651-430-4300
- gatewaycorridor@co.washington.mn.us
- Project Manager - Andy Gitzlaff, Senior Planner
Washington County Public Works Department
11660 Myeron Road North
Stillwater, MN 55082

After the public comment period, final action will be taken in October by the PAC, the Gateway Corridor Commission, the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority, and the Cities of Lake Elmo and Woodbury to amend the [Locally Preferred Alternative](#) report to include the eastern alignment and station locations.

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 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

Public Comment Welcome on Eastern Alignment and Station Locations

officials, business and community leaders. More information is available at www.theGatewayCorridor.com.

###

Map cutline:

The Gateway Corridor Commission has an initial recommendation prepared for public comment on the Gold Line BRT route and general station locations in Lake Elmo and Woodbury. A public hearing is set for Sept. 10, 5:30 p.m. at Woodbury City Hall where details of the proposal will be discussed.

