



## Gateway Corridor Commission News Release

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Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik and Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega are available for interviews. Contact Lyssa or John.

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### **Federal grant to help prepare Gateway Corridor Gold Line bus rapid transit for development opportunities**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is recognizing the Gateway Corridor Gold Line bus rapid transit project with a \$1 million grant, part of a competitive new pilot program for transit-oriented development planning.

While economic development is always a priority in planning transit lines, project backers say the FTA grant, along with a \$300,000 match from the Counties Transit Improvement Board, allows local planners to more robustly consider potential opportunities, including improved access to employment, healthcare, education and housing for residents living along the Gateway Corridor.

The Gateway Corridor Gold Line is a proposed 12-mile bus rapid transit service. Buses would travel in their own lane to 13 stations between Union Depot in Saint Paul and Woodbury/Lake Elmo along Interstate 94 on Hudson Road. The transit line will better connect the communities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale, Landfall Village, Woodbury and Lake Elmo to each other, and the metro region.

The new funds will ensure cohesive planning throughout the corridor. Coordinated planning will increase ridership and enable station areas to reach their market-driven development

potential, according to Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik, chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission.

“The funds will help us support our existing communities, plan for growth, create economic development opportunities, and provide mobility options for businesses and residents,” Weik said.

Collaboration was key to winning the competitive grant, according to Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega, vice chair of the Gateway Corridor Commission.

“We’re grateful for tremendous support of the Gateway Corridor provided by Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, our state legislative delegation, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, the Metropolitan Council, East Metro Strong and the business community, metro counties, and all the city councils in the corridor,” Ortega said. “I believe the transit-oriented development successes that began with the Union Depot in downtown Saint Paul will multiply throughout the corridor, thanks to the shared vision of our partners.”

The plan will identify infrastructure investments and policy changes needed to achieve the vision of a vibrant and transit-supportive community, according to Adam Duinick, chair of the Metropolitan Council.

“Working in collaboration, we can meet the needs of each station while maintaining the continuity of the corridor as a whole and expanding the regional transit system,” Duinick said.

“The Counties Transit Improvement Board envisions a seamless network of transit options,” said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, chair of the Counties Transit Improvement Board. “The Gold Line is an important link in bringing the region together.”

“We’re thrilled the FTA is recognizing this project, and we’re proud to help fund these additional planning efforts,” McLaughlin said.

The Gold Line is proposed to begin service in 2022.

### **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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Map Cutline:

The proposed Gateway Corridor Gold Line bus rapid transit service received a boost with a federal grant for transit-oriented planning around the station sites.

