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How might the Gold Line impact crime rates and property values?



Hello, Gateway Newsletter Subscribers:

In community meetings, we hear great questions. We want to provide information about three questions we hear a lot. We encourage residents and businesses along the Gateway Corridor to continue sending questions and comments.

Thank you for staying engaged!

Frequently Asked Question

Have all the project decisions been made? How can I get involved, stay informed, and share my opinion?

No final decisions have been made for the project and there are many ways to get involved, stay informed, and share your opinions.

We're following the Federal Transit Administration's planning process which includes a very structured and robust ongoing conversation with stakeholders. For example, more than 100 comments were collected this spring during the Scoping Period. That input is influencing what's studied in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. At different points in the federal and local processes, there are public hearings and comment periods.

In the past three years we have held over 400 meetings with stakeholders. We always welcome questions and comments and are happy to meet with stakeholders at any time in the process. Below are several ways to stay in the loop and provide feedback.

1. Explore the website. www.TheGatewayCorridor.com has project documents, links to news stories, contact information for decision makers, and other project information.
2. Sign-up for e-newsletters. These are sent several times during the year and provide information about upcoming meetings, project details, and other key project stories. Sign up by clicking on "contact us" on www.TheGatewayCorridor.com
3. Follow the project on Facebook. www.Facebook.com/GatewayCorridor shares information about the project and other transit projects in the region and country, posts information about upcoming meetings, and shares images from events that have been held. Project staff also responds to questions that are posted on the page.
4. E-mail us. Staff monitors GatewayCorridor@co.washington.mn.us on a daily basis and will provide answers to any questions or document comments that have been sent.
5. Call us. Project staff can be reached at 651-430-4300 and are available to answer questions.
6. Read the local newspaper. Local and regional reporters have written many updates about the project.
7. Check your mailbox. The project, partner cities, and counties periodically put information about the project in newsletters mailed to each household.

Do you want to receive information in a different way that isn't listed above? Let us know by calling 651-430-4300 or email GatewayCorridor@co.washington.mn.us .

Public officials at every level of government are involved in this project. The key decision makers are on the Gateway Corridor Commission and their contact information can be found on the [website](#).



Frequently Asked Question

Will the Gold Line Affect Crime Rates?

The information included here is summarized from multiple research reports, which are linked below. In general, research shows...In general, research shows that criminals tend to commit crimes near where they live. It is not common for a criminal to travel far from a familiar area since they will have less information about potential escape routes or hiding locations. It is also not common for criminals to use transit during an escape.

Concentrations of people can attract thieves, however. With this in mind, Metro Transit designs its transit stations following best practices for safety. Gold Line stations would have wide platforms, with video monitoring, good lighting, and emergency call buttons. Metro Transit park and rides also use similar safety features.

Metro Transit has its own licensed police force committed to the safety of its customers and employees. Transit Police officers patrol buses, trains and station areas. Transit Police officers also inspect fares and would do so on the Gold Line as well.

Interested in reading more about this topic? Visit these links for examples of recent research on the relationship between transit and crime:

- [Metro Transit - Transit Police Website](#)
- [A Profile of Public Transportation Passenger Demographics and Travel Characteristics](#)
- [The Incidence and Fear of Transit Crime: A Review of the Literature](#)
- [Hot Spots of Bus Stop Crime: The Importance of Environmental Attributes](#)
- [Thefts of and From Cars in Parking Facilities](#)
- [The Geography of Transit Crime](#)

Frequently Asked Question

What is the impact of transit on property values?

Gateway Corridor project staff and commission members also have heard questions about the impact of new transit service on residential property values. A summary of recent research is provided below, along with links to more in-depth information. While it is impossible to predict what will happen to future property values, research shows that property values tend to increase the closer they are to transit stations.

The proposed Gold Line bus rapid transit project would provide frequent, all-day transit service, seven days a week. Research from the National Association of Realtors published in 2014 found that during the last recession, residential [property values performed 42 percent better on average](#) if they were located near public transportation with high-frequency service. Moving beyond the traditional arguments that good schools and neighborhood features impact housing prices, research has indicated that transportation options have played a key role in the ability of residential properties to maintain their value since the recession. More information about the research behind this concept can be found in [The New Real Estate Mantra: Location Near Public Transportation](#).

But what about property values not during a recession? [Research from the University of South Florida](#) published in 2012 found that homes located near a bus rapid transit (BRT) station sold for 7.6 percent more than similar homes that were not located near a bus rapid transit station.

Finally, the [University of Minnesota](#) found the average value of a single-family home in a Blue Line station area increased more than \$5,000, and the average value of a multi-family home in a station area increased more than \$15,500 between 2004 and 2007.

The public is invited to attend these upcoming meetings:

[Policy Advisory Committee](#)

March 10, 1:30 p.m., Woodbury City Hall

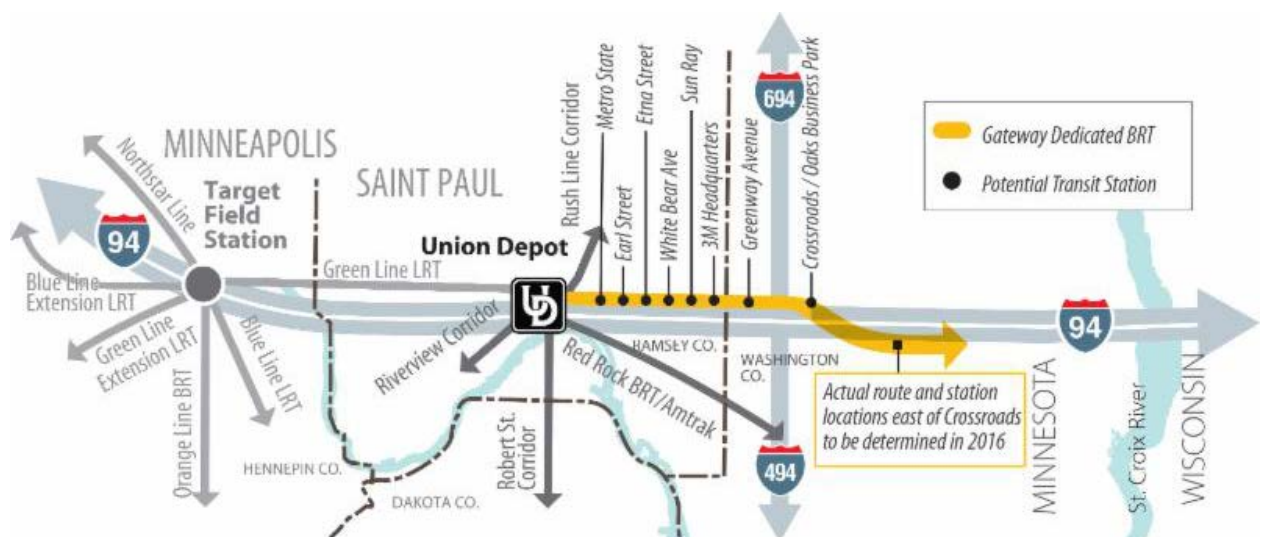
[Gateway Corridor Commission](#)

March 10, 3 p.m., Woodbury City Hall

There is a public comment period during the PAC meeting. The public is welcome to observe the commission meeting.

About the Gateway Corridor bus 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 Manning Avenue. All-day transit service would stop at multiple 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.



www.TheGatewayCorridor.com

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