

Answer three questions [online](#) to help shape the future of Gateway Gold Line BRT

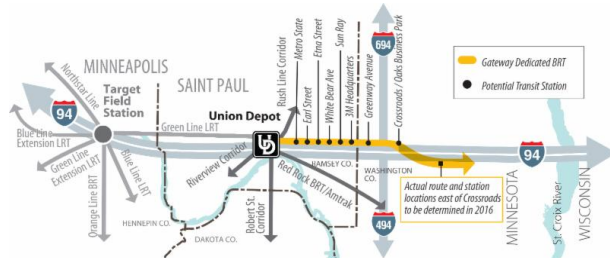


## Tell us how you'd like to use transit in the East Metro

*Gateway Gold Line BRT now collecting input from citizens, employers and employees*

The process is now underway to determine the eastern portion of the Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit - and we'd like your input.

Please click [here](#) to answer three short questions about how you would like to use transit in the East Metro. Your feedback will be considered as potential routes for the portion of Gold Line BRT through Oakdale and Woodbury are considered.



We want to hear from residents, employees, and others who travel in the corridor about where they would like to travel, what types of events and activities they travel to, the benefits and impacts the project team should be aware of, and other questions regarding Gold Line BRT.

This public input will help a working group comprised of technical staff consider the best routes for connecting St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury with a growing transit system in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region.

After input has been collected on all of the viable alternatives, there will be a public hearing regarding the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Final decisions on the route will be locally-driven and will incorporate feedback from residents, employees, businesses and the local units of government along the line.

[Visit the Contact Us page](#)

## Legislative session ends without transportation or bonding bills

Minnesota legislators concluded their work on May 23 without passing transportation or bonding bills. The Gateway Corridor Commission was seeking \$3 million in state funding this session, which would have completed the state's anticipated \$5 million commitment to the study and planning stage of the project. While we are disappointed that the legislature didn't pass this funding, the Gateway Corridor Commission will continue to work towards securing additional state support, either in a Special Session or during the 2017 session. Work on the project continues via previous state funds and money provided by the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) and Washington and Ramsey Counties.

## Survey finds Washington County residents concerned about lack of transit

Washington County conducts regular surveys of residents' opinions. In February 2016, National Research Center, Inc. conducted a survey of residents by mail that received 835 completed surveys and found that lack of access to public transit is the "most problematic issue" in Washington County, outranking all other issues including taxes and crime.

County residents responding to the survey assessed whether each in a set of potential problems was a "major problem," a "moderate problem," a "minor problem," or "not a problem" in Washington County. These issues were converted to a 100-point scale where zero equals "not a problem" and 100 equals "major problem."

For the second consecutive time (2013 and 2016 surveys), the most problematic issue was "ease of travel by public transit." This is also the only issue where Washington County ranked lower than other similar peer counties in a benchmarking comparison.

In addition, looking at the percentage of residents who said lack of transit is a "major problem," the survey found that 26% of residents believe that to be the case, the largest percentage for any issue. In fact, this concern was more than 10 percentage points higher than the 15% that registered for the next most concerning issue, taxes.

The full resident survey is available on the [Washington County website](#).



### Upcoming Meetings

- Policy Advisory Committee: June 23, 2:00 p.m. at Woodbury City Hall (public comment period at the beginning of the meeting)
- Gateway Corridor Commission: June 23, 3:30 p.m. at Woodbury City Hall
- Community Advisory Committee: July 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Location to be determined and will be posted on the website in advance of the meeting

The public is welcome and invited to attend all three of these meetings.

## for transit in Gateway Corridor

A new research report from the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota looked at transit corridors around the Twin Cities, including the Gateway Gold Line BRT. It found a clear need for better transit in our area, specifically in order to connect people with jobs.

Three major ideas emerged from the Gold Line portion of the study:

- "Transit need" - There is currently a low level of transit service in the area;
- "First mile-last mile" issues - Ensuring that there are ways to get people from housing to employment and having walkable connections; and
- "Spatial mismatch" - Understanding the link between affordable housing and entry-level employment

In addition, there were some key themes that emerged:

- Workforce professionals see major benefit of transit to address local labor shortages
- The manufacturing sector is a major source of living wage jobs in the area
- Park-and-ride lots are important for those who cannot afford to maintain vehicles for long round trip commutes

A quote from a participant in the study highlights that last concept: "If I know my car is old and if I drive it 50 miles per day - you know that's going to put a lot of miles weekly on my car versus driving two miles to a park-and-ride. That's going to save me car repairs first of all, it's going to save me on gas. I mean, there's a whole host of things that I can save ... parking costs, too ... So yeah, I think it would make a heck of a difference if I knew I could drive five miles and park, and I could go to Minneapolis if that's where I want to work."

The full study can be found online [here](#).

### About Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit

Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit will be Minnesota's first BRT line in a dedicated busway. This cost-effective transportation solution is critical to the future development of our region. All-day transit service would stop at multiple stations and include connections to the growing regional transit system. 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). Updates and information can also be found on Facebook at [facebook.com/gatewaycorridor](https://facebook.com/gatewaycorridor) and on Twitter at [@GoldLineBRT](https://twitter.com/GoldLineBRT).



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