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New Route Proposed for Gold Line in East Metro

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A new route has been proposed for a Bus Rapid Transit line that would connect the east metro region.

Once finalized, the Gateway Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit would run from Union Depot in St. Paul to Woodbury. The planned service will be the first line to have a dedicated busway so it's not slowed down by other traffic. Buses will run every 10 minutes during rush hour and then at other regular intervals throughout the rest of the day.

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The Gateway Corridor Commission and Policy Advisory Committee discussed the new route during a meeting Thursday at Woodbury City Hall.

The new route was created after the Lake Elmo City Council voted 3-2 in January to not be part of the project.

(<http://kstp.com/news/stories/s4010300.shtml>)



Proposed Gold Line route.

The St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce said Lake Elmo officials had concerns about how the transportation options would affect growth and development in the city. The vote took the city out of further planning for the line.

Because other cities continued to be supportive of the project, the Gateway Corridor Commission looked at a new plan for the eastern end of the line.

According to the commission, new routes being considered would enter Oakdale and turn south on Hudson Boulevard or Helmo Avenue, crossing over Interstate 94 on a new bridge that would include both dedicated lanes for BRT and new general traffic lanes and a trail, and continue south along Bielenberg Drive, where buses already run, in Woodbury to an existing express bus park-and-ride at the Woodbury Theater, near the Target Greatland store in Woodbury Village.

Commission members say the route was created based on current and future development opportunities. They say it will give access to jobs, shopping, dining, hotels, health care services and more.

Now, the commission will gather community input through a public hearing, neighborhood events and online opportunities to comment.

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