What Is BRTOD?

METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will be Minnesota’s first BRT line in a 9-mile dedicated lane, running mostly adjacent to I-94 in the East Metro. Bus Rapid Transit-Oriented Development (BRTOD) is a type of development approximately 1/2 mile around stations that includes a mix of housing, office, retail, or other amenities within a walkable and bike-friendly neighborhood. BRTOD planning will help improve each community’s access to jobs, housing, daily shopping needs, and recreation to enhance the quality of life for people of all ages and incomes.

METRO Gold Line BRT stations are located in a wide range of community types and real estate markets. Cities along the route each have their own vision for the area surrounding the station(s). A larger planning effort is needed to tie these community visions together to form a cohesive plan for the entire corridor.

BRTOD Plans will:

- Help communities define their own vision for a vibrant, transit-supportive station area
- Make it easier for people to walk, bike, or drive to BRT stations
- Enable communities to maximize economic development around BRT stations
- Identify infrastructure investments and policy changes to support each city’s desired outcomes

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

- Special roadways or lanes dedicated exclusively for buses
- Riders pay before they board the bus
- Platforms with near-level boarding so it is easier to get on and off
- Real-time departure signs, maps, and signage at stations
- Enhanced security at stations and on buses
- Unique, recognizable buses with wider aisles and extra doors, and ramps to accommodate wheelchairs and other mobility devices
Partner Communities

Each of the 10 Gold Line station areas has unique stakeholders, including elected and appointed officials, residents, nearby businesses, workers, developers, regulatory agencies, and others. County and city project partners are committed to working directly with identified stakeholders throughout the process, to ensure feedback is understood, considered, and directly reflected in resulting plans. Using stakeholder input with technical and market analyses, the project team will create plans for each station area that will be reviewed, revised, and considered for adoption by corridor counties and cities. The BRTOD plans will provide recommendations for each city’s comprehensive plan that supports TOD. In St. Paul, where significant station area planning has already taken place, the previously adopted plans will inform the planning effort.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

In the Twin Cities, 2/3 of driving trips are to shopping, work, or business destinations. TOD planning concentrates housing, shopping, and employment within 1/2 mile around transit stations with streets designed to make walking and biking a safe and easy choice for everyone, while still accommodating drivers. TOD reduces or shortens driving trips, which can lead to savings that increase local spending, and improves health through more opportunities to walk or bike for daily needs.

BRTOD Planning Spring 2017 through 2018

Visit the project website for more details.

Get Involved, Learn More

Project partners are committed to working directly with stakeholders throughout the BRTOD Planning process. Watch for communications and check the website or email to learn more about the project and contribute your ideas.

- Website: www.TheGatewayCorridor.com/station-area-planning/
- Email: GatewayCorridor@co.washington.mn.us; Phone: 651-430-4300
- facebook.com/GatewayCorridor; twitter.com/GoldLineBRT