Identifying benefits and impacts to the environment, community and businesses is an important part of the proposed METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Gold Line project staff are completing an environmental assessment to evaluate these impacts.

**What is an environmental assessment?**

An environmental assessment is an analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act that evaluates impacts and benefits from proposed projects.

The purpose of the analysis is to:

- Ensure the proposed project is compliant with state and federal environmental laws
- Evaluate potential environmental, social, economic and transportation benefits and impacts from the project’s construction and operations, when added to other past, present and planned projects
- Identify solutions to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts
- Inform federal and state agencies on impacts from the proposed project as part of their decision-making process

During the development of the environmental assessment analysis, staff will evaluate benefits and impacts related to:

- **Air quality**
- **Contaminated sites**
- **Parks**
- **Transportation**
- **Businesses**
- **Historic properties**
- **Protected + endangered species**
- **Visual impacts**
- **Community character + facilities**
- **Land use**
- **Public + private properties**
- **Water**
- **Construction**
- **Noise**
- **Safety**
- **Wildlife habitat**
How does the environmental assessment fit into the decision-making process?

**STEP 1**
Agencies and public review and comment on environmental assessment

**STEP 2**
Federal Transit Administration + Metropolitan Council review comments submitted

**STEP 3**
Agencies issue an environmental decision document that will:
- Respond to substantive comments
- Identify ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts
- Determine the project does not have significant impacts OR requires additional analysis

**STEP 4: OPTION 1**
Finding of No Significant Impact
- No additional analysis is required and project may continue design and engineering and prepare for construction

**STEP 4: OPTION 2**
Complete additional analysis to obtain environmental approval:
- Complete an environmental impact statement for potentially significant impacts OR
- Complete additional analysis under the environmental assessment
- Opportunity for agency and public review and comment

**STEP 5**
Final design and engineering

**STEP 6**
Construction

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**Review the environmental assessment**

**Electronically**
You can read the environmental assessment on the project website:
- [metrotransit.org/gold-line-environmental](http://metrotransit.org/gold-line-environmental)

**Hard Copy**
If you would like to read a hard copy of the environmental assessment, visit these locations:
- George Latimer Central Library, downtown Saint Paul
- Dayton’s Bluff Library, Saint Paul
- Sun Ray Library, Saint Paul
- Maplewood Library, Maplewood
- Landfall City Hall, Landfall
- Oakdale Library, Oakdale
- R.H. Stafford Library, Woodbury
- Gold Line Project Office, 121 7th Place East, Suite 102, Saint Paul

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**What happens to public comments?**

All comments received will be reviewed by the Federal Transit Administration and Metropolitan Council, the lead federal and local agencies for the Gold Line BRT project, and be available for the public record. Substantive comments will be responded to in the environmental decision document issued after the comment period.
Provide comments on the environmental assessment
Gold Line project staff are seeking comments on the environmental assessment from the public and stakeholders. Public comments on the environmental assessment will be collected from October 7 to November 6, 2019. You can provide your comments through a variety of ways:

Attend a METRO Gold Line environmental assessment event:

OPEN HOUSES

Tuesday, October 22
5–7 p.m.
East Side Learning Hub at Harding High School
1526 6th Street East, Saint Paul
Accessible by route 63.
Parking lot available.
Enter from 6th Street East.

Wednesday, October 23
5–7 p.m.
Landfall Community Center
2 Fourth Avenue, Landfall
Parking lot and street-parking available.

OFFICE HOURS at the Gold Line Project Office

Monday, October 28
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Gold Line Project Office: 121 7th Place East, Suite 102, Saint Paul
Accessible by routes 21, 53, 54, 61, 63, 64, 68, 70, 71, 74 & 94.
Metered and ramp parking available.

At these events you can:
- Learn more about the potential environmental, social, economic and transportation benefits and impacts from the project’s construction and operations
- Provide written or verbal comments on the environmental assessment
- Speak with project staff and ask questions
- Find out how to stay engaged in the project

No formal presentation is planned. Event locations are accessible. Attendees are welcome to arrive and leave anytime.

Provide written comments:
You can submit written comments through:

EMAIL
goldline@metrotransit.org

ONLINE
metrotransit.org/gold-line-environmental

U.S. MAIL
Gold Line Project Office
c/o Chelsa Johnson
121 7th Place East
Suite 102
Saint Paul, MN 55101

STAY INFORMED

Sign up for email updates: metrotransit.org/gold-line
Email us: goldline@metrotransit.org
Call us: 651-602-1955

Follow us:
@GoldLineBRT
@MetroTransitMN

If you need this information in an alternative format or language, contact:
- Si necesita esta información en un formato o idioma alternativo, póngase en contacto con:
-YGoj koj xav tau cov lus no txhais uas lus hmoob lossis xav tau ib tus neeg pab txhais cov lus no rau koj, tiv tauj:
- Haddii aad dooneyso in aad macluumaadkan ku hesho siyaabo kale ama afaf kale, la xiriir:
- ぷつろに必要な文書はメールアドレスを持つ人々が利用できるインターネットで入手できる場合があります。どうぞご了承ください

Liz Jones, Community Outreach Coordinator | 651-602-1977 • elizabeth.jones@metrotransit.org
About the METRO
Gold Line project

Gold Line will be Minnesota’s first BRT line that operates primarily within bus-only lanes. The planned 10-mile BRT line will connect Saint Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale and Woodbury with bus-only lanes generally north of and near Interstate 94.

Gold Line will offer new opportunities for residents, employees and business owners by strengthening connections to the east metro with up to 21 full-amenity stations and frequent all-day service, seven days a week. As part of the regional METRO network, Gold Line will connect people across the region to job centers, housing options, transit stations and key destinations in the I-94 corridor.

Gold Line is expected to begin service in 2024.
Please provide your comments on the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Environmental Assessment. Additional pages may be submitted to complete written comments.

Public comments will be collected from October 7 to November 6, 2019. Comments submitted on the environmental assessment will be available for the public record; however, addresses and non-public information will be removed.

You can submit written comments through:
- Mail using the address on the reverse side
- Email to: goldline@metrotransit.org
- An online comment form: metrotransit.org/gold-line-environmental

Name: ___________________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________________________

Primary Address: ________________________________________________

Secondary Address: _____________________________________________

Provide an email address to be added to the Gold Line email list and to receive follow-up information on the environmental decision document.

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