

## METRO Gold Line Environmental Assessment

Identifying benefits and impacts to the environment, community and businesses is an important part of the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. To evaluate these impacts for the proposed Gold Line BRT project, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed.

### What is an Environmental Assessment?

An EA is a concise report required by the federal government under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that evaluates impacts and benefits from proposed projects. The purpose of an EA is to:

- Ensure the proposed project is compliant with state and federal laws
- Evaluate potential environmental, social, economic and transportation benefits and impacts from the project's construction and operations
- 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 development of the EA for the proposed Gold Line project, staff will evaluate benefits and impacts related to:

 Aesthetic/ visual impacts	 Contaminated sites	 Parks	 Soil
 Air quality	 Historic properties	 Properties	 Transportation
 Businesses	 Land use	 Protected and endangered species	 Water
 Community character	 Noise	 Safety	 Wildlife habitat

### How can you participate in the Environmental Assessment?

Project staff will compile the results into the EA report for review by federal, state and local agencies. When the report is published there will be a public comment period to allow the community opportunities to view the EA report and submit comments and questions:

- The EA report will be available on the project website.
- A hard copy of the EA report will be available for viewing at public locations (for example, libraries, city halls, government centers) throughout the project corridor.
- A public meeting will be held for interested individuals to learn about the EA, talk with staff and submit written comments and public testimony.
- Comments on the EA will also be accepted throughout the public comment period by mail and email.



Wetland field walk

All comments received will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Metropolitan Council, the lead federal and local agencies for the METRO Gold Line project.



## Environmental soil samples

## How does the Environmental Assessment fit into the decision making process?

After reviewing the comments received on the EA, the FTA will issue an environmental decision document that will respond to all substantive comments and identify measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts. This document will either conclude that no additional analysis is required (called a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)) or that additional analysis is required through preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Metropolitan Council will issue a similar document under state environmental regulations.

If a FONSI is issued by the FTA, the Gold Line project may continue activities such as completing design and engineering work and preparing for construction. If an EIS is required, additional analysis will be needed on significant impacts to environmental, social and economic resources. Measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate these impacts must also be identified through an EIS, and an opportunity for agency and public review and comment must be provided.

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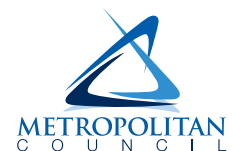
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- Haddii aad dooneyso in aad macluumaadkan ku hesho siyaabo kale ama afaf kale, la xiriir:
- နမူနာအတိုင်းနာမည်တော်ကိုဖော်ပြသောအခန်းကဏ္ဍအောက်တွင်ဆက်သွယ်ပါ။

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