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 a report required by the federal government under the National Environmental Policy Act that evaluates impacts and benefits from proposed projects. The purpose of the report 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 development of the environmental assessment report, staff will evaluate benefits and impacts related to:

- Air quality
- Contaminated sites
- Parks
- Transportation
- Businesses
- Historic properties
- Protected and endangered species
- Visual impacts
- Community character + facilities
- Land use
- Public + private properties
- Water
- Construction
- Noise
- Safety
- Wildlife habitat

How can you participate in the environmental assessment?
Project staff will compile the results of the environmental assessment into a report for review by federal, state, and local agencies. When it’s published the community will be asked to review the report and provide comments during the public comment period. Comments can be submitted throughout the comment period by mail, email, and at the environmental assessment public meetings. The report will be available to view in several locations:
- Project website
- Project office and libraries and city halls throughout the corridor
- Public meetings held during the comment period

What happens to public comments?
All comments received will be reviewed by the Federal Transit Administration and the Metropolitan Council, the lead federal and local agencies for the Gold Line BRT project. Substantive comments will be responded to in the environmental decision document issued after the comment period.
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STAY INFORMED

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

If you need this information in an alternative format or language, contact:
- Liz Jones, Community Outreach Coordinator | 651-602-1977 • elizabeth.jones@metrotransit.org

About the METRO Gold Line BRT 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 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

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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