

METRO Gold Line Environmental Assessment

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.

