

July 18, 2022

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Gold Line project director changes

After five years of leading the Gold Line project team, Chris Beckwith is leaving the project director position to take on the role of Blue Line Extension project director. We want to recognize and thank Chris for all her work and leadership to move the Gold Line project through final environmental review and project design and prepare for construction.

We also want to give a warm welcome to Alicia Vap who will serve as the interim Gold Line project director. Alicia has worked at Metro Transit for 14 years and most recently as a representative from Metro Transit's Engineering and Facilities office on transit projects including Gold Line. Alicia also has a wealth of experience as a project manager from working on the Orange Line BRT, Blue Line Extension, and Green Line projects.

**Construction updates****Public utility work underway**

In April, public utility crews began working in the project area to update overhead and underground utilities ahead of Gold Line construction starting this fall. Preparations include:

- Replacing utility cabinets, poles, and foundations
- Replacing and relocating underground power and communication cables

Drivers in the area may encounter temporary road, lane and shoulder closures on I-94, I-494, and I-694. Utility crews will continue work through the summer to prepare the project corridor for construction.

For more information, visit the project website: metrotransit.org/gold-line-project. If you have questions or concerns, call our construction hotline: **651-602-1919**.

**Private utilities begin work**

Xcel Energy recently began its utility relocations in downtown St. Paul ahead of Gold Line construction. Through mid-July, Xcel Energy crews are relocating gas pipes on 5th Street, between Robert and Jackson streets. Crews will move to 6th Street once this work is completed. People walking, biking, rolling, and driving in the area may encounter sidewalk closures, on-street parking restrictions, and lane closures. For more information, questions or concerns with Xcel Energy's work, email GoldLine@XcelEnergyNGProjects.com, call 763-273-5546 or visit its project website: <https://xcelenergyngprojects.com/goldline>.

Meet and greet for women and minority-owned construction contractors

In April, the Gold Line project hosted a meet and greet to introduce prime construction contractors that may bid on the Gold Line construction work to women and minority-owned construction contractors/small businesses. Met Council-led projects host these events prior to construction project bidding in support of their Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) policy/plan that directs the Met Council to use businesses owned and controlled by women, minorities, and disadvantaged individuals in the procurement of goods and services and the award of contracts. For more information on Met Council's DBE plan, visit the Council's Office of Equal Opportunity website: metrocouncil.org/About-Us/What-We-Do/Office-of-Equal-Opportunity.aspx.



Thank you to the Corridor Management Committee

Over the last four years, the Gold Line Corridor Management Committee has advised the Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County, and Washington County throughout project development and design. As we wrap up project design and prepare to start construction, we want to take a moment to thank all current and past committee members for regularly meeting, providing invaluable expertise and input, and making important decisions to keep the project moving forward. View a list of current committee members at:

<https://www.metrotransit.org/gold-line-committees>.



In the news

The Finance & Commerce news outlet recently reported on a planned development in Oakdale that will build new apartments and retail spaces near the upcoming Gold Line route. Learn more about the planned development at: finance-commerce.com/2022/06/transit-oriented-project-to-bring-328-new-apartments-to-oakdale/.

Stay up to date on Gold Line project activities

Connect with Gold Line staff

If you are interested in connecting about the Gold Line project, please reach out to Karina Kelton, Community Outreach Associate, at 651-602-1976 or karina.kelton@metrotransit.org.

Please leave a voicemail message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Follow us on social media

Get the latest METRO Gold Line BRT updates by following us on Twitter [@GoldLineBRT](#) and Facebook [@MetroTransitMN](#).

Sign up for project updates to get the latest information

If you have an email address, sign up to receive the Gold Line newsletter via email: metrotransit.org/gold-line.