



## Initial Screening of Transit Technologies

The transit technologies that are recommended by the [Policy Advisory Committee](#) (PAC) for further study in the AA include:

**Commuter Rail** – Commuter rail is typically diesel rail service operating on rail lines shared with freight railroad operations. It typically runs only during morning and afternoon peak commuter periods with stations spaced 2-5 miles or more apart. The Northstar Commuter Rail line is an example of commuter rail. Commuter rail is not the same as high-speed or passenger rail (i.e. Amtrak). High-speed and passenger rail is a type of passenger rail service that operates on existing railroad freight lines and provides connections between regional destinations (i.e. Twin Cities to Chicago).



**Light Rail Transit (LRT)** – Light rail transit (LRT) is a railway powered by an overhead electric line. Passenger rail cars operate singly or in 2-3 car trains in shared or exclusive right-of-way. Stations typically have high platform level boarding but may use low platforms and are spaced ½ - 2 miles or more apart. The Hiawatha light rail line is the first LRT line constructed in the Twin Cities. The Central light rail line is currently being constructed along University Avenue between downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis (just north of I-94).



**Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** – Bus rapid transit (BRT) is an enhanced bus system that operates at faster speeds than local or express buses and provides greater service reliability, convenience, services and facilities than traditional bus service. Highway BRT is located on highways where traffic is intended to operate at 45 mph or greater and operates in designated bus lanes (shoulder or mainline) or in managed lanes (shared with paying vehicles). Examples are Cedar Avenue (bus shoulder lane) and I-35W South (managed lane or “priced dynamic shoulder lane”). BRT typically includes both peak period express and all-day station-to-station service.



Other technologies that were reviewed and recommended by the PAC ([LINK TO PAC](#)) for initial screen include:

- Heavy rail (subways and third rail systems)
- Automated guideway transit (monorail and personal rapid transit)
- Inter-city passenger rail (Amtrak)
- High speed rail
- Streetcar

A final recommendation on transit technologies to be studied further will be made following a series of open houses.

*As of February 11, 2011*