



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2011

Media Contacts:

Darin Broton

Tunheim

952-851-7286 (office)

651-983-9432 (cell)

Public Participation Drives Station Locations and Route Changes in the Gateway Corridor

Updated transit route options with potential transit station stops will be displayed at open houses in late July

STILLWATER, MINN. – The Gateway Corridor Commission today released revised transit route options, along with possible station locations for the Gateway Corridor. The proposed transit options outline a plan to better connect the nearly 300,000 people living along the Gateway Corridor between the Twin Cities metro area and western Wisconsin.

The eight transit options are part of an 18-month Alternatives Analysis Study (AA), which will determine the best mode and route for new transit on or near Interstate 94, from downtown Minneapolis through Saint Paul and east to Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The eight transit options include express bus, light rail transit (LRT), bus-rapid transit (BRT) and commuter rail service.

After gathering public feedback at open houses and listening sessions earlier this year, the study team added an eighth transit option — a BRT managed lane along I-94 — and modified several routes for the BRT and LRT options. Possible transit station locations were also identified, but the study team will continue to work with community and business leaders to determine specific station locations.

Park & Ride stations identified for express bus service from St. Paul-Minneapolis to Eau Claire

The study has identified several Park & Ride stations for the express bus service option from St. Paul-Minneapolis to Eau Claire. The express bus option would utilize the existing transit hub at St. Paul's Sun Ray Shopping Center and Park & Ride at Carmichael Road in Hudson. New Park & Rides would be developed near Woodbury Drive and Hudson Road in Woodbury and Manning Avenue in either Lake Elmo or Woodbury, as well as three new sites in Baldwin, Menomonie and Eau Claire. Express buses would use highway shoulders when the speed of general traffic is 35 mph or less.

[View Map](#)

BRT and LRT options provide additional transit stations in St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale and Woodbury

Based on feedback from local community and business leaders, station locations were

identified for two possible alignments for LRT or BRT. Both alignments would extend from the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul to a Park & Ride on Carmichael Road in Hudson.

The first option, identified as Alternatives 4 & 6, would run LRT or BRT from Union Depot to East Seventh Street before turning south on White Bear Avenue, then following I-94. This option would include transit stations at Metro State University, Beacon Bluff Business Center at Arcade Street, Johnson Parkway & E. Seventh St., White Bear Avenue & E. Seventh St., White Bear Avenue & Third Street and White Bear Avenue & I-94.

Once back to I-94, the route would follow the interstate with transit stations at 3M and Greenway Avenue in Landfall and Park & Rides at Sun Ray Shopping Center, Carlson Business Park in Oakdale, Radio Drive & Hudson Road in Woodbury, Woodbury Drive & Hudson Road in Woodbury, and Manning Avenue in Lake Elmo or Woodbury, then on to Hudson. [View Map](#)

The second option, identified as Alternatives 3 & 5, would run LRT or BRT from Union Depot and follow I-94 into Hudson. This option would have a transit station at Johnson Parkway & I-94 as well as the same transit stations and Park & Rides as option one from Sun Ray Shopping Center to Carmichael Road in Hudson. [View Map](#)

A third option, which would run LRT or BRT down St. Paul's Third Street, was recently eliminated by the study's Policy Advisory Committee. The route was eliminated after receiving feedback from St. Paul's neighborhoods and business community that a route along the more commercial Seventh Street was preferable.

Commuter rail option includes six Park & Ride stations

The study has also identified several Park & Ride locations for the commuter rail option, which would start in Minneapolis, connect to the Union Depot in St. Paul and then continue to Eau Claire. The Park & Ride locations include Ideal Avenue in Oakdale, Manning Avenue in Lake Elmo, County Road U in Hudson, Highway 63 and 6th Avenue in Baldwin, Wilson Street in Menomonie and Putnam Street in downtown Eau Claire. [View Map](#)

Public open houses scheduled for late July

Four public open houses have been scheduled to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the revised transit options. The open houses are scheduled for **July 19 at the St. Croix County Government Center in Hudson, July 21 at the Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, July 26 at the Woodbury City Hall and July 28 at the Metro State-Dayton's Bluff Library. All the open houses are scheduled from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** The open houses will have a short presentation at 5:30 p.m. and staff will be available to answer questions.

There will be a 14-day comment period for written comments on the alternative routes and proposed station locations. Comments should be sent to the Gateway Corridor Project Team by August 11, Washington County Regional Railroad Authority, 11660 Myron Road North, Stillwater, MN 55082 or gatewaycorridor@co.washington.mn.us.

Once station locations are finalized in August, the study will begin analyzing cost, ridership estimates and potential environmental impacts, which will be completed in the

fall 2011. A final report identifying a preferred route and mode of transit is scheduled to be completed in spring 2012.

About The Gateway Corridor Commission

In 2009, the Gateway Corridor Commission was created to study and plan alternative transportation options for the area along Interstate 94. The Commission is comprised of local elected officials and community leaders in the Gateway Corridor who are continuously working to bring new transit options to residents, businesses and travelers in the area. To learn more, please visit www.thegatewaycorridor.com.

About the Alternatives Analysis

The purpose of the AA is to identify a cost-effective, economically viable transit option for the Gateway Corridor that improves mobility and safety, supports economic development, protects the natural environment in the corridor, and preserves and protects individual community quality of life. Alternatives that are being studied include Commuter Rail, Light Rail Transit, Bus Rapid Transit, and Express Bus. The Gateway Corridor is a corridor, in the general vicinity of I-94, which extends from downtown Minneapolis through Saint Paul and easterly to Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The Gateway Corridor Alternatives Analysis is funded through a combination of federal funds, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, Washington and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authorities, and the Metropolitan Council. To learn more, please visit www.thegatewaycorridor.com.

###