

Transportation Committee Staff Report

Committee date: August 25, 2014

Project Name	Gateway Corridor Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
Geographic Scope	From Union Depot in Downtown Saint Paul to Manning Avenue on the east end of Woodbury/Lake Elmo, generally along I-94.
Ward(s)	2, 7
District Council(s)	1, 4, 17
Project Description	The City of Saint Paul's City Council is to indicate support (or otherwise) for an LPA for the Gateway Corridor
Project Contact	Lyssa Leitner, Washington County Regional Rail Authority Bill Dermody, PED, City of Saint Paul
Contact email/phone	Lyssa.Leitner@co.washington.mn.us / 651-430-4314 Bill.Dermody@ci.stpaul.mn.us / 651-266-6617
Lead Agency/Department	Washington County Regional Rail Authority
Purpose of Project/Plan	The LPA is a general description of the transit mode and corridor alignment preferred by local governments used for long-range planning and federal funding applications. In the Draft EIS the LPA is reviewed along with other alternatives for their impacts on the natural, physical, and socio-economic environments. Because the LPA definition is fairly general, limited changes to the LPA design may be considered during the Draft EIS and preliminary engineering without affecting the LPA selection.
Planning References	Metropolitan Council 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), Metropolitan Council 2040 TPP draft, Comprehensive Plan – Transportation Chapter
Project stage	Draft EIS
General Timeline	LPA Resolution of Support to Planning Commission on Sep. 5 and to City Council on either Sep. 17 or 24. Draft EIS complete in 2015.
District Council position (if applicable)	The District Councils have been engaged and are generally supportive of the proposed alignment along I-94. District 1 has provided a letter of support for the LPA (see attached).
Level of Committee Involvement	Development of Project: Recommend action on Resolution of Support for the Gateway LPA to the Planning Commission
Previous Committee action	Received project briefing from Washington Co RRA in September 2013 and from PED staff in March 2014
Level of Public Involvement	Involve: The public comment will influence the final LPA decision.
Public Hearing	Yes. August 7, 2014
Public Hearing Location	Conway Recreation Center (held by the Gateway Corridor Commission)
Primary Funding Source(s)	CTIB, Washington and Ramsey Counties
Cost	

PED Staff to fill in

Staff recommendation	Approval of Resolution of Support for the LPA (draft resolution to be
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	provided 8/25 at the meeting)
Action item requested of the Committee	Recommend action on Resolution of Support for the Gateway LPA to the Planning Commission
Committee recommendation	<i>To be filled in at the meeting</i>
Committee vote	<i>To be filled in at the meeting</i>

Level of Committee Involvement

INFORM: Informational briefings	<i>Projects that are in implementation phase; projects from other jurisdictions; policy documents from other agencies/jurisdictions</i>
ADVISE AND CONSENT: Informational briefings with policy discussion, general directives to staff for follow-through	<i>Project and program reviews primarily initiated by staff; or involvement with program development by others</i>
INVOLVE: Discussions to develop directions for projects & programs	<i>Policy involvement from inception through design, inc. policy development; environmental documentation,</i>
DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT/PROGRAM: Discussion to form process; screening of ideas; development of recommendations; and managing outreach to the community	<i>Committee has primary responsibility for concept development, and/or overseeing participation process, and/or making specific recommendations to Planning Commission, Mayor and/or City Council</i>