



**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**  
**Public Meeting and Comment Summary**  
**May 2014**

## Purpose of meetings

In May 2014, four public hearing/open house meetings were held along the Bottineau Transitway corridor. The open house provided opportunities to review findings from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) document and ask questions of project staff. The public hearing provided an opportunity to offer verbal testimony regarding the Bottineau Transitway Draft EIS.

**Table 1. Bottineau Transitway public hearing/open house meetings**

Date	Location	Open house time	Public hearing time
Wednesday, May 7	Golden Valley City Hall	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 8	University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 13	Brooklyn Park City Hall	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 14	Crystal Community Center	4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.

## Notifications

Hennepin County and project partners provided notice of the open house/public hearing meetings and Draft EIS availability in several ways:

- Project website ([www.bottineautransitway.org](http://www.bottineautransitway.org)) – Draft EIS document [posted to project website](#) April 1; hard copy of full document distributed to libraries and city halls by April 9
- Email to the project’s county contact list (approximately 1,000 contacts) – April 3 and reminder on May 2
- Press release from Hennepin County Public Affairs office – April 3
- [Federal Register](#) – published April 11
- [EQB Monitor](#) – published April 14
- Notification via a [Guide to Commenting](#) which accompanied copies of the Draft EIS available at libraries and city halls along the Bottineau Corridor
- [Hennepin County website](#)
- Corridor cities provided notice via website posting, email or letter

Members of the public were notified by the above methods of the official comment period (April 11 through May 29) and the ways in which comments on the Draft EIS could be submitted, including:

1. Speak in person at one of the public hearings. Each person was allotted three minutes to speak.
2. Fill out a comment form, which was available at the public hearings/open houses
3. Download, print and mail the [comment form](#)
4. Send written comments by email to [bottineau@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:bottineau@co.hennepin.mn.us)
5. Send written comments by mail to:  
Hennepin County  
Housing, Community Works & Transit  
Attn: Bottineau Transitway  
701 Fourth Avenue S, Suite 400  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

All commenters were asked to include a return mailing address and/or email address with their comments so that Hennepin County could communicate about comments received and next steps.

In addition, copies of the Draft EIS document or executive summary were distributed as follows:

- Libraries and city halls along the corridor were provided with hard copies and an electronic copy of the Draft EIS document for public review

Hennepin County  
Metropolitan Council  
Maple Grove Library  
Osseo Library  
Brooklyn Park Library  
Brookdale Library  
Rockford Road Library  
Golden Valley Library  
North Regional Library

Sumner Library  
Hennepin County Public Library  
Minneapolis City Hall  
Golden Valley City Hall  
Robbinsdale City Hall  
Crystal City Hall  
Brooklyn Park City Hall  
Maple Grove Government Center

- An email with PDF attachment of executive summary (approximately 200) or hard copy (approximately 40) of executive summary was mailed to citizens and community organizations who commented on the [Bottineau Transitway Scoping booklet](#) in early 2012
- All participating and cooperating agencies were provided with an electronic copy of the Draft EIS document

## Meeting format/provisions

Each meeting had a similar format of an open house followed by a public hearing. Each hearing location had a sign in table hosted by Hennepin County and Metropolitan Council staff. The open house and public hearing were held in adjacent or adjoining rooms, depending on the facilities available at each venue. Hennepin County, Metropolitan Council, and staff from various cities facilitated each meeting and public hearing.


## Open house

The open house started one hour prior to the official start of each public hearing. Hennepin County staff remained in the open house room throughout the public hearing to answer questions. Tables with the Draft EIS document and several copies of the executive summary and comment forms were provided in each open house room. In addition, the [flyover simulation video](#) was featured, playing in a continuous loop. The open house gave people the opportunity to review the draft EIS document, fill out comment forms, ask questions of project staff, view exhibit boards, and access information on other initiatives in the Bottineau corridor.


Six exhibit boards were displayed in each open house room:

### Goals and Objectives

- Enhance regional access to activity centers
- Enhance the effectiveness of transit service within the corridor
- Provide a cost-effective and financially feasible transit system
- Promote sustainable development patterns
- Support healthy communities and sound environmental practices



### LRT Build Alternatives Studied in the Draft EIS




### Additional Alternatives Studied in the Draft EIS

- No-Build alternative
- Enhanced Bus/Transportation System Management (TSM) alternative


### Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and Environmentally Preferred Alternative

- Best meets the project's five goals
- Metropolitan Council adoption into region's Transportation Policy Plan
  - May 8, 2013
- Identified as the environmentally preferred alternative in the Draft EIS



### Cultural Resources

- Potential adverse effects to historic properties fall into three main categories:
  - Project design of the LRT infrastructure (tracks, poles, stations, aerial structures, etc.) may have a direct, visual, or use effect
  - Activities related to station area planning and development may also have a direct, visual, or use effect
  - Noise (construction and/or operations) may have an effect on the historic qualities or use of the historic property
- Next Steps
  - Methods for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of impacts to historic and archaeological property would be developed and coordinated under the Section 106 consultation process and stipulated in the Section 106 Agreement



### Summary Performance Ratings of Alternatives

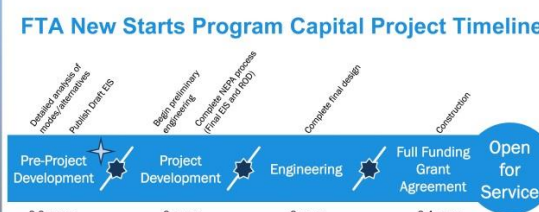
Table ES-2. Summary Performance Ratings of Alternatives

Performance Category	No-Build	Enhanced Bus/TSM	LRT A-C-D1	LRT A-C-D2	LRT B-C-D1 (Preferred Alternative)	LRT B-C-D2
<b>Purpose and Need</b>						
Goal 1: Enhance Access to Regional Activity Centers	●	●	●	●	●	●
Goal 2: Enhance the Effectiveness of Transit Service within the Corridor	●	●	●	●	●	●
Goal 3: Provide a Cost-effective and Financially Feasible Transit System	●	●	●	●	●	●
Goal 4: Promote Sustainable Development Patterns	●	●	●	●	●	●
Goal 5: Support Healthy Communities and Sound Environmental Practices	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Adverse Impacts</b>						
Benefits	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Overall Performance<sup>1</sup></b>	●	●	●	●	●	●

**RATINGS KEY:**  
 ● Good Performance and/or Minor Adverse Impacts  
 ● Fair Performance and/or Moderate Adverse Impacts  
 ● Poor Performance and/or Severe Adverse Impacts

**1. Note:** If a "poor" rating is assigned to any of the first three categories (purpose and need, adverse impacts, benefits), then the overall performance is automatically rated as "poor." In other words, a "poor" rating in one area cannot be overcome by "fair" or "good" performance in other areas with respect to the overall rating.

### FTA New Starts Program Capital Project Timeline



**Acronyms**

- LRT: Light Rail Transit
- FTA: Federal Transit Administration
- EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
- NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
- ROD: Record of Decision

Project information was provided for related initiatives including:

- [Penn Avenue Community Works](#)
- [West Broadway Avenue reconstruction](#)
- [Bottineau Transitway station area planning](#)

## Public hearing

One hour after the start of each open house, a public hearing commenced in council chambers or another adjacent/adjoining room, depending on location. The attending Hennepin County Commissioner (Linda Higgins or Mike Opat) chaired the public hearing, introducing the hearing panel and Joseph Gladke, Manager of Engineering and Transit Planning with Hennepin County’s Housing, Community Works and Transit department. Mr. Gladke delivered a brief [presentation](#) to the hearing audience outlining the goals of the project, the steps in the planning and environmental processes, and information about offering comments on the Draft EIS.

**Table 2. Meeting attendance, verbal testimony and written comments**

Public hearing	Number of people who signed in at meeting	Number of people offering verbal testimony	Number of written comments submitted at meeting
<b>Golden Valley City Hall, May 7</b>	69	13	6
<b>UROC, May 8</b>	35	14 (4 after hearing end)	4
<b>Brooklyn Park City Hall, May 13</b>	129	14 (2 prior to hearing start)	9
<b>Crystal Community Center, May 14</b>	29	8	2

**Table 3. Hearing panel**

Public hearing	Hearing panel	
<b>Golden Valley City Hall, May 7</b>	Hennepin County Commissioner, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Linda Higgins
	Golden Valley Councilmember	Joanie Clausen
	Golden Valley Councilmember	Larry Fonnest
	Golden Valley Councilmember	Andy Snope
	Minneapolis Councilmember, Ward 5	Blong Yang
	Robbinsdale Councilmember	Pat Backen
	Robbinsdale Councilmember	George Selman
	State Representative	Mike Freiberg
<b>UROC, May 8</b>	Hennepin County Commissioner, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Linda Higgins
	Metropolitan Council Member, Dist. 3	Jennifer Munt
	Metropolitan Council Member, Dist. 7	Gary Cunningham
	Metropolitan Council Member, Dist. 8	Adam Duinick
	Minneapolis Councilmember, Ward 5	Blong Yang
<b>Brooklyn Park City Hall, May 13</b>	Hennepin County Commissioner, 1 <sup>st</sup> District	Mike Opat
	Metropolitan Council Member, Dist. 2	Lona Schreiber
	Brooklyn Park Councilmember	Rich Gates
	Brooklyn Park Councilmember	John Jordan
	Brooklyn Park Councilmember	Bob Mata
	Robbinsdale Councilmember	George Selman

<b>Crystal Community Center, May 14</b>	Hennepin County Commissioner, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Linda Higgins
	Crystal Councilmember	Mark Hoffmann
	Golden Valley Councilmember	Andy Snope
	Robbinsdale Councilmember	Pat Backen
	Robbinsdale Councilmember	George Selman
	State Representative	Mike Freiberg

### **Written and verbal comments received**

A wide range of perspectives were shared through public testimony and comments obtained during and following the meetings. Transcripts of verbal testimony given at public hearings, and all written comments received during the comment period of April 11 through May 29 are available on the [project website](#).