

**METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION  
LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT**  
Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement



**Quarterly Report No. 1  
(August 24 – November 30, 2016)**

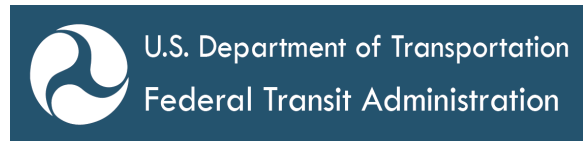
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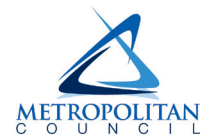
**On behalf of:**

Federal Transit Administration  
Region V  
200 West Adams Street, Suite 320  
Chicago, IL 60606



and

Metropolitan Council  
Blue Line Extension Project Office  
5514 West Broadway, Suite 200  
Crystal, MN 55428



December 2016

# Introduction

The METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project (Project), previously known as the Bottineau Transitway, is an approximately 13.5-mile long extension of the METRO Blue Line (Hiawatha LRT) located in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The line will begin at the existing Target Field Station (previously known as the Interchange Station) in Minneapolis, where it will connect with the existing METRO Blue and Green LRT lines, and the Northstar Commuter Rail line, and extend along a northwesterly alignment, to connect the cities of Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park. The Project includes 11 new stations; five park-and-ride facilities (one existing and four new); accommodations for passenger drop off, bicycle and pedestrian access, and new or restructured local bus routes connecting stations to nearby destinations; and one operations and maintenance facility (OMF).

The Project sponsor, the Metropolitan Council, may receive funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to construct the Project. Therefore, the Project is a federal undertaking and must comply with Section 306108 (previously Section 106 and hereinafter referred to as Section 106) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 United States Code § 306108) and its implementing regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800 et. seq. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.2(a)(2), the USACE has recognized FTA as the lead federal agency responsible for fulfilling their collective responsibilities for the Project under Section 106.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 et. seq., FTA, with assistance from the Minnesota Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Unit, consulted with the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to define an Area of Potential Effect, conduct surveys to identify and evaluate historic properties within the APE for the National Register of Historic Places, assess effects of the Project on historic properties, and resolve adverse effects. The measures FTA agreed to implement as part of the Project to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on historic properties are documented in the Memorandum of Agreement between the *Federal Transit Administration and the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office Regarding the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project, Hennepin County, Minnesota* (MOA), which was executed on August 23, 2016.

This quarterly summary report was prepared to meet the reporting requirements of MOA Stipulation X.A. It provides an itemized listing of all measures required to implement the terms of the MOA, identifies what actions FTA has taken during the reporting period to implement those measures, and includes a timetable of activities proposed for implementation within the following reporting period. It also identifies any problems or unexpected issues encountered during the reporting period, any proposed scheduling changes, any disputes and objections submitted or resolved as part of FTA's efforts to carry out the terms of the MOA, and any changes recommended in implementation of the MOA.

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following is a list of commonly used acronyms and abbreviations that may be found in the reporting table found in the Implementation Efforts section of this report.

APE	Area of Potential Effect
Council	Metropolitan Council
CRU	Cultural Resources Unit
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GN	Great Northern Railway
GRHD	Grand Rounds Historic District
HPC	Heritage Preservation Commission
LRT	Light Rail Transit
MnDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MnHPO	Minnesota Historic Preservation Office
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
Project	METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project
Q1	Quarter of the year, in this example, the First Quarter
SOI	Secretary of the Interior
StPM&M	St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad

# Implementation Efforts

This is quarterly report No. 1 prepared under the terms of the Project MOA. FTA and MnHPO executed the MOA on August 23, 2016; therefore, to avoid reporting periods ending mid-month and to better align MOA reporting with other FTA required monitoring for the Project, this report covers the reporting period from August 24, 2016 through November 30, 2016.

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<b>Stipulation I. Identification of Additional Historic Properties</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey and evaluation – post-1965 architecture/history properties and previously unsurveyed historic properties within revised APE</li> </ul>	To be completed prior to the completion of the 90% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q3 2017	In process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of Effects</li> </ul>	As needed, to be completed only if National Register listed or eligible properties are identified during the survey and evaluation required by Stipulation I.A as identified above.	On-going, as needed, no activity during reporting period
<b>Stipulation II. Project Design Development</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Project to meet the SOI's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minneapolis-Golden Valley Segment</li> <li>Robbinsdale Segment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	On-going through completion of the 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q4 2017	On-going, also see Stipulation III
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation on Project design – segments required to meet the SOI's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</li> </ul>	On-going through completion of the 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q4 2017	On-going, also see Stipulation III
<b>Stipulation III. Pre-Construction Design Review</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation with MnHPO and other consulting parties to inform the design of the 30% Plans</li> </ul>	Q3 2016	Completed September 2016. A consultation meeting was held with MnHPO and other consulting parties on September 1, 2016 to discuss the design of several Project elements within the Plymouth Avenue and Golden Valley Road station areas. Focus was on circulation elements, including vertical circulation, station platforms, bridges, and fencing. No formal written comments requested from meeting. Formal comments from consulting parties were requested on the Final 30% Plans per Stipulation III.C (see below).

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of 30% Plans               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MnDOT CRU/FTA</li> <li>○ MnHPO</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Q3-Q4 2016	<p>Completed November 2016. MnDOT CRU completed its review of the 30% Plans and notified FTA of its findings on September 22, 2016. MnDOT CRU found there were several minor changes that affected historic properties, but none that would result in a change of effect. MnDOT CRU also found that the design of several Project elements within and in the vicinity of the several historic properties did not meet the SOI's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties as required by Stipulation II.A. FTA agreed with MnDOT CRU's findings and notified MnHPO of its findings on September 23, 2016. On November 4, 2016, MnHPO concurred with FTA's findings and provided some additional comments on the 30% Plans. In accordance with the procedures described in Stipulations II and III, FTA will consult with consulting parties during the next reporting period to consider the concerns expressed by MnHPO to inform the design of the 60% Plans. Also see Stipulations II and XIII.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation to inform the design of the 60% Plans</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Owners and residents of properties in the Homewood Residential Historic District (Stipulation XI)</li> </ul>	Required by Stipulation XI, but included here to document progression of the design consultation. To be completed prior to the completion of the 60% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016, also see Stipulation XI	Expected to begin during next reporting period, also see Stipulations II and XI. Design consultation meeting with owners and residents of properties in the district scheduled for December 3, 2016.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Owners and residents of properties in the West Broadway Avenue Residential Historic District (Stipulation XII)</li> </ul>	Required by Stipulation XI, but included here to document progression of the design consultation. To be completed prior to the completion of the 60% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016, also see Stipulation XII	Expected to begin during next reporting period, also see Stipulations II and XII. Design consultation meeting with owners and residents of properties in the district scheduled for December 14, 2016.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MnHPO and other consulting parties</li> </ul>	To be completed prior to the completion of the 60% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q1 2017	Expected to begin during next reporting period, also see Stipulation II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of 60% Plans               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MnDOT CRU/FTA</li> <li>○ MnHPO</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Anticipated schedule: Q1-Q2 2017	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with MnHPO and other consulting parties to inform the design of the 90% Plans</li> </ul>	Anticipated schedule: Q2-Q3 2017	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of 90% Plans               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MnDOT CRU/FTA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Anticipated schedule: Q3-Q4 2017	Not started

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of 100% Plans               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MnDOT CRU/FTA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q4 2017-Q1 2018	Not started
<b>Stipulation IV. Construction Protection Plan</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction Protection Plan</li> </ul>	To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q4 2017	In process. Kickoff meeting with consultant held on October 20, 2016, work on plan will continue during next reporting period. Also see Stipulation XIII.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vibration Management and Remediation Monitoring Reporting</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pre-Construction Survey Reporting</li> </ul>	To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q2-Q3 2018	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Post-Construction Survey Reporting</li> </ul>	On-going during Project construction, to be completed in the quarter following completion of Project construction, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2018-2021	Not started
<b>Stipulation V. Noise Mitigation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiet Zones</li> </ul>	Design to be developed and reviewed per Stipulations II and III, infrastructure to be installed before Project construction is completed and FRA approval to be requested before the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-2021	In process. All at-grade shared crossings of LRT and freight rail are being designed to include supplemental safety measures and to qualify for FRA Quiet Zone designation. Design work will continue during next reporting period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Specific Noise Mitigation</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interior Testing</li> </ul>	To completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q2 2017-Q2 2018	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Noise Mitigation Plan</li> </ul>	As needed, to be completed only if, as a result of interior testing, FTA determines there is an adverse effect. If needed, anticipated schedule: Q2 2017-2021	Not started
<b>Stipulation VI. National Register of Historic Places Nominations</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floyd B. Olson Memorial</li> </ul>	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2021-2022	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wayman A.M.E. Church</li> </ul>	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2021-2022	Not started

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<b>Stipulation VII. Interpretation of Historic Properties<sup>1</sup></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretive Plan</li> </ul>	To be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q4 2017	In process. A consultation meeting was held with MnHPO and other consulting parties on September 15, 2016 to discuss and gain consensus on 1) the main themes for the interpretation and 2) the subthemes to be interpreted at specific stations. A consultation meeting was held on November 17, 2016 to consult on 1) potential locations for interpretation within station areas and 2) potential types of interpretation (media) to interpret each subtheme. The Draft Interpretive Plan, which will include standards, themes, subthemes, locations and media for the interpretation, is anticipated to be completed in Q1 2017.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of Interpretation</li> </ul>	To be installed prior to the initiation of revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: Q2 2018-2021	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website to interpret the Osseo Branch of the StPM&amp;M/GN Historic District and the GRHD: Theodore Wirth Segment</li> </ul>	To be developed after the Final Interpretative Plan is approved and completed prior to initiation of revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: Q2 2018-2021	Not started
<b>Stipulation VIII. Floyd B. Olson Memorial</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment Plan</li> </ul>	Anticipated to be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans (MOA does not specify a timeframe), anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q1 2018	Expected to begin during next reporting period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Improvements</li> </ul>	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated schedule: Q2 2017-Q4 2022	Not started
<b>Stipulation IX. Osseo Branch of the St. Paul, Minneapolis &amp; Manitoba Railroad / Great Northern Railway Historic District</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase II Intensive Level Inventory and Evaluation of Historic Railroad Line(s) in Minnesota:</li> </ul>	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2018-2022	Not started

<sup>1</sup> Interpretation is only for the Osseo Branch of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad / Great Northern Railway Historic District and the Grand Rounds Historic District: Theodore Wirth Segment



MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One (1) mainline across the entire state of Minnesota, or</li> <li>○ Up to a total of five (5) shorter mainlines and/or branch lines</li> </ul>		
<b>Stipulation X. Grand Rounds Historic District</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Golden Valley Road Park-and-Ride Facility</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Golden Valley Road Station Trailhead</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>To be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q1 2018</p>	<p>In process. Design work to continue during next reporting period. A consultation meeting was held with MnHPO and other consulting parties on September 1, 2016 to discuss the design of several of Project elements within the Plymouth Avenue and Golden Valley Road station areas (see Stipulation III). Focus was on circulation elements, including vertical circulation, station platforms, bridges, and fencing. No formal written comments requested.</p> <p>MnDOT CRU reviewed the 30% Plans and notified FTA of its findings on September 22, 2016. MnDOT CRU found that the design of several Project elements within and in the vicinity of the Grand Rounds Historic District did not meet the SOI's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties as required by Stipulation II.A. MnDOT CRU also confirmed that the plans included a park-and-ride facility at the Golden Valley Road Station. The plans for the park-and-ride included the required trailhead with a place for interpretation, as well as vegetation to help screen the facility from Theodore Wirth Parkway (the design for vegetation elsewhere will be developed later in the design process). FTA agreed with MnDOT CRU's findings and notified MnHPO of its findings on September 23, 2016. On November 4, 2016, MnHPO concurred with FTA's findings and provided some additional comments on the 30% Plans for Project elements within and in the vicinity of the Grand Rounds Historic District. In accordance with the procedures described in Stipulations II and III, FTA will consult with consulting parties during the next reporting period to consider the concerns expressed by MnHPO to inform the design of the 60% Plans. Also see Stipulations II and III.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans for the Grand Rounds Historic District: Theodore Wirth Segment</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preservation Plan</li> </ul>	<p>To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2019-2022</p>	<p>Not started</p>

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
○ Treatments Plan	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2019-2022	Not started
<b>Stipulation XI. Homewood Residential Historic District</b>		
• Additional design consultation – meeting with owners and residents of properties in the district to inform Project design	To be completed prior to the 60% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q1 2017, also see Stipulations II and III for timeline for other design consultation related to this district and the completion of 60% Plans	Expected to begin during next reporting period, also see Stipulation III. Design consultation meeting with owners and residents of properties in the district scheduled for December 3, 2016.
<b>Stipulation XII. West Broadway Avenue Residential Historic District</b>		
• Additional design consultation with owners and residents of properties in the district to inform the design of Project design	To be completed prior to the 60% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q1 2017, also see Stipulations II and III for timeline for other design consultation related to this district and the completion of 60% Plans	Expected to begin during next reporting period, also see Stipulation III. Design consultation meeting with owners and residents of properties in the district scheduled for December 14, 2016.
<b>Stipulation XIII. Review Process During Construction</b>		
• Plan for Unexpected Discoveries	To be developed and included as part of the Construction Protection Plan, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016 – Q4 2017	In process. Kickoff meeting with consultant held on October 20, 2016 for CPP, work on plan will continue during next reporting period. Also see Stipulation IV.
• Project Modifications	As needed after the completion of the 100% Plans, through the completion of Project construction, anticipated timeframe: Q1 2018-2021	Not started
• Historic Properties Discovered or Unexpected Affected as a Result of Project Construction	As needed during Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q2 2018-2021	Not started
<b>Stipulation XIV. Resolution of Additional Adverse Effects</b>		
• Carry out work pursuant to the MOA in accordance with the <i>SOI's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation</i>	Duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going, as needed, no activity during reporting period
<b>Stipulation XV. Standards</b>		
		On-going

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FTA oversight to ensure that all activities carried out pursuant to the MOA are done by, or under the direct supervision of, historic preservation professionals who meet the <i>SOI's Professional Qualifications Standards</i></li> </ul>	Duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going
<b>Stipulation XVI. Monitoring and Reporting</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly MOA Implementation Summary Report</li> </ul>	Every 3 months following MOA execution until it expires or is terminated, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q3 2026 , or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going. This is the first quarterly summary report prepared pursuant to this stipulation, report to be submitted to MnHPO and other consulting parties herein in December 2017.
<b>Stipulation XVII. Coordination with Other Federal Reviews</b>		
<b>Stipulation XVIII. Dispute Resolution</b>	As needed during duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going, as needed, no activity during reporting period
<b>Stipulation XIX. Duration, Amendments, and Termination</b>		
	As needed during duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going, as needed, no activity during reporting period