

# West Broadway Avenue Reconstruction & Blue Line Light Rail Transit Extension

*Two separate projects occurring at the same time in the same location*



West Broadway Avenue was originally planned to be reconstructed before the Blue Line LRT Extension (BLRT) was going to be built. Now the two projects are on similar schedules.

To reduce construction impacts to the community, these separate projects are now planned to be designed and constructed at the same time. Both projects need to receive environmental approvals to move forward.

## What Needs to Be Done?

### West Broadway Avenue Reconstruction

Since 2004, the county has set aside money to improve this roadway.

Since there is no federal money for West Broadway Avenue improvements, state environmental approval is required. An **Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)** will be prepared to evaluate impacts consistent with Minnesota rules and regulations.

### Blue Line LRT Extension

A Draft EIS was published in March 2014 for the BLRT Project from its start in downtown Minneapolis to its end in Brooklyn Park.

BLRT would receive some of its funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Because federal funding is involved, the Project needs to be evaluated using both federal and state environmental rules and regulations. A **Final EIS and Record of Decision** will be developed and will conclude the federal and state environmental review for the project.

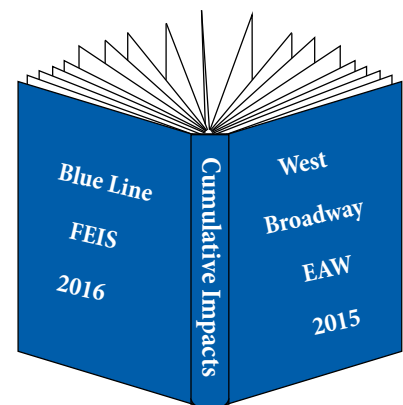
## Why Develop Two Separate Documents?

The **West Broadway Avenue** project is needed to meet the needs of all modes of transportation, regardless if LRT is constructed or not; therefore the road reconstruction project can stand alone as a separate project. Since BLRT is being proposed with a segment along West Broadway Avenue, the timing of the activities and evaluation of impacts are being coordinated.

The **Blue Line LRT Extension** can also stand alone as a separate project. Although it shares a segment with the West Broadway Avenue project, it is a much longer and larger project requiring separate analysis of environmental impacts and mitigation.

## How will I understand the effects of building both projects?

The combined impacts of both the West Broadway Avenue project and the BLRT project will be evaluated in a cumulative impacts section included in the environmental documents. For instance, a noise analysis will both be conducted for the West Broadway Avenue project and a noise analysis will also be conducted for the BLRT project. The cumulative impacts of noise from both projects will be presented in the BLRT Final EIS and also discussed in the West Broadway Avenue EAW. The cumulative impacts on other issue areas (e.g. traffic, wetlands, air quality, and others) will also be discussed in both documents.



# What is Reviewed in an Environmental Document?



The purpose of an environmental review document is to identify the **social, economic, and environmental impacts** of a project, and determine how to avoid or reduce those impacts. If impacts cannot be avoided, then mitigation needs to be considered.

While there are several state and federal laws and regulations regarding environmental review, all environmental documents address similar key issues. In almost any environmental document you will find the following items:

- A description of the project
- Who is responsible for the project
- Why the project is needed
- What alternatives were considered to meet the need for the project
- What permits and other approvals are needed to build the project
- Who has been consulted regarding the project – public, local government and regulatory agencies

The **social, economic and environmental issues** that are analyzed generally include:

- Changes to **land use**, and how the project fits with existing or planned land uses
- Effects on the **community** or communities surrounding the project
- What **property** needs to be purchased and what **residences** or **businesses** may need to be moved
- **Business** impacts
- Impacts to **historic** properties
- Impacts to **parks**
- **Visual** impacts
- **Safety**
- **Transportation** impacts – bicycle, pedestrian, transit, vehicles (including parking), freight rail, aviation
- **Water resource** impacts – wetlands, floodplains, stormwater, groundwater, water quality
- Impacts to **soils** and **geologic** resources
- Impacts to **plants** and **animals**, including threatened and endangered species
- **Noise** impacts
- **Vibration** impacts, for transit and rail projects,
- **Contaminated** properties and hazardous waste
- **Air quality**

The environmental document will also include the **cumulative** impacts of the project when considered together with other past, present, and planned future projects.

More information at [BlueLineExt.org](http://BlueLineExt.org).



Wetlands adjacent to BNSF Line



Theodore Wirth Regional Park -  
Information Kiosk



Wetlands Adjacent to  
West Broadway Avenue