



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

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Michigan, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

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June 30, 2023

Daniel Buchholtz
City Administrator
City of Spring Lake Park
dbuchholtz@slpmn.org

RE: Metro Transit “F” Line Rapid Bus Project, Hennepin and Anoka Counties, Minnesota
Section 106 Consulting Party Invitation

Dear Mr. Buchholtz:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in cooperation with Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit (Metro Transit) is proposing the F-Line Bus Rapid Transit (F-Line) Project in Hennepin and Anoka Counties. As part of its responsibilities under 36 CFR § 800 – Protection of Historic Properties and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), FTA is initiating a Section 106 Consultation Process for Metro Transit’s F-Line Project. FTA and Metro Transit will be preparing a Documented Categorical Exclusion to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project. A map of the project area is enclosed, and additional information is available at <https://www.metrotransit.org/f-line-project>.

The F Line is an approximately 12.9-mile arterial BRT line running from Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis to the Northtown Transit Center in Blaine, Minnesota. The F Line will travel primarily on Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis; Central Avenue in Minneapolis, Columbia Heights, and Hilltop; and University Avenue in Fridley, Spring Lake Park, and Blaine; and will provide faster and more reliable bus service along this corridor. The F Line is planned to substantially replace the existing Route 10, which currently provides local bus service within the corridor and has the fifth highest ridership bus route in the region. The F Line will run every 10 minutes during most periods of the day. This project will include the following components:

- Construction of up to 50 platforms at 25 station locations with BRT amenities such as pylons with real-time signage; enhanced shelters with heat, light, and security features;
- Service at up to 63 platforms at a total of 32 stations, with the additional 13 platforms (at 7 stations) previously constructed as part of the Nicollet Mall Reconstruction and Northtown Transit Center Improvement Projects;
- Curb extensions, with a typical platform length of 60 feet to accommodate the specialized buses and an additional 10 feet on each side to allow for a transition up to a nine-inch curb height; and

- Transit operational advantages such as transit signal priority (TSP), queue jump lanes, and bus-only lanes.

To comply with state and federal requirements governing cultural resources, a Section 106 Compliance Plan has been prepared for Metro Transit. The Compliance Plan establishes an Area of Potential Effect (APE), describes methodology for future architectural history surveys, includes an archaeological assessment, and provides a list of consulting parties and Tribes. The Compliance Plan can be accessed at this link:

<https://106group-my.sharepoint.com/:f/p/salehmiller/Eq9EvcRjnkFEkRmtnLBP7ZYBvhukEx32Z9SBuQh8S05S6w?e=uhjCzV>.

Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act* requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. This process involves efforts to identify historic properties potentially affected by the undertaking, assess its effects, and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties. In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c), you are invited to participate in the Section 106 process as a Consulting Party. As part of the process, the project team will work through a three-step process with consulting parties to:

1. Identify historic properties that could be potentially affected by the project;
2. Assess project effects on these resources; and
3. If there are adverse effects, develop ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.

Participation in this process is voluntary and open to anyone “with a demonstrated interest in the effect of the undertaking on properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.” This may include property owners, business owners, historic preservation groups, neighborhood associations, or others who are interested in historic resources and preservation. Additional information about the consultation process is available online at <https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017-01/CitizenGuide.pdf>.

Your timely response to this invitation will greatly help us incorporate your concerns into project development. For that purpose, we respectfully request that you complete the enclosed Project Consultation Options Form and forward it to FTA within 30 days of receipt of this letter, so that we can confirm your interest in participating in the consultation process. If you have questions or comments related to the proposed project, please contact Alexandra Brun by telephone at (202) 366-7469 or by e-mail at alexandra.brun@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

EVAN ISAAC Digitally signed by EVAN
ISAAC GROSS
GROSS Date: 2023.06.30
16:15:47 -05'00'

Evan Gross

Acting Director, Office of Financial Management and Program Oversight

Section 106 Consultation
F-Line BRT Project, Hennepin and Anoka Counties

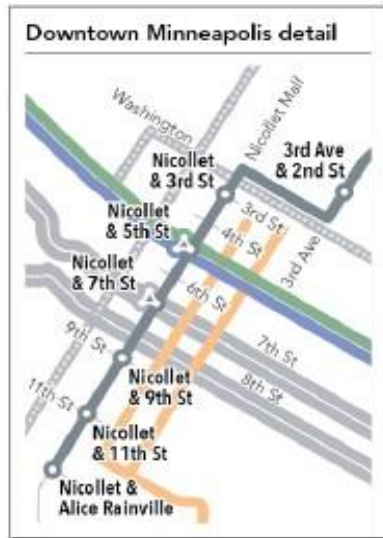
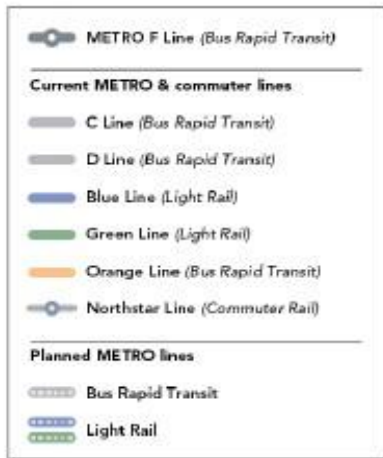
ecc: Jocelyn Hoffman, FTA
Alexandra Brun, FTA
Adam Smith, Metro Transit

Enclosures: F-Line Project Map
Project Consultation Options Form
[Compliance Plan](#)



F Line

March 2023



Project Consultation Options Form

Agency Name: _____

Project Name: Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit – F-Line BRT – Hennepin/Anoka Counties, MN

Please check the appropriate response. Use the back of this form or additional sheets if you wish to make comments:

Project	Our organization is interested in participating in this project as a consulting party. Further consultation is requested.	Our organization has no interest associated with this proposed project and further consultation is not required.
F-Line BRT, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have chosen to continue consultation, please indicate the manner in which you wish to do so:

Mail (Address):

Phone:

e-mail:

Other: (please describe)

Designated contact for this proposed project:

NAME, TITLE (Please print) Phone: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please respond within 30 days of the date of the letter.

Please return Via Email by scanning to: alexandra.brun@dot.gov

Via Mail to:

Alexandra Brun
Environmental Protection Specialist
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590