



# SHOULD THERE BE FURTHER STUDY OF PASSENGER RAIL IN EDINA?

The City of Edina is talking to residents and businesses about the possibility of studying passenger rail service through the city, specifically in the Dan Patch Corridor. Through a combination of public input and analysis of existing conditions and policy, the Transportation Commission (ETC) will make a recommendation to the City Council in September regarding future study of passenger rail in Edina.

## What is the Dan Patch Corridor?

The Dan Patch Corridor is a railway that connects Minneapolis and Northfield, running north-south through Edina just west of Highway 100. The railway is currently owned by Canadian Pacific Railway.

Although interest in passenger rail in this corridor was renewed in the late 1990s and early 2000s, it is currently under a "gag rule" that prohibits the Metropolitan Council, MnDOT, and regional railroad authorities from further study of commuter rail in the Dan Patch Corridor.

In 2015 the corridor returned to the public eye when it was included in the Minnesota State Rail Plan as a Phase I intercity rail project.



## What is the goal of this study?

The ETC is conducting this study to answer two specific questions:

- 1 **Should the City of Edina request elimination of the gag rule?**
- 2 **Should the City dedicate resources to developing a plan to encourage the development of passenger rail service in Edina?**

This study will answer these two questions based on community input and analysis of existing conditions and policies. Eliminating the gag rule does not mean that passenger rail would be a sure thing—only that it could be studied further. The City isn't proposing a specific passenger rail project, and no future studies on passenger rail are currently planned. The intent is to consider if the City of Edina should have a voice at the table as plans for passenger rail progress in this region.

1910-1942	Passenger rail service in operation
1999	Dan Patch identified as commuter rail corridor
2001	Corridor included in 2020 Transit Master Plan
2001	Feasibility study found that implementing commuter rail is possible, but impractical
2002	Minnesota Legislature adopted "gag rule"
2015	Included as Phase I intercity rail project in MN State Rail Plan
Why Now?	With the progress of other metro area transit lines, the City doesn't want to preclude itself from future opportunities

## What is passenger rail?



Passenger rail includes all modes that travel on rail tracks. This can include intercity rail, commuter rail, light rail, or streetcar. Each of these have distinct differences in total system length, frequency of service, distance between stations, and cost. For more information on the differences between these different modes, please see the project website.

## Contact

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[EdinaMN.gov/passenger-rail-report](http://EdinaMN.gov/passenger-rail-report)

## We want to hear your thoughts on the idea of passenger rail service in Edina!

To learn more about passenger rail and provide your input, you can participate in person or online. Visit our project website to find out more about the study, get the details on the community conversations, and access the online surveys.

- JULY 2017** Community Conversation #1
- Review Edina passenger rail history
  - Review existing and planned transit facilities in the region
  - Gather input on risks and opportunities of potential passenger rail

- SEPTEMBER 2017** Community Conversation #2
- Recap input from first conversation
  - Review results of existing conditions and policy analysis
  - Review initial recommendations