The Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project is a proposed 14-mile transit route between Saint Paul and White Bear Lake. It includes 21 stations that would serve the communities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, White Bear Township and White Bear Lake. The analysis and design of this transit route is being led by Ramsey County.

What is Section 106?
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies to evaluate impacts of federally funded projects on historic properties. Projects go through a process to identify historic properties, assess potential adverse effects and establish measures to mitigate or avoid effects.

What qualifies as a historic property?
A historic property is one that is listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, based on:

- **Criterion A**: Association with a historically significant event
- **Criterion B**: Association with the lives of significant persons
- **Criterion C**: Design or construction type, style or method
- **Criterion D**: Potential to yield important historical or prehistorical information

Historic properties are often categorized as architectural (structures) or archaeological (artifacts often located below ground).

Sign up for email updates. Provide comments. Ask questions. Learn more.
WHAT IS THE PROCESS?
A project goes through these steps to satisfy the requirements of Section 106:

DEFINE THE AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS
The study area for archaeology is typically limited to where the project will disturb the soils. For architecture, the study area is wider, especially around stations, to account for visual effects. As project plans develop, the area of potential effects is refined in consultation with consulting parties (see Who is Involved? below).

IDENTIFY HISTORIC PROPERTIES
Properties throughout the area of potential effects are inventoried if they will reach 50 years or older at the time the bus service begins. Those with potential significance are evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

RESOLVE ADVERSE EFFECTS, IF ANY
If there will be an adverse effect to a historic property, it must be resolved in consultation with the consulting parties. Resolution measures may include avoidance, minimizing effects or mitigating the effect through additional documentation, educational elements and more.

ASSESS EFFECTS
The project's potential to impact historic properties is assessed. Adverse effects can include alteration of the historic property or introducing visual or audible elements that diminish the property's historic integrity.

WHO IS INVOLVED?
Rush Line BRT Project staff, led by Ramsey County, consults with interested stakeholders throughout the Section 106 process.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
Representatives of local governments, including historic preservation commissions, may accept a formal invitation to become a consulting party.

THE PUBLIC
The views of the public are considered throughout the consultation process.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
The Advisory Council administers the requirements of Section 106 and may participate in consultation.

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES
Tribal representatives have the opportunity to review the project and note resources or areas of tribal significance that should be considered in the Section 106 process.

MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
This state agency reviews project plans and provides comments on National Register eligibility, assessment of effects and resolution of adverse effects.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
The lead federal agency is responsible for ensuring project planning adequately considers the project's effects on historic properties. The Minnesota Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Unit works with the lead agency to review and make recommendations about properties in the corridor.