

## Soil and groundwater sampling begins this spring

This spring, METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project staff will begin notifying some property owners along the proposed Gold Line route to coordinate right of entry to sample soil and groundwater for potential contamination. Sampling will occur through spring 2019 and will be regulated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Project staff will use the information obtained from sampling to select appropriate design options that protect human health and the environment during construction, which is expected to begin in 2022, and during BRT operation, which is anticipated to begin in 2024.

### What to expect

#### Notification and site review

Gold Line BRT project staff will review and coordinate the sites to be sampled, notify property owners prior to the field work, coordinate right of entry, and coordinate with property owners to minimize disruption. Crews will mark underground utility lines near test sites and mark test locations with stakes and paint before testing crews arrive. Please do not remove the stakes.

#### Soil and groundwater sampling process

In spring 2019, workers will perform soil and groundwater sampling using the least invasive method possible. Project staff may sample up to 125 locations and dig up to 25 trenches along the length of the BRT route. The MPCA will review the project's sampling work plan to ensure that proper procedures are followed. Work crews will use truck-mounted equipment to drill boreholes that are approximately two to four inches wide and up to 25 feet deep, or to the level of the groundwater table.

#### Test trenches

Depending on current and past land use and the project's planned use of a particular location, crews may need to use backhoes to dig test trenches in areas with possible contaminated soil.



*Soil sampling equipment mounted on a truck*

Trenches are typically three to four feet wide, up to 15 feet deep and 20 to 50 feet long. Trenches will be backfilled the same day they are opened and will not be left open overnight. Currently, no test trenches are planned for paved areas.

#### Restoration of sites

Crews will refill the holes and trenches, and in coordination with property owners, seed previously sodded areas for re-vegetation. In paved areas, borehole patching will be completed with similar material.

#### Work hours and noise

Crews generally begin work at 7 a.m. and work until about 5 p.m. Work will not be done on weekends unless a property owner requests it. Noise associated with this work will be similar to the sound of a medium-sized diesel truck engine.

