



# Network**NEXT**

Building tomorrow's bus network, starting today.

Metropolitan Council Committee of the Whole  
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# Today's Agenda

- Background and Purpose of Network Next
- Existing Policy Context
- Engaging Stakeholders and the Community
- Next Steps

## What is Network Next?

- A **process** and a **plan** that fully integrates service improvements, arterial BRT network expansion, and other functional plans to guide the expansion of Metro Transit's bus network across a **spectrum of service investments** through the **next 20 years**.
- Network Next will be the **primary way** Metro Transit engages with our **riders and community** about future transit service and quality improvements over the **next two years**.

## Purpose of Network Next

- Facilitate stakeholder engagement process to define goals and guide tradeoffs for Metro Transit's bus network
- Develop and communicate vision for Metro Transit's 2040 bus network (including arterial BRT and speed & reliability)
- Identify funding needs required to implement 2040 vision
- Guide Metro Transit internal planning and prioritization

# Existing Policy Context

# Thrive MSP 2040

- Principles and Outcomes
- Adopted in 2014
- Updated every 10 years

## Transportation Policy Plan

- Goals, Objectives & Strategies
- Updated in 2018
- Updated every 5 years

## Transit Providers' Service Expansion Priorities

## Metro Transit Network Next

# Thrive MSP 2040: 30-year vision for region

- Adopted in 2014, establishes the **policy foundation** used to complete regional systems and policy plans, development policies, and implementation strategies that together form the comprehensive development guide.

## Thrive Outcomes: what the Council hopes to achieve

- Stewardship
- Prosperity
- Equity
- Livability
- Sustainability

## Thrive Principles: how the Council carries out its work

- Integration
- Collaboration
- Accountability

## 2040 Transportation Policy Plan

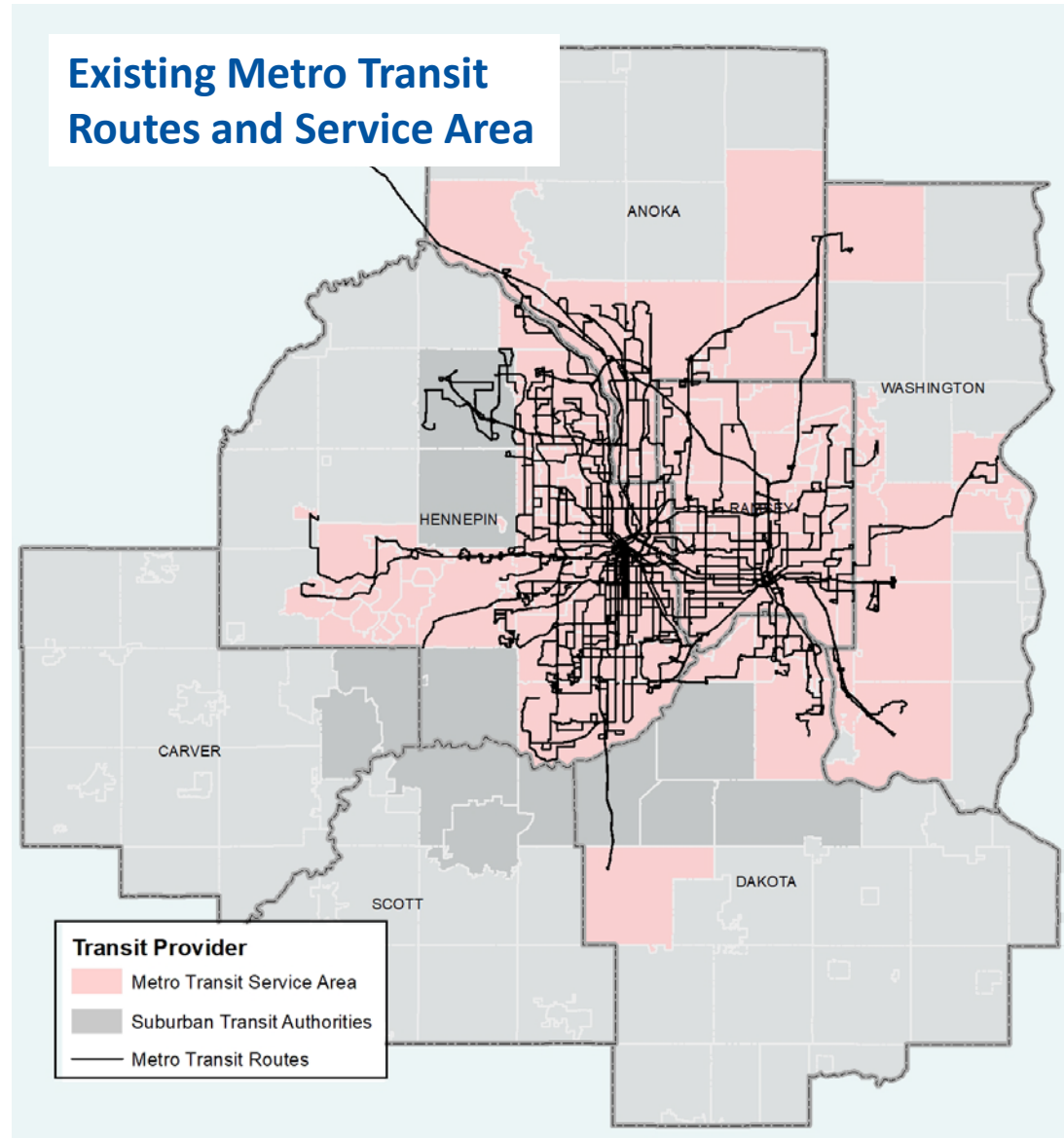
- Establishes the **goals, objectives, and strategies** for the regional transportation system that will lead to the outcomes identified in Thrive MSP 2040
- Identifies **regional transit design guidelines** and route-level **performance standards** for transit providers
- Identifies fiscally constrained **transitway expansion** in **current revenue** and **increased revenue** scenarios
- Directs regional transit providers to **identify bus service expansion priorities** should additional funding become available



# Network Next and the Transportation Policy Plan

## Network Next: Metro Transit's Bus Service Expansion Priorities


- Network Next will apply to Metro Transit's Service Area
- Will identify improvements to local and express bus, and arterial BRT




# Transitways Identified in TPP Included for Planning Purposes

## Transitway System in the Increased Revenue Scenario Building an Accelerated Transitway Vision


### Current Revenue Scenario

-  Existing Transitways
- 1. Blue Line Light Rail
- 2. Northstar Commuter Rail
- 3. Red Line Highway BRT
- 4. Green Line Light Rail
- 5. A Line Arterial BRT

### Funded Expansion Transitways

-  Funded Expansion Transitways
- 6. Penn Avenue Arterial BRT
- 7. Orange Line Highway BRT
- 8. Green Line Extension Light Rail
- 9. Blue Line Extension Light Rail
- 10. Gold Line Dedicated BRT
- 11. Rush Line Dedicated BRT

### Increased Revenue Scenario

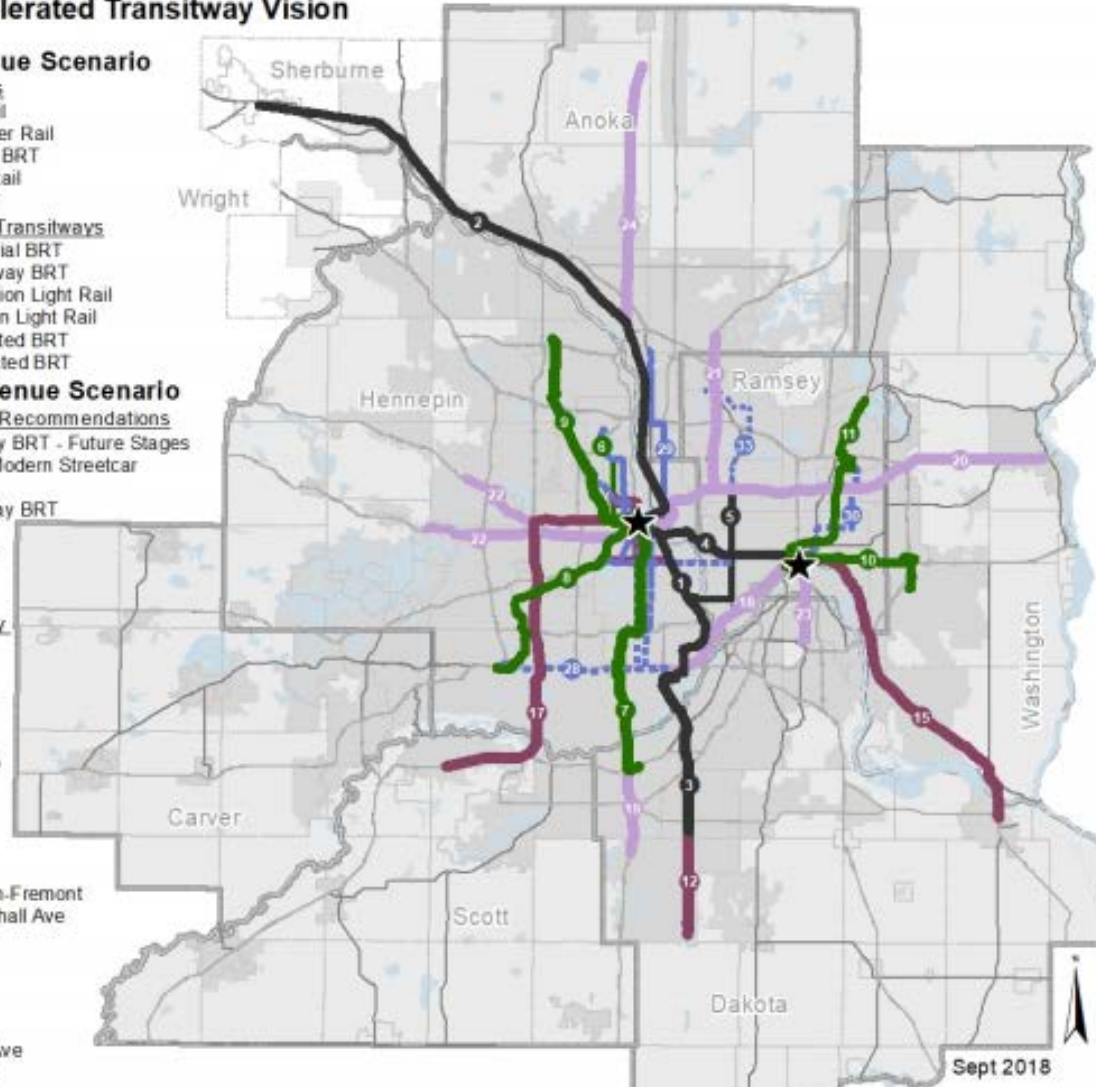
-  Projects with Study Recommendations
- 12. Red Line Highway BRT - Future Stages
- 13. Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar
- 14. Midtown Rail
- 15. Red Rock Highway BRT
- 16. West Broadway Modern Streetcar
- 17. Highway 169 Highway BRT

### Projects Under Study or to be Studied

-  Projects Under Study or to be Studied
- 18. Riverview
- 19. Orange Line Ext.
- 20. Highway 36
- 21. I-35 W North
- 22. I-394/Highway 55
- 23. Robert St
- 24. North Central

### Accelerated Arterial BRT

-  Accelerated Arterial BRT
- 25. Chicago/Emerson-Fremont
- 26. Lake Street/Marshall Ave
- 27. Hennepin Ave
- 28. American Blvd
- 29. Central Ave NE
- 30. East 7th St
- 31. Nicollet Ave
- 32. West Broadway Ave
- 33. A Line Extension



# Regional Transit Providers are Responsible for Priorities within TPP Parameters

- TPP strategies provide high-level direction for regional transit providers at the regional level
- Leaves room for regional transit providers to develop priorities for expanding bus service that match local need and priorities
- Regional transit providers, with the communities they serve, make choices about transit network design tradeoffs

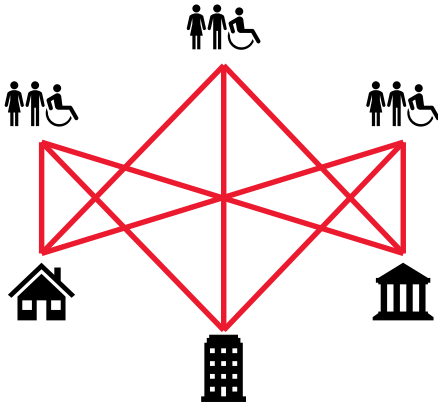
# TPP Example Transit Strategies

- **Goal A: Transportation System Stewardship** - *Sustainable investments in the transportation system are protected by strategically preserving, maintaining, and operating system assets.*
  - **A3.** The Metropolitan Council and regional transit providers will use **regional transit design guidelines** and **performance standards**, as appropriate based on Transit Market Areas, to manage the transit network, to **respond to demand**, and **balance performance and geographic coverage**.

**Key Question: How should Metro Transit approach network design tradeoffs?**

## Network Next Tradeoff Example - Transfers

Provide more routes  
with fewer transfers but  
less frequent service

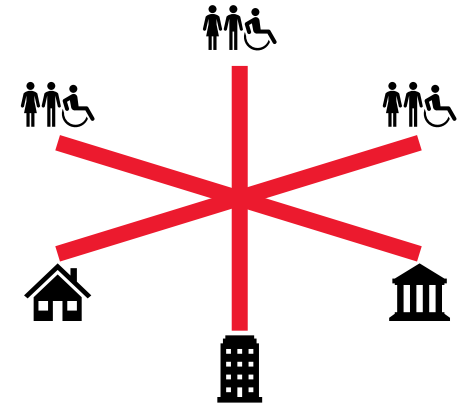


*9 routes with a bus  
arriving every 60 minutes*

Where should Metro Transit  
be on this spectrum?

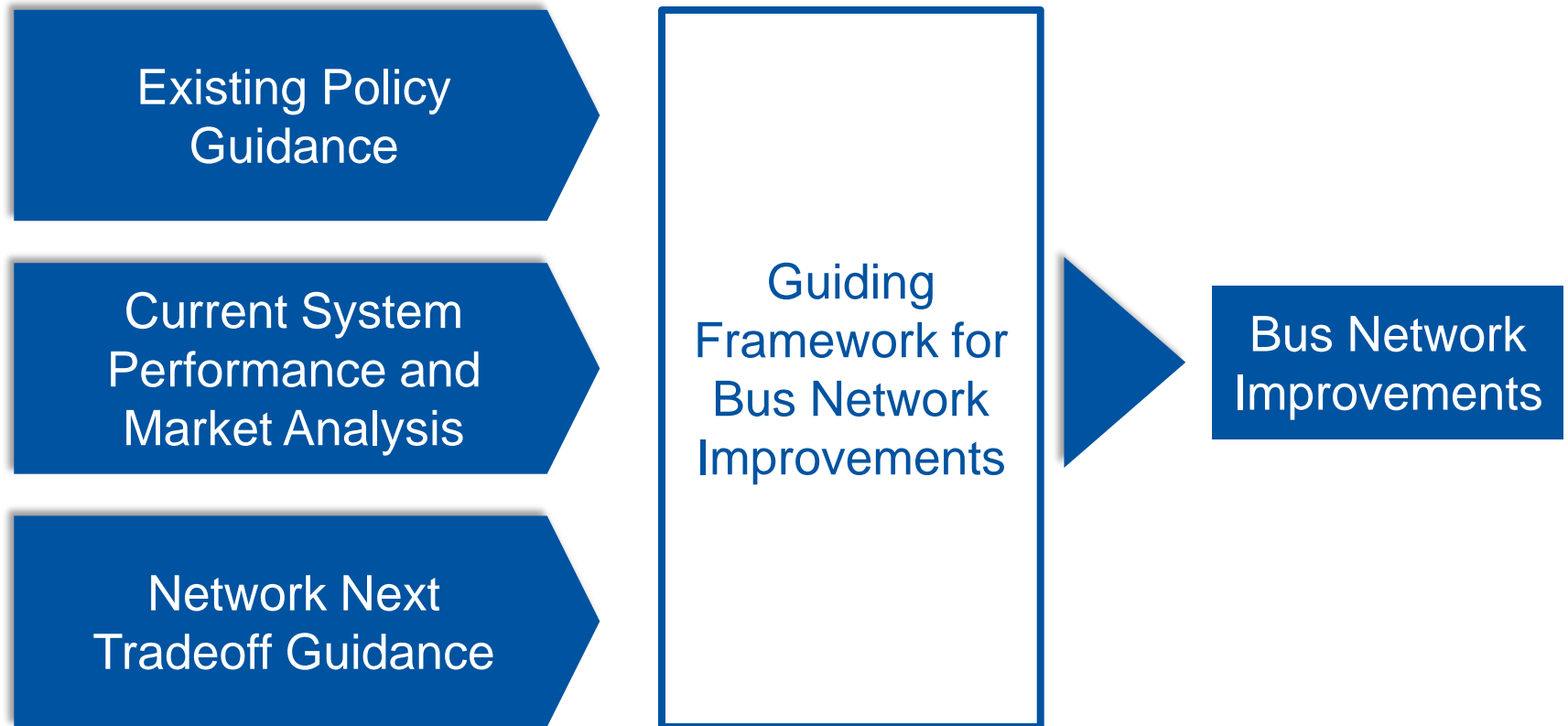


Provide fewer routes  
with more transfers but  
more frequent service



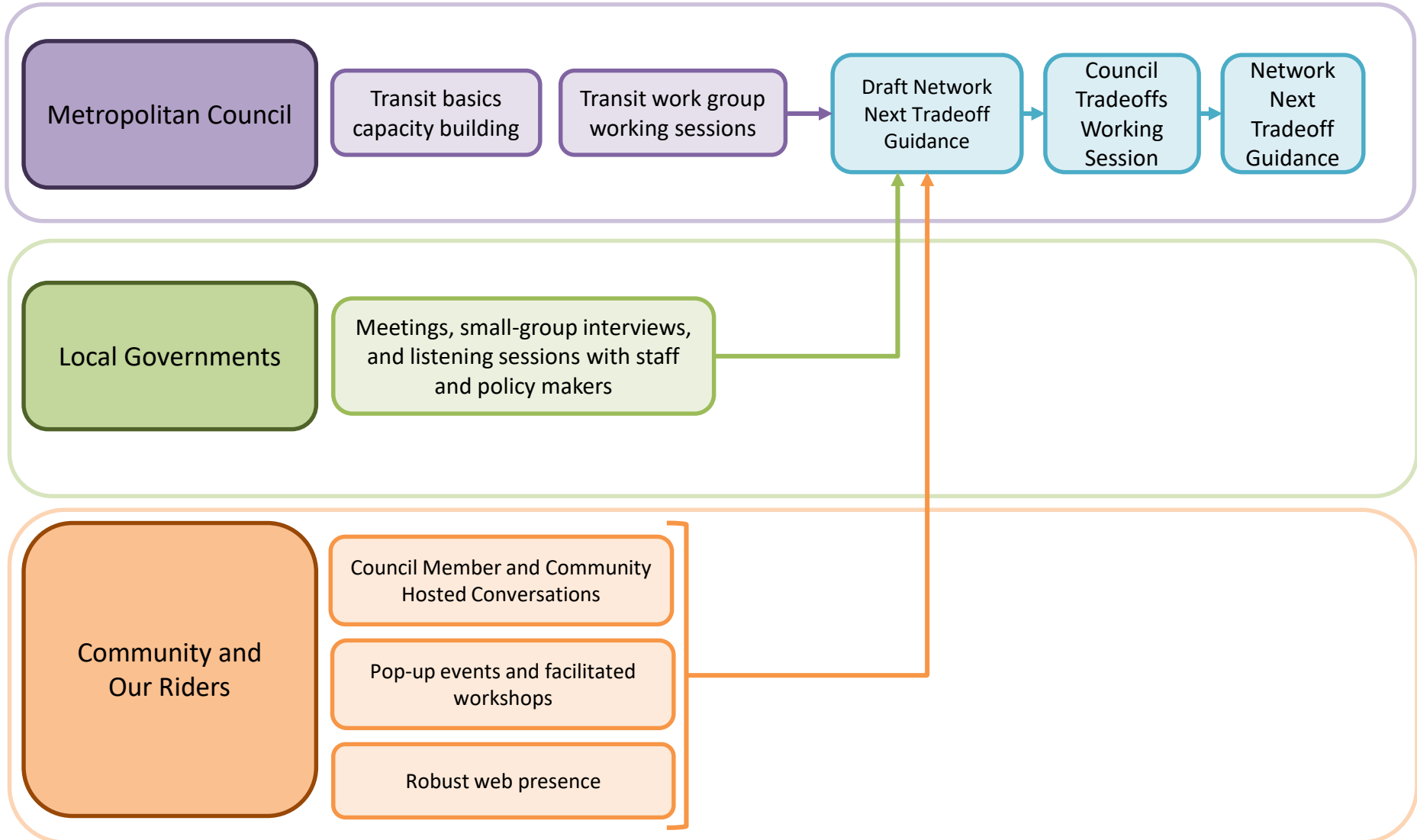
*3 routes with a bus  
arriving every 20 minutes*

# Guiding Framework for Bus Network Improvements





# Guiding Network Next Tradeoffs



# Next Steps for Engaging the Council

- Transit network design capacity building
  - Transit basics presentation and workshop (includes TAB) - July (led by MTS)
  - Transit network unguided tour
  - Transit basics discussion series with transit work group
- Network Next tradeoffs working/discussion session with transit work group
- Review stakeholder engagement results with transit work group and present to full Council
- Workshop to review and refine staff-developed Network Next tradeoff framework
- Met Council will endorse Network Next tradeoff guidance
- Presentations to Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) and Equity Advisory Committee (EAC)

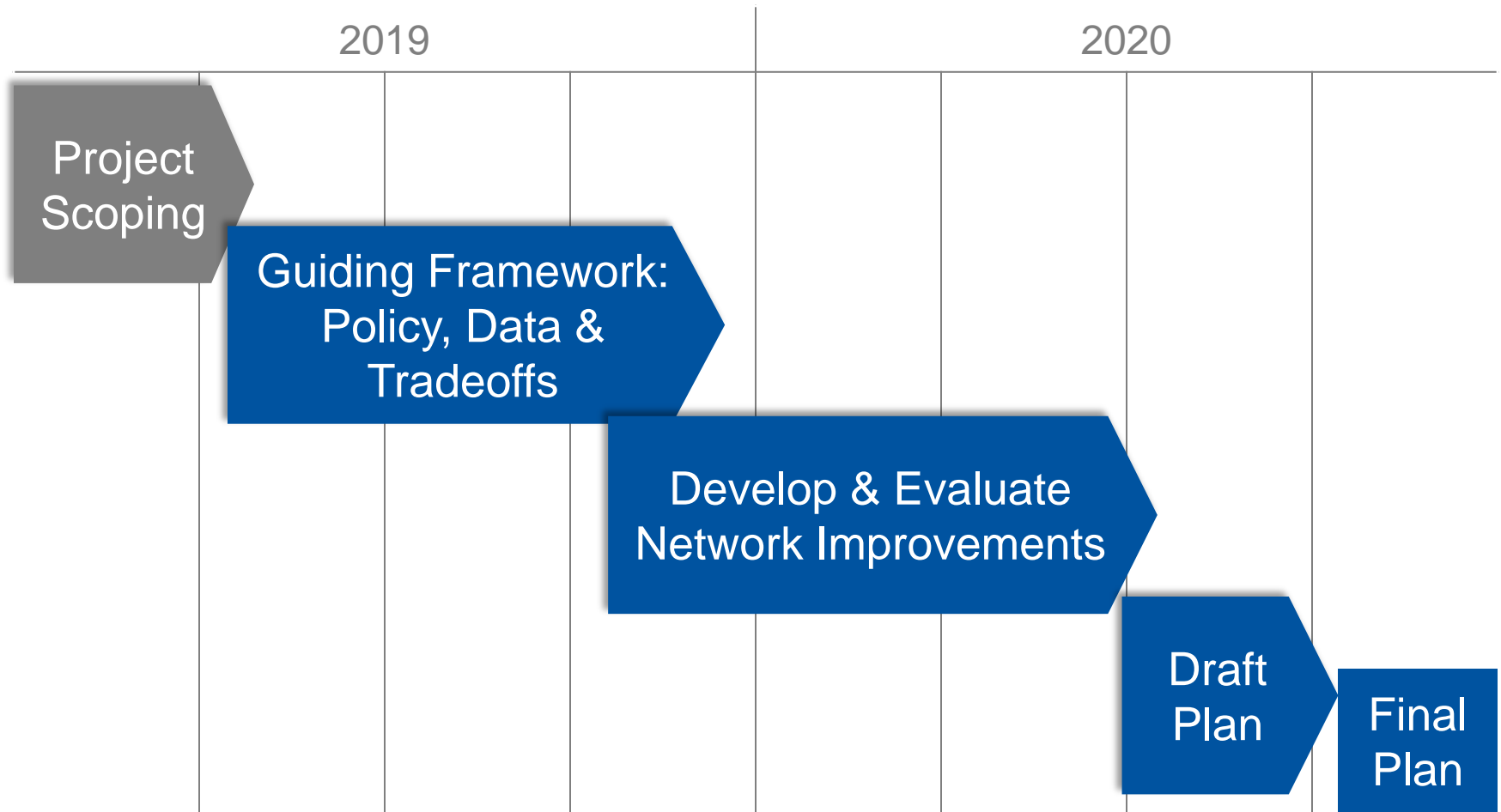
## Engaging Local Governments

- Staff communication following Council introduction
- Metro Transit Network Next project staff meetings with key stakeholders
- Formal small-group interviews about transit values and priorities with staff and policy makers
- Metro Transit staff listening sessions with staff and policy makers
- Draw from locally-led existing or ongoing plans
- Opportunities for informal staff follow-up with specific stakeholders as needed

## Engaging Riders and Community

- Community-hosted conversations with Metro Transit support
- Opportunities for Met Council Member-hosted community conversations/ forums
- Metro Transit staff facilitated conversations
- Robust web presence to support ongoing two-way communication
- Pop-up events at transit centers, park-and-rides, and major transfer points
- Review and summarize existing and ongoing sources of community/rider engagement

# Timeline



# Thank you

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