

Network**NEXT**

Building tomorrow's bus network, starting today.

Equity Advisory Committee

8/20/2019

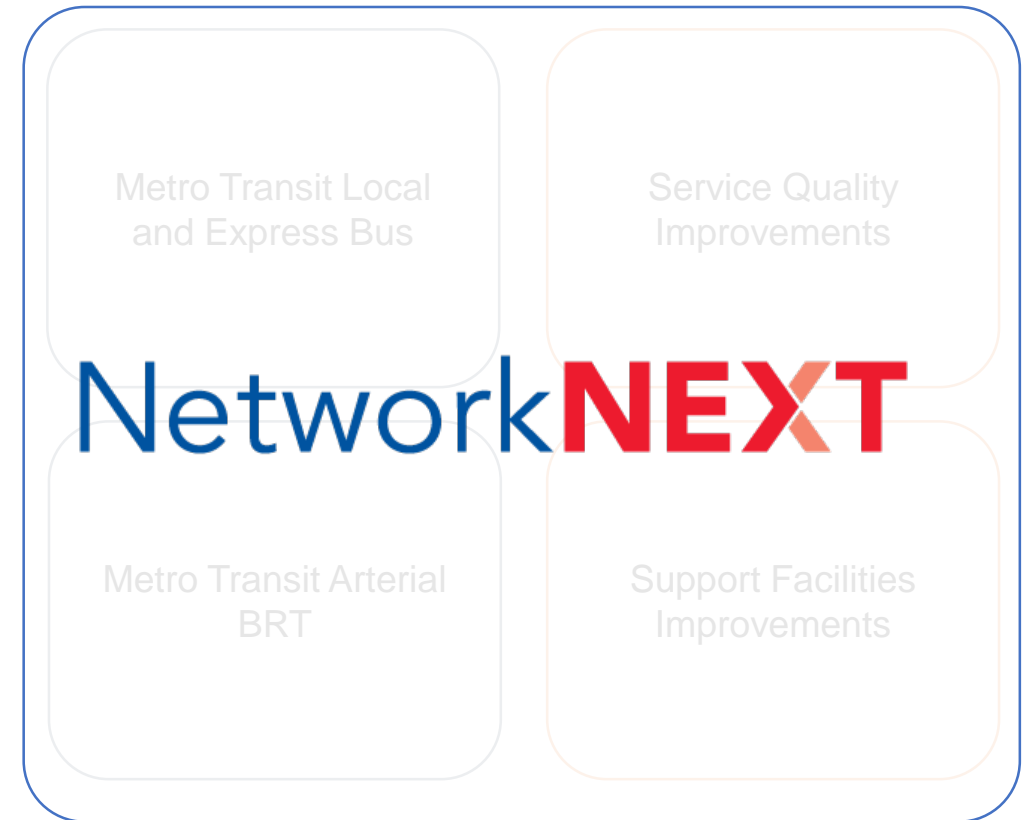
Today's agenda

- What is Network Next?
- What is the Guiding Framework and how will it be developed?
- Planned community outreach and engagement for Guiding Framework
- Discussion



What is Network Next?

- Metro Transit's vision for the bus network of 2040. What does it look like and how do we get there?
- Network Next will include:
 - Planned improvements to the bus network (including arterial BRT)
 - Planned improvements to service quality (at a high-level)
 - Provide inputs for support facilities planning



Bus Network Improvements

- The core work of Network Next will be identifying service improvements to Metro Transit's bus network.

Expanded Local and Express Bus



New Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Lines



Integrated Shared Mobility Options



Integrate Service Quality Improvements

- Network Next will also integrate improvements to the customer experience at the stop and onboard the bus.

Speed and Reliability Improvements



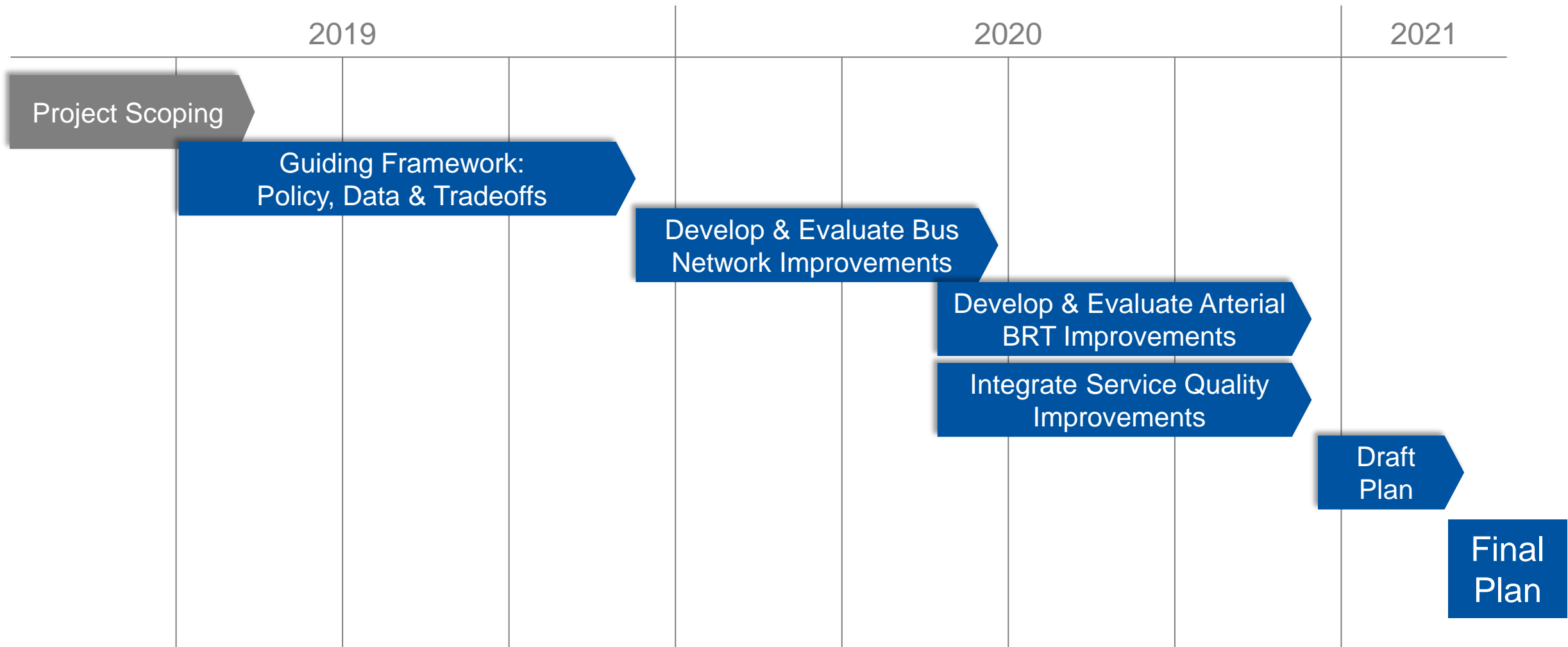
Added Bus Shelters and Transit Centers



Expanded Transit Information Availability



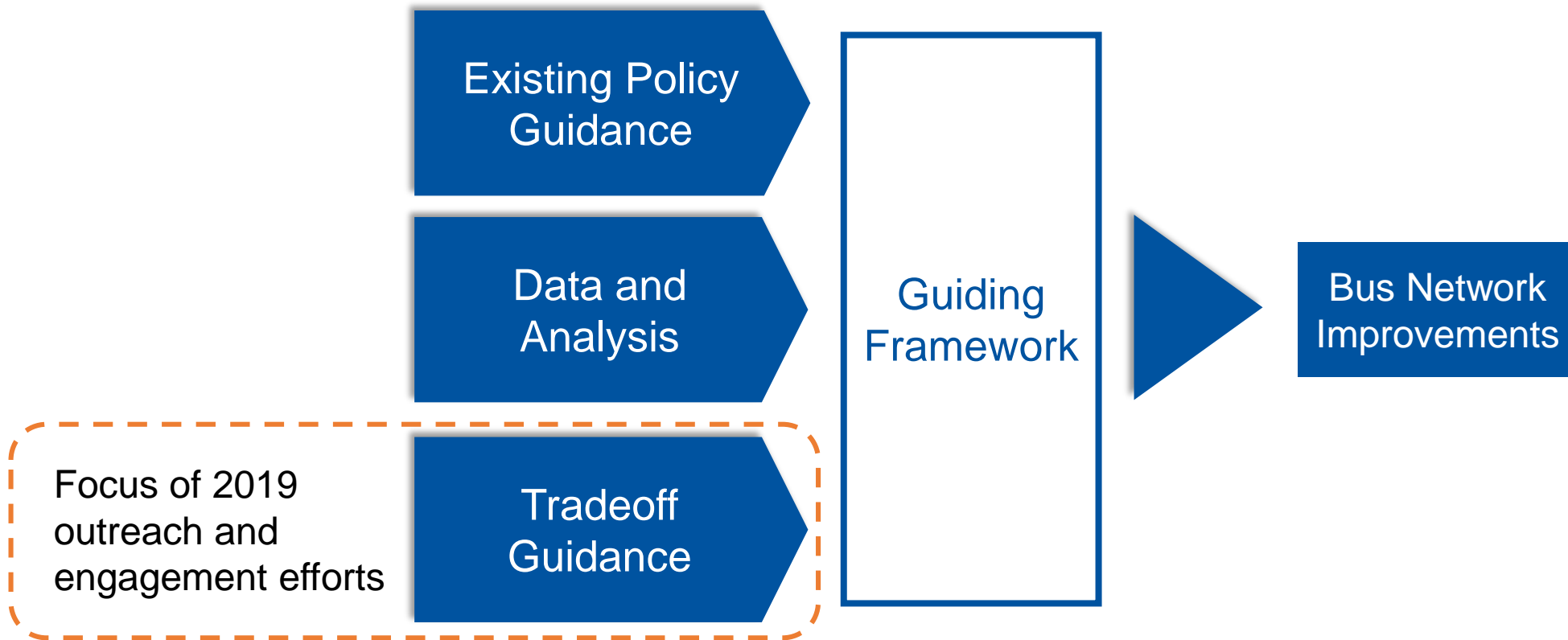
Project timeline



First Step: Develop the Network Next Guiding Framework

- Articulate the overall direction and goals for bus network improvements that will be included in Network Next
- Direct the work to develop and evaluate bus network improvements
- Communicate to riders and public what Network Next will hope to accomplish with the expansion

Inputs into the Guiding Framework



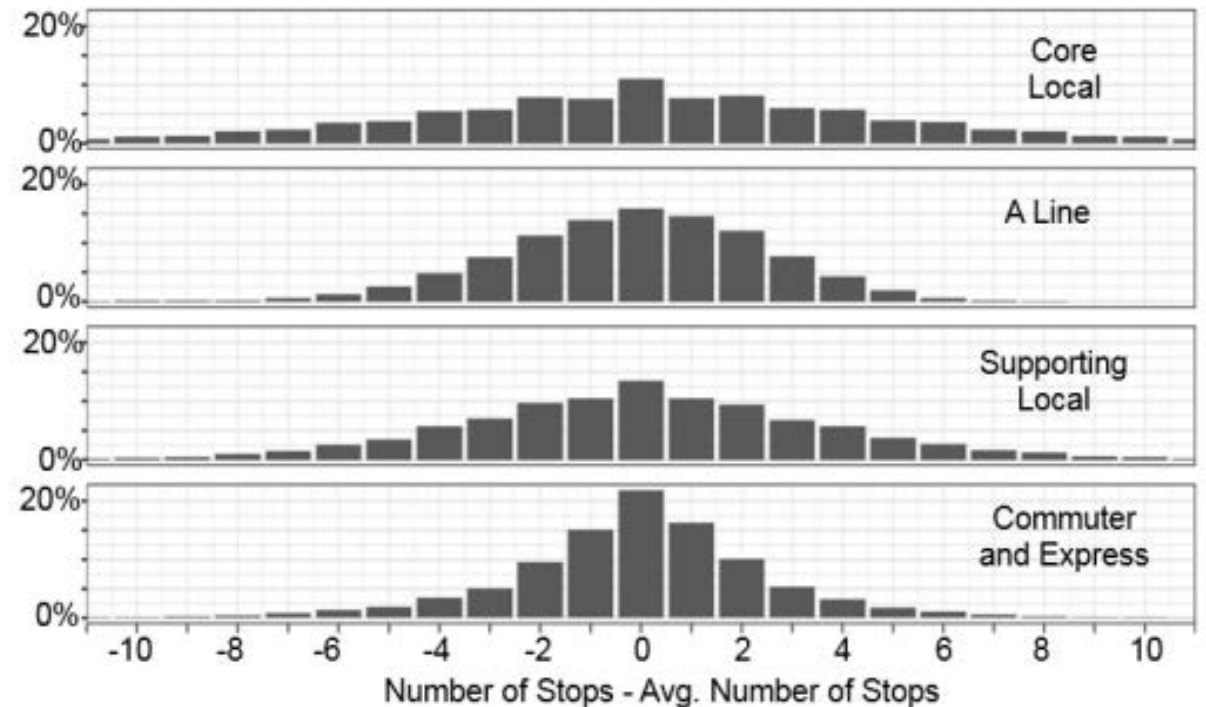
How might existing policy guidance contribute to the Guiding Framework?

- Thrive MSP 2040 and the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan will be the starting point
- Provide overall direction and inform the development of evaluation and prioritization criteria

THRIVE OUTCOME	EXAMPLE APPLICATION
Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize service expansion in areas where transit supportive development patterns exist/ are planned• Stage transit modes and service levels to match the intensity of development
Prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize service expansion that improves access to existing and emerging high-density job concentrations and activity centers
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize service expansion that connect people of color and low-income populations to jobs, education, and opportunities• Design and implement engagement efforts that expand access for historically marginalized communities
Livability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize service expansion in areas that will support transit-oriented development and walkability• Integrate and improve multi-modal travel
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize service expansion that most enables car-free or car-light living• Adopt technological advancements in the bus fleet to reduce fuel consumption, including electrification

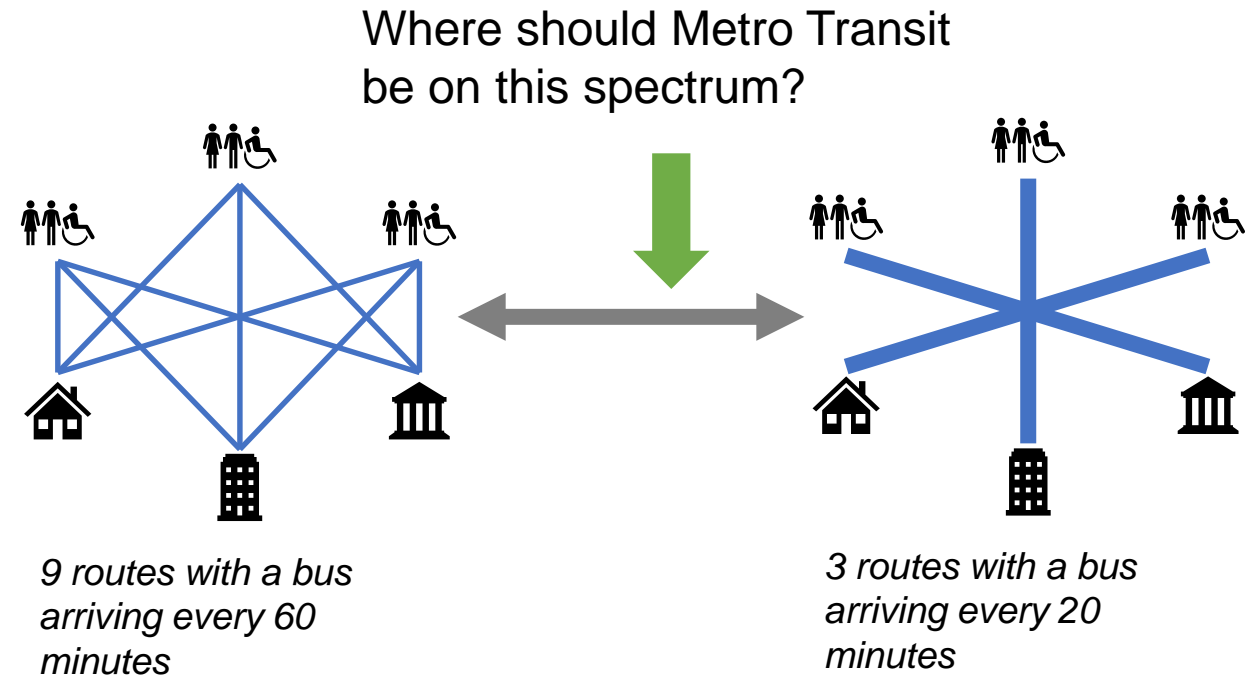
How might data and analysis contribute to the Guiding Framework?

- Data and analysis will help us answer the following questions:
 - How is our network performing today?
 - Where are the bright spots?
 - Where are the opportunities and challenges?
 - Which populations are experiencing those challenges? Are there patterns that need to be addressed?
 - Are there any transit markets we are missing right now?

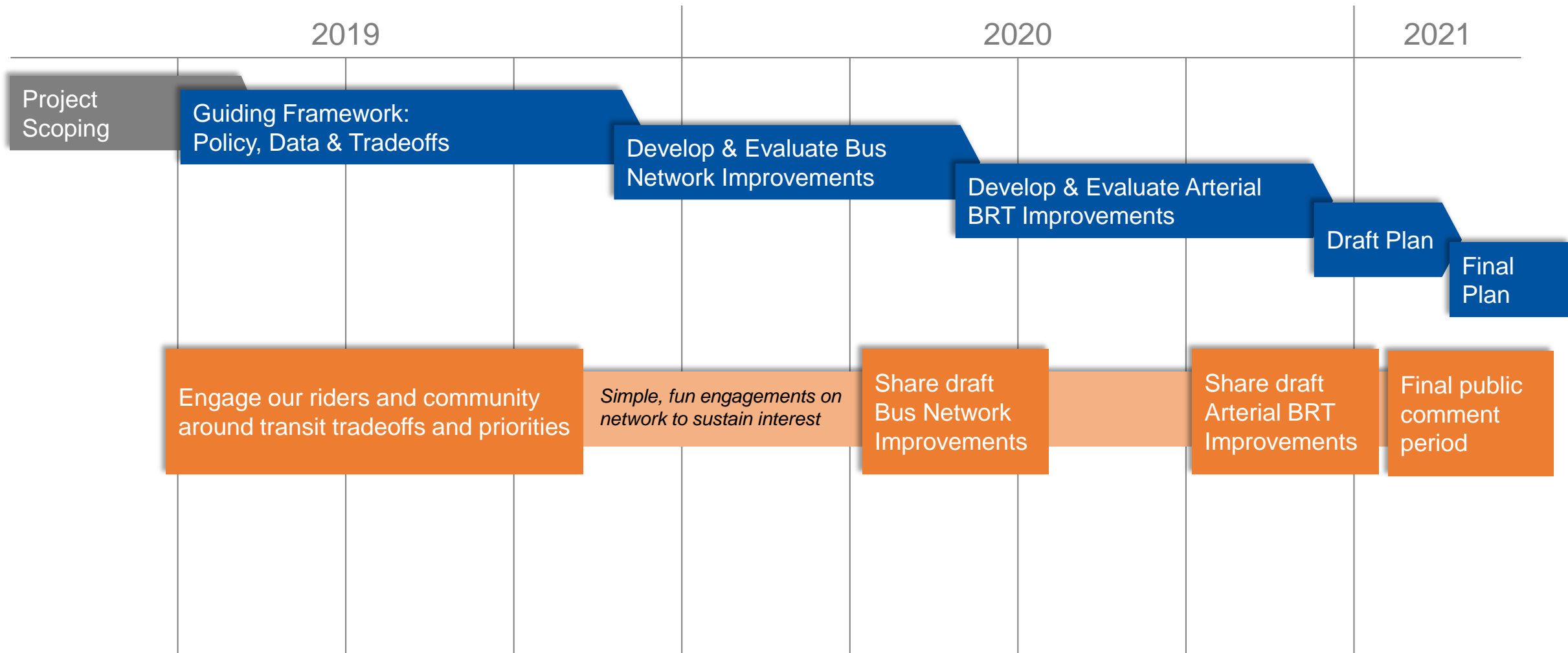


How might feedback on transit network design tradeoffs contribute to the Guiding Framework?

- Input from our riders and community will help us shape our approach to the details of the network improvements
- Which types of improvements should we emphasize?
- Example outcome:
 - “In core urban areas, Metro Transit will focus on strengthening the grid network of bus routes, emphasizing higher frequency service and relying on transfers”



Public Engagement Plan: Key Milestones



Overall Engagement Approach for Guiding Framework

- Draw on best practices from past Metro Transit engagement efforts
- Build capacity among our riders and community stakeholders
- Collaborate with community partners to gather feedback
- Generate enthusiasm about the project to encourage participation
- ***Key Question: What types of improvements should we emphasize in Network Next?***

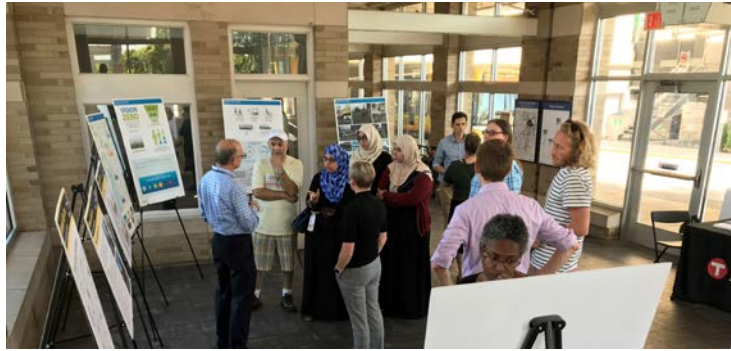


Public Outreach and Engagement Efforts Informing the Guiding Framework

Community-hosted conversations



Pop-up events on bus network



Council Member-hosted conversations



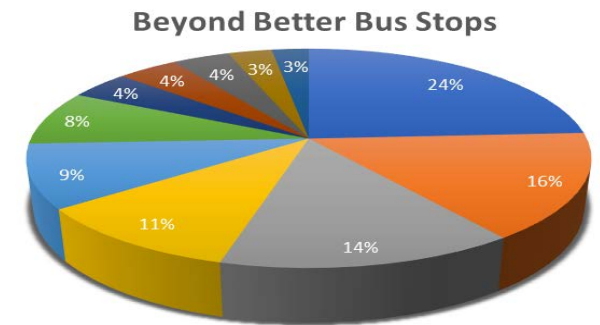
Metro Transit staff-led workshops



Online and paper survey



Summary of previous feedback



Community-hosted Conversations

Solicit proposals from organizations, artists, community leaders to host a conversation around transit priorities in community

- Goals:
 - Reach people that may not participate in traditional engagement efforts
 - Build transit planning capacity in community
 - Events designed by communities to focus

Pop-up Events on Bus Network

Metro Transit staff posted at major transfer points, bus stops, park-and-rides to share information and get quick-hit feedback

- Goals:
 - Raise awareness and interest in Network Next
 - Meet riders where they are on the bus network
 - Get feedback on simple questions, survey

Council Member-hosted Community Conversations

Council Members host a conversation around transit priorities in their districts. May integrate into existing office hours/ engagement actions.

- Goals:
 - Capitalize on existing Council Member networks and connections
 - Expand opportunities for public engagement and input on priorities
 - Council Members hear directly from transit riders and community members

Metro Transit Staff-led Workshops

Metro Transit staff work with community organizations to organize workshops to engage participants on transit tradeoffs.

- Goals:
 - Facilitate an interactive engagement opportunity that engages participants in transit tradeoffs
 - Collect feedback from participants on how they resolve transit tradeoffs

Tradeoffs Survey

Simple online and paper survey (less than 5-10 minutes to complete) that solicits feedback on preferences about transit tradeoffs.

- Goals:
 - Provide simple, sharable tool available in multiple contexts to solicit feedback on transit tradeoffs

Summary of Previous Feedback

Memo summarizing public engagement feedback from past Metro Transit planning and engagement efforts.

- Goals:
 - Ensure that input from past engagement efforts is carried forward and considered in Network Next planning

Thank you

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