

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 30, 2016

Subject: Approval of C Line long-term realignment recommendation to Glenwood Avenue

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve staff's recommendation to move the C Line from Olson Memorial Highway to Glenwood Avenue in the long term. The recommendation includes the following points:

- The C Line will serve Olson Memorial Highway from its opening day until the METRO Blue Line Extension is in service and Glenwood stations are completed;
- The C Line will be realigned to Glenwood Avenue once the METRO Blue Line Extension is in service and Glenwood stations are completed; and
- Project development for the Glenwood Avenue alignment will begin following execution of a Full Funding Grant Agreement for the METRO Blue Line Extension.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Katie Roth, BRT/Small Starts Project Manager, and Scott Janowiak, BRT/Small Starts Planner, presented this business item.

Munt asked for clarification on why the community favors the recommendation to move the C Line to Glenwood Avenue in the long-term. Roth noted several consistent comments received during October's community engagement process. Community feedback favored broadened access to transitway service instead of focusing both light rail transit and bus rapid transit on Olson Memorial Highway. Roth also noted community support for opening up a new direct transit connection between Glenwood Avenue and Olson Memorial Highway. Community support for the C Line to help spur potential economic development on Glenwood Avenue was also noted.

Barber asked for ridership impact information. Roth responded that no substantial differences in C Line or METRO Blue Line ridership resulting from a Glenwood Avenue C Line alignment are anticipated, in part because of the geographic proximity of Olson Highway and Glenwood Avenue. In addition, C Line ridership is not anticipated to decrease with a Glenwood Avenue alignment due to similar estimated travel times when compared to the C Line Olson Memorial Highway alignment.

Rodriguez asked for information about how the Facebook Live stream was promoted for the open house. Roth responded that it was a pilot effort with minimal formal advertising beyond a social media blast. Future efforts will consider more ways to promote community engagement events that will be streamed live.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt and carried.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 14, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 30, 2016

Subject:	Approval of C Line long-term realignment recommendation to Glenwood Avenue
District(s), Member(s):	District 7 (Cunningham); District 2 (Schreiber)
Policy/Legal Reference:	Public Accountability Policy 2-1; Public Involvement in the Transportation Planning Process 1-3b
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Charles Carlson, Senior Manager, BRT/Small Starts, 612-349-7639 Katie Roth, Project Manager, BRT/Small Starts, 612-349-7772 Scott Janowiak, Planner, BRT/Small Starts, 612-341-5733
Division/Department:	Metro Transit BRT/Small Starts Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve staff's recommendation to move the C Line from Olson Memorial Highway to Glenwood Avenue in the long term. The recommendation includes the following points:

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Background

The Glenwood Avenue recommendation stems from community interest in reviewing a different alignment from Olson Memorial Highway considering the planned METRO Blue Line Extension. A study process considering Glenwood Avenue was completed in 2016, with results favoring Glenwood Avenue as the long-term alignment. A community engagement process was implemented in October to assess community sentiment for the realignment. Engagement included five "mobile open houses" on Route 19, five pop-up meetings at bus stops, 10 neighborhood group presentations, and one open house held in conjunction with other transportation projects.

Rationale

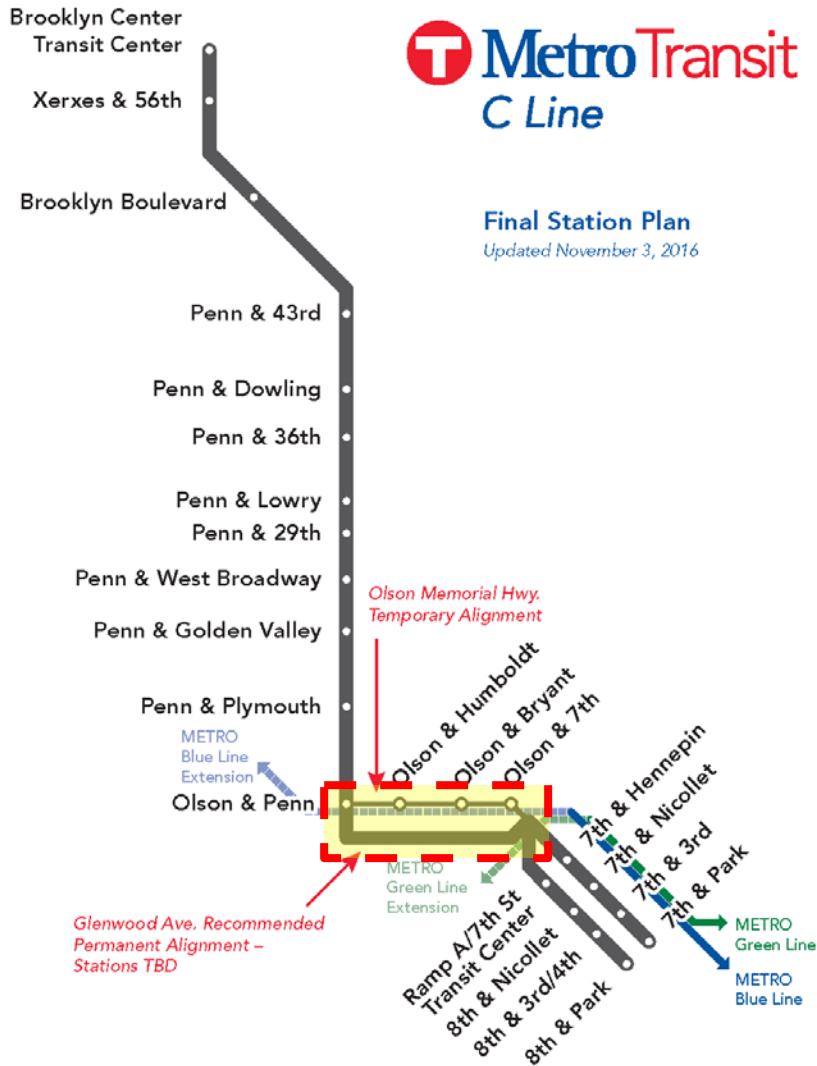
Approval of the Glenwood Avenue recommendation will confirm the long-term C Line alignment, providing direction for coordination with the METRO Blue Line Extension project.

Funding

Glenwood Avenue recommendation planning has been funded by Metro Transit operating resources. Future design and construction for the realignment is unfunded.

Known Support / Opposition

The community engagement process has identified support of the recommendation.



C Line: Long-Term Glenwood Avenue Recommendation

Transportation Committee
November 14, 2016

Katie Roth
Project Manager, Metro Transit
612-349-7772

Scott Janowiak
Planner, Metro Transit
612-341-5733

Background and Proposed Action

- Background
 - Community input helped spur study of Glenwood Avenue
 - Study results favoring Glenwood Avenue presented at September 26, 2016 Transportation Committee
 - October engagement process assessed community sentiment of realignment
- Proposed Action 2016-234
 - Approve recommendation to move the C Line alignment from Olson Memorial Highway to Glenwood Avenue in the long term



Temporary stations on Olson Memorial Highway

2019: C Line opens

- Temporary stations on Olson Memorial Highway



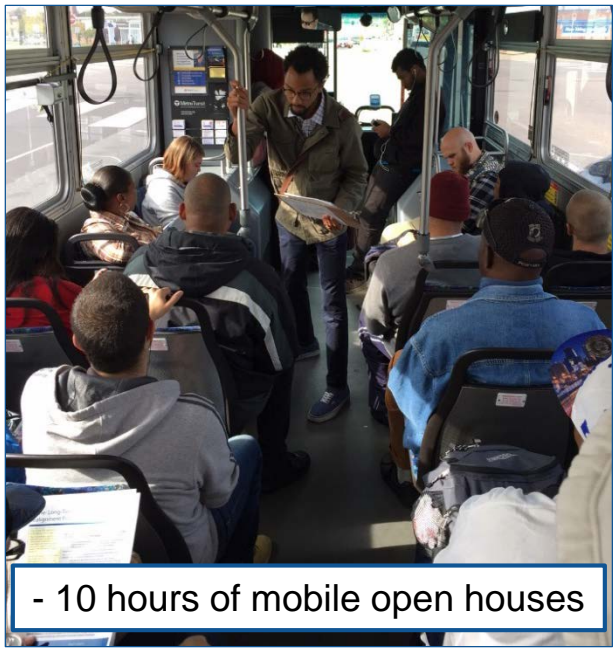
- The C Line will serve Olson Memorial Highway starting on its opening day.

2021: METRO Blue Line Extension opens

- The C Line will be moved to Glenwood Avenue once the Blue Line Extension is in service and Glenwood stations are completed

Stations on Glenwood Avenue to be determined through future planning

October Engagement



- 10 hours of mobile open houses



- Over 400 informational handouts

Metro Transit was live.
October 18 at 6:30pm · 📺

Metro Transit C Line Open House

- 1 large format open house with over 1,000 Facebook Live viewers

- 10 neighborhood meetings

Bacon Michael · 13:58 Hi
Like · Reply · October 22 at 4:52pm

Auntie Jill · 0:11 Fantastic!!!!
Like · Reply · October 19 at 7:55pm

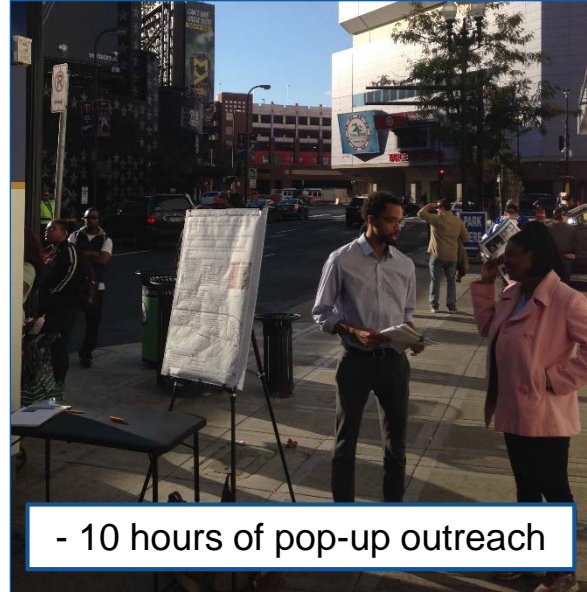
La Sims · 0:00 This is great!! In another commu ity meeting now, this allows me to catch up with all of you.
Like · Reply · 1 · October 18 at 8:20pm

Pamela Bolling · 14:04 thanks mt
Like · Reply · October 18 at 6:44pm

Janelle Larson Nivens · 11:49 Thank you for offering this live feed
Like · Reply · 1 · October 18 at 6:42pm



- Hundreds of conversations



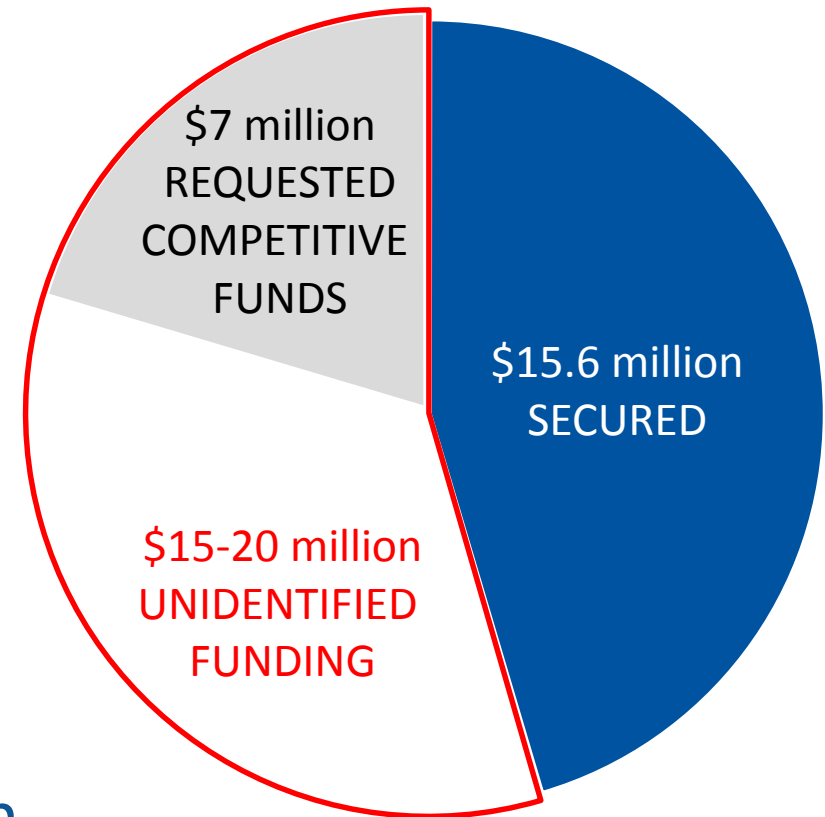
- 10 hours of pop-up outreach

Next steps

- **Glenwood recommendation**
 - December 2016: Coordinate long-term C Line locations within METRO Blue Line Extension design process
 - 2018: Begin Glenwood project development upon execution of METRO Blue Line Extension FTA Full Funding Grant Agreement
- **C Line project development**
 - 2016-2017: Design (Temporary stations on Olson)
 - 2018: Construction (pending full funding)
 - 2019: Start of service

C Line Project Cost Estimate

- Preliminary cost estimate: \$30-35 MM (subject to change based on further engineering)
 - \$15.6 MM in Federal and Met Council funding secured
 - **\$15-20 MM funding gap must be filled by mid-2017**
 - \$7 MM in Federal funding requested (Regional Solicitation)
- Non-C Line Penn intersection Improvements are fully funded outside C Line (\$4-5 million; 80% County / 20% City)



Proposed action 2016-234:

- **Approve recommendation to move the C Line alignment from Olson Memorial Highway to Glenwood Avenue in the long term. The recommendation includes the following points:**
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