

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 25, 2017

Subject: Blue Line Extension LRT Project – Updated Station Name

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the revised station name for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Project of Plymouth Avenue to Plymouth Avenue/Theodore Wirth Park.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Motion was made by Council Member Elkins, and seconded by Council Member Munt. Motion passed.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 9, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 25, 2017

Subject: Blue Line Extension LRT Project – Updated Station Name

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Council's Transitway Guidelines

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510

Mark W. Fuhrmann, Program Director for New Starts, 612-373-3810

Dan Soler, BLRT Project Director, 651-373-5371

Alicia Vap, Asst. Dir. Stations, 612-373-5375

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Blue Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the revised station name for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Project of Plymouth Avenue to Plymouth Avenue/Theodore Wirth Park.

Background

Several project partners have proposed to change the name of the Plymouth Avenue station to incorporate the adjacent park. Per the Metropolitan Council's Transitway Guidelines station naming criteria, stations should reflect local geography in terms of the major cross-street or landmark. While one of the Transitway Guidelines criteria also suggests avoiding the use of two names for one station, there is strong local support from the cities and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board supportive of the station name change, which is consistent with the Blue Line's 50th Street/Minnehaha Park station.

Rationale

The change in name to Plymouth Avenue/Theodore Wirth Park is consistent with the Transitway Guidelines as it reflects local geography both in the cross-street and in the landmark.

Thrive Lens Analysis

METRO Blue Line Extension project supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity by providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the project corridor. The proposed action advances the stewardship outcome by advancing Blue Line Extension design work efficiently and in close coordination with project partners.

Funding

Revising the station name at this time is a no cost change that allows for the full station name to be included in final construction plans, and avoids costly change orders later.

Known Support / Opposition

The Cities of Golden Valley and Minneapolis as well as the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are supportive of the proposed name change.