

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 25, 2018

Subject: Final D Line Station Plan

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the final D Line Station Plan.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit BRT Projects Senior Planner Scott Janowiak and Arterial BRT Manager Katie Roth presented the Business Item at the June 25, 2018 Transportation Committee meeting.

The approval of the final D Line Station Plan will confirm station and platform locations at the intersection and intersection corner level as described within the document. Janowiak noted that previous draft and recommended versions of the D Line Station Plan were presented to the Transportation Committee and released for public comment in the winter and spring of 2018, respectively.

The final Station Plan does not change any station and/or platform locations from the previous recommended Station Plan version. Janowiak and Roth noted that Metro Transit will continue community conversations regarding station platform fit throughout the corridor during the upcoming engineering phase, minimizing and/or mitigating issues identified during the planning process.

Elkins commented that the Chicago & 48th Street station was added because of strong community support.

Letofsky voiced support for a station at Chicago & 48th Street and appreciation for the robust community engagement process.

Commers observed that the D Line project development process is comparable to the A Line process, and the questions and concerns raised are similar as well. Commers added that Snelling Avenue has experienced a stronger retail and business environment since the start of A Line operations.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins. Motion carried.

After the June 25 Transportation Committee action, project staff continued to receive comments focused on the recommended Chicago & 48th Street station. To accommodate these ongoing conversations, the date of the proposed action for the Metropolitan Council to approve the final D Line Station Plan was changed from July 11, 2018 to July 25, 2018. Project staff will continue to engage station neighbors and other stakeholders on station design as the D Line advances into engineering.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 25, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 11, 2018

Subject:	Final D Line Station Plan
District(s), Member(s):	District 2, Lona Schreiber; District 7, Gary Cunningham; District 8, Cara Letofsky; District 5, Steve Elkins
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, Director, BRT Projects, 612-349-7639 Katie Roth, Manager, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Scott Janowiak, Senior Planner, BRT Projects, 612-341-5733
Division/Department:	Metro Transit, BRT Projects

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the final D Line Station Plan.

Background

On May 9, the Council authorized release of the recommended D Line Station Plan for public review and comment. The document functioned as a public report-back on previous planning efforts and was shaped by over 100 comments submitted in response to the draft D Line Station Plan published in February 2018.

Following release, public comments were accepted on the recommended D Line Station Plan through June 8, 2018. Comments on the recommended D Line Station Plan were solicited through the D Line project website, newsletter, social media posts, and direct communication with neighborhood and community organizations throughout the corridor. Staff also conducted direct outreach to businesses and residents immediately adjacent to added stations in the recommended plan. A total of 52 comments were submitted during this additional comment period. These comments are included in the plan and will continue to guide the project development process alongside those comments previously received.

Station locations in the final plan are consistent with those in the recommended plan.

Rationale

Approval of the D Line Station Plan will establish D Line station locations, providing critical direction and focus to the detailed design and engineering phase anticipated to begin later in 2018.

Thrive Lens Analysis

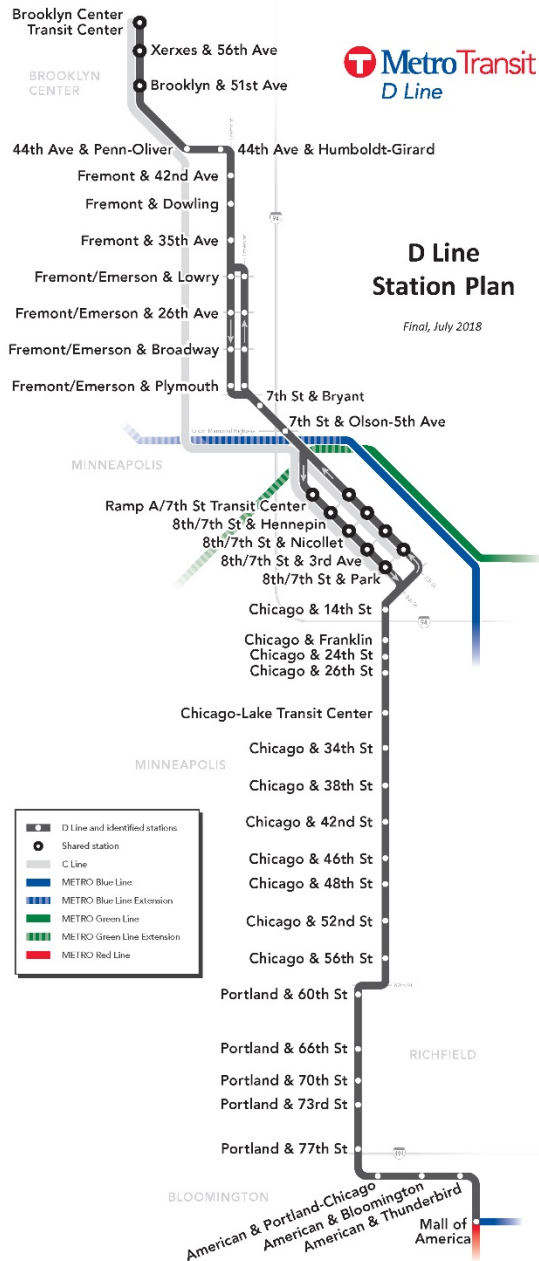
The D Line Station Plan process advances Thrive outcomes of equity, through engaging the full cross-section of the community in decision-making action, and livability, through working toward improved transportation choices. Investment in high-quality transportation options like the D Line will advance the thrive outcome of prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

Funding

The D Line planning process has been funded using Metro Transit operating budget resources. Full funding for delivery of the D Line project is not yet identified. While this action carries no direct funding implications, approval of the plan will direct the project to construct a defined number of stations in determined locations, a necessary step to delivering the project within budget.

Known Support / Opposition

Public engagement throughout the station plan process has identified generally strong support for the D Line and transit improvements in the Chicago / Emerson-Fremont corridor. Some property and business owners directly adjacent to planned stations have voiced opposition, which will help inform future design phases. Local partners have been supportive of the project and will continue to be closely involved as the project transitions into the detailed design and engineering phase.



Final D Line Station Plan

Transportation Committee
June 25, 2018

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Katie Roth
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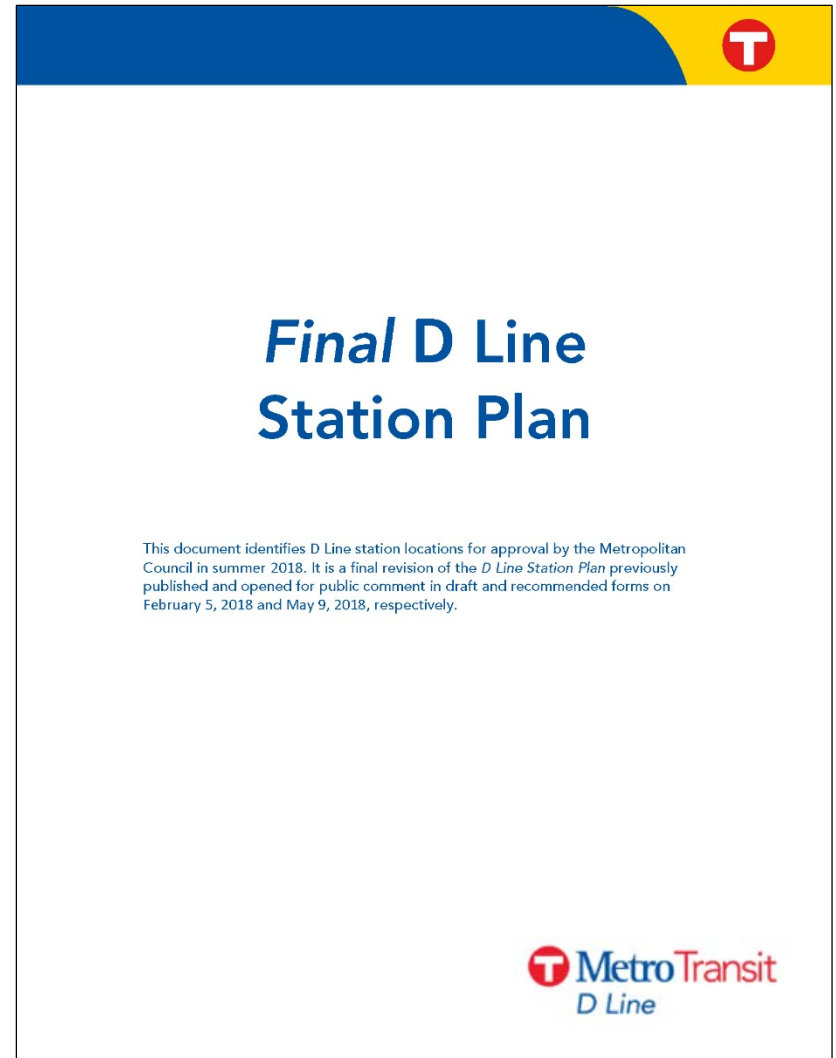
D Line: 2018–2019 Next Steps



- \$35 million bonding request not funded in 2018 legislative session
- Near-term: Continue advancement of entire project
 - Final plan for Council approval
 - RFP for engineering services consultant
 - Environmental document
- 2018 – Early 2019
 - Initiate engineering with available Council funds
 - Refine project budget through engineering
 - Continue to seek full project funding
 - Revisit path in 2019 if needed

Proposed Action 2018-162:

- That the Metropolitan Council approve the final *D Line Station Plan*



Process

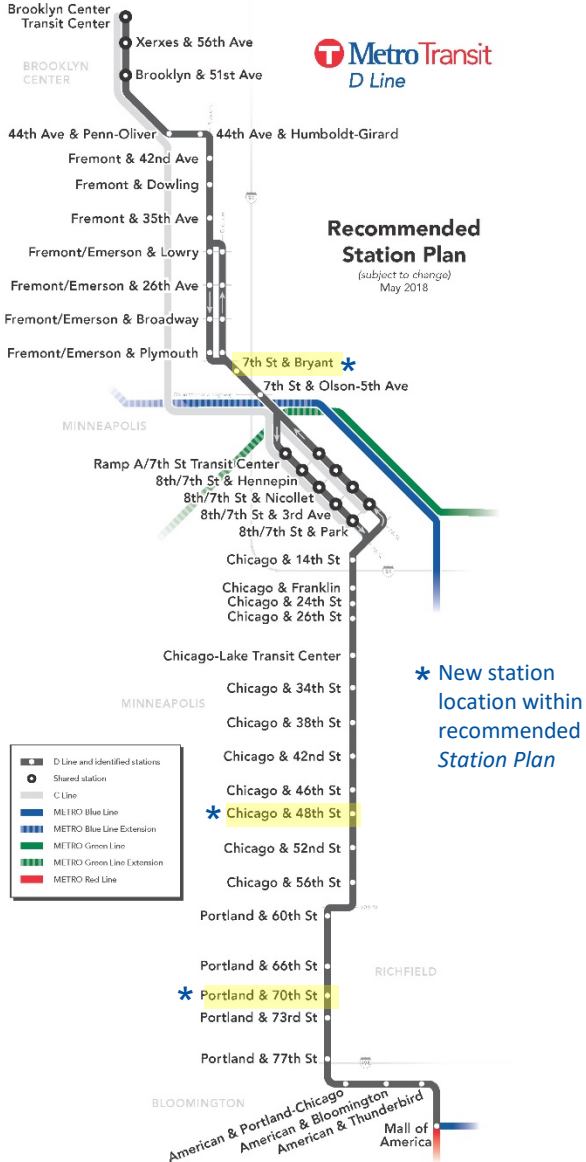
Released February 5, 2018
Information Item

Released May 9, 2018
Business Item 2018-105

Current project status



Recommended Station Plan Contents



- **Location: Stations and platforms**
 - What intersections?
 - What corners?

- **Three station additions**
 - 7th Street & Bryant
 - Chicago & 48th Street
 - Portland & 70th Street

Recommended *Station Plan* Process

- Functioned as a report-back on draft Station Plan process
- Recommended Station Plan released on May 9, 2018 (Business Item 2018-105)
 - Comments accepted through June 8, 2018
 - Over 50 comments submitted
 - City comments in support of plan (Minneapolis, Richfield)
- Outreach and engagement
 - Conversations and meetings with businesses, neighborhood groups
 - Email distributions
 - Newsletter
- Ongoing agency coordination

Recommended *D Line Station Plan* Comment Themes

- General project support and clarifications
- Strong focus on Chicago & 48th Street addition
 - About $\frac{3}{4}$ of comments received during this phase focused on this location
 - Mixed support and opposition
 - City of Minneapolis support
- Final Station Plan does not change station and/or platform location recommendations
- Continue community conversation to seek best platform “fit”, minimize and/or mitigate issues raised





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