

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 27, 2019

Subject: Public Hearing on Proposed Elimination of Route 614

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing to accept comments on the proposed elimination of Route 614.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Steve Mahowald, Senior Transit Planner for Metro Transit, presented this item. Council member Munt thanked Mahowald for the collaboration with the City of Minnetonka and for the effort exerted to save the route. Council member Dorfman asked how close the Minnetonka Heights area is to the nearest proposed SWLRT station. Mahowald said it is about 3-4 miles and a conceptual route serving Minnetonka Heights such as what Council member Dorfman envisions has been discussed in the future 2035 build plan.

The item was moved by Council member Munt, seconded by Council member Dorfman. Motion carried. **Consent** to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 11, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 27, 2019

Subject:	Public Hearing on Proposed Elimination of Route 614
District(s), Member(s):	District 3, Jennifer Munt
Policy/Legal Reference:	Public Accountability Policy 2-1, Public Hearings Procedure 2-1b Transportation Service Changes and Restructuring 1-3a Public Involvement in the Transportation Planning Process 1-3b
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Adam Harrington, Director Service Development 612-349-7797 Cyndi Harper, Manager Route Planning 612-349-7723 Steve Mahowald, Senior Planner 612-349-7775
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Service Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes a public hearing to accept comments on proposed elimination of Route 614.

Background

In 2012 Metro Transit staff worked with Minnetonka reviewing local and national peer cities to determine the best options for local service operating within the city. Based on that review, Route 614 was implemented in August 2013 to test the feasibility of community fixed route service in a Transit Market Area III and IV environment such as Minnetonka.

As shown in the attached map, service operates between the Minnetonka Heights affordable housing complex and the Ridgedale shopping center area via Highway 101, Minnetonka Boulevard and Plymouth Boulevard. Weekday service is hourly between 5:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Initially, there was Saturday hourly service between 9:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. but it was eliminated in August 2015 due to low ridership.

The regional's minimum performance standard for a suburban local route, such as Route 614, is 10 passengers per in-service hour. Since its implementation Route 614 has consistency averaged below 5 passengers per in-service hour.

Marketing of the service has included the distribution of 'free ride' coupons as well as regular community outreach efforts.

Route 614 is operated by First Transit by contract to the Council. Minnetonka is an opt-out community with transit service provided by the Council under a Transit Cooperation Agreement. Service Development staff has been in communication with city staff regarding the route's performance, promotional efforts, and the decision to schedule a public hearing to consider the elimination of the route.

If Route 614 is eliminated, Transit Link service would be available to current riders.

Rationale

Council policy requires authorization for public hearing 45 days before the hearing begins. State law requires public notice of the public hearing at least 30 days in advance. The proposed hearing location, date and time are listed below.

Public Hearing for Proposed Elimination of Route 614 Service

Monday, April 15, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presentation at 12:15 p.m.

Hennepin County's Ridgedale Library, Room 174

12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305

Route 614 and 645 provide midday, direct service to the library and Route 615 stops at Ridgedale Shopping Center within ¼ mile of the library.

In addition to providing comments at the public hearing, the public will be invited to submit comments via telephone, fax, e-mail and the Council website.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Stewardship and responsibly managing the region's finite resources in a sustainable manner is the primary foci of the proposed elimination. The availability of Transit Link service in lieu of Route 614 supports equity by continuing to provide residents access to local destinations via transit.

Funding

The public hearing will be funded through existing operating budgets.

Known Support / Opposition

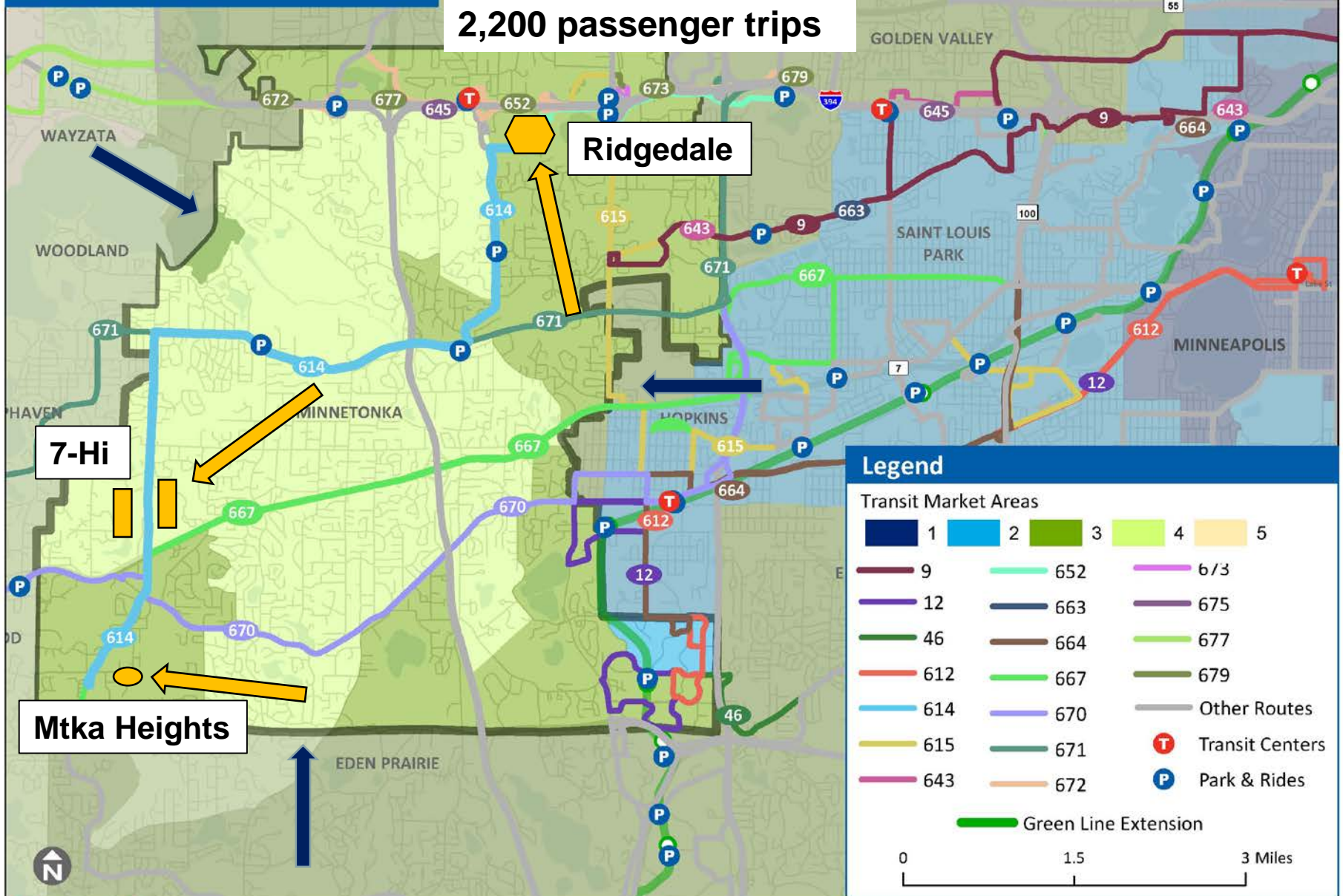
There is no known opposition to scheduling the public hearing for this study.

Route 614 Proposed Elimination

- Implemented August 2013 as demonstration in Transit Market Areas IV and III
- Hourly service Minnetonka Heights-Ridgedale
 - Minnetonka is an opt-out community

Transit Service in Minnetonka

**18 routes providing roughly 400 trips per weekday
2,200 passenger trips**



Legend

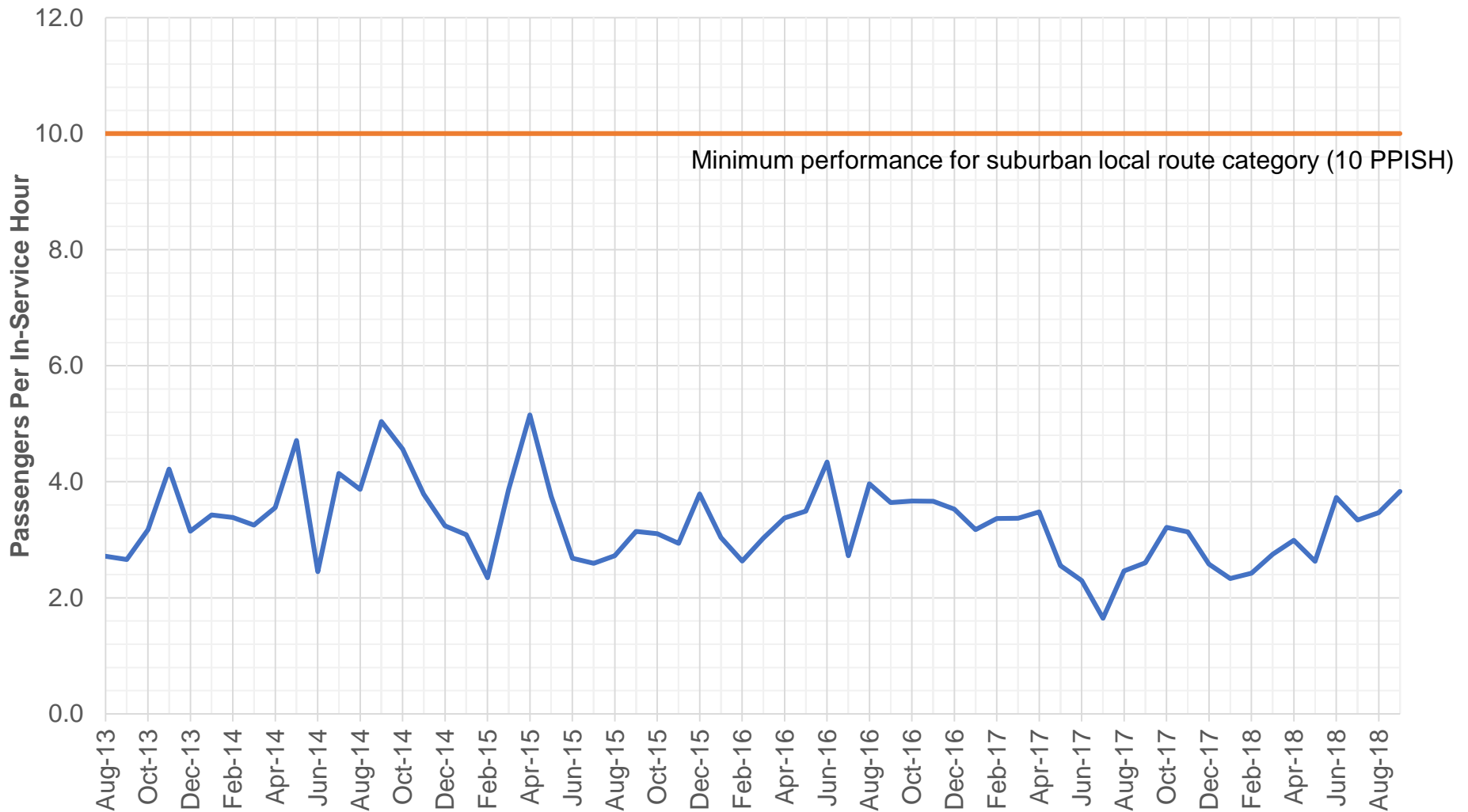
Transit Market Areas

1	2	3	4	5
9	652	6/3	675	677
12	663	679	Other Routes	Transit Centers
46	664	677	679	Park & Rides
612	667	670	Other Routes	Transit Centers
614	670	671	Other Routes	Park & Rides
615	671	672	Other Routes	Park & Rides
643	672	Green Line Extension		

0 1.5 3 Miles

- Marketing included distribution of 'Free Ride' coupons
- Saturday discontinued in 2015 due to low ridership
- Regional standard for suburban locals 10 passengers per in-service hour (ppish)
 - Route has consistency averaged below 5 ppish
- If eliminated, Transit Link will be available 6am-7pm

Passengers Per In-Service Hour



- Approval of Public Hearing Dates
- Proposed Dates
 - Ridgedale Library, Monday 4/15, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 - Comment period ends April 25th
- Transportation Committee May 13th if moving forward with proposed elimination
- If approved, last day of service Friday, August 16th
- Requested Action:
 - That the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing to accept comments on proposed elimination of Route 614