

Dear Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee Members:

Metro Transit is initiating a two-year process to develop a plan that will guide the expansion of our bus network across a spectrum of improvements over the next 20 years. This effort, called [Network Next](#), will develop a prioritized vision for the bus network of 2040, including the local and express bus network, arterial BRT network, and service quality investments like speed and reliability improvements and customer facilities. This effort was recently introduced to the Metropolitan Council at the [June 19 Committee of the Whole meeting](#).

The focus of our work for the remainder of 2019 will be to establish the Guiding Framework that will direct the development, evaluation, and prioritization of bus service expansion opportunities to be included in Network Next. The Guiding Framework will be informed by our existing transportation policy guidance, the current bus network performance, and input on transit goals and tradeoffs from our riders, community, and local government partners.

At an upcoming TAAC meeting, Metro Transit staff will be sharing more detail about Network Next and our planned approach to engage the TAAC, our riders, and the communities we serve. One of the first Network Next engagement efforts will be to coordinate community-hosted conversations about transit goals and priorities. We want to learn what is working well, what could be improved, and how we should prioritize transit tradeoffs in our future bus service expansion.

We will be asking for proposals from organizations, individuals, community groups, leaders, and artists to design and facilitate a conversation about transit in their community. Financial support of up to \$2,500 will be available to selected community hosts. We are asking for your help in sharing this opportunity with your constituents and networks. The [application form](#) and [additional information](#) is available on the Network Next project page. Please share with individuals or groups that might be interested. Proposals are due to Metro Transit on August 9th and will be selected by August 16.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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Senior Planner

BRT Projects | Metro Transit

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