

# NetworkNEXT

Building tomorrow's bus network, starting today.

Network Next

Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee

9/4/2019

# Today's agenda

- What is Network Next?
- What is the Guiding Framework and how will it be developed?
- Planned community outreach and engagement for Guiding Framework
- Discussion

# What is Network Next?

# What is Network Next?

- Metro Transit's vision for the bus network of 2040. What does it look like and how do we get there?
- Network Next will include:
  - Planned improvements to the bus network
    - Local and express bus and arterial bus rapid transit
  - Planned improvements to service quality (at a high-level)
  - Provide inputs for support facilities planning

# Bus Network Improvements

- The core work of Network Next will be identifying service improvements to Metro Transit's bus network. This will include:
  - Expanded Local and Express Bus
    - New routes, improvements to hours of service, frequency on existing routes
  - New Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Lines
    - Identifying new corridors for arterial BRT (like A Line and C Line)
  - Integrated Shared Mobility Options

# Integrate Service Quality Improvements

- Network Next will also integrate improvements to the customer experience at the stop and onboard the bus. This will include:
  - Speed and reliability improvements
  - Added bus shelters and transit centers
  - Expanded availability of transit information

# Project timeline

- Remainder of 2019:
  - Define Network Next Guiding Framework
    - Includes data analysis, policy summary, and guidance on transit tradeoffs/priorities
- January – June 2020:
  - Develop and Evaluate Bus Network Improvements
- July – December 2020:
  - Develop and Evaluate Arterial BRT Improvements
  - Integrate Service Quality Improvements
- January – March 2021
  - Draft plan review and final plan

# Developing the Guiding Framework



# First Step: Develop the Network Next Guiding Framework

- Articulate the overall direction and goals for bus network improvements that will be included in Network Next
- Direct the work to develop and evaluate bus network improvements
- Communicate to riders and public what Network Next will hope to accomplish with the expansion

# Inputs into the Guiding Framework

- Existing Policy Guidance
  - Thrive MSP 2040
  - Transportation Policy Plan
- Data and Analysis
- Guidance on tradeoffs/priorities
  - Focus of 2019 outreach and engagement efforts

# How might existing policy guidance contribute to the Guiding Framework?

- Thrive MSP 2040 and the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan will be the starting point
- Provide overall direction and inform the development of evaluation and prioritization criteria

# How might data and analysis contribute to the Guiding Framework?

- Data and analysis will help us answer the following questions:
  - How is our network performing today?
  - Where are the bright spots?
  - Where are the opportunities and challenges?
  - Which populations are experiencing those challenges? Are there patterns that need to be addressed?
  - Are there any transit markets we are missing right now?

# How might feedback on transit network design tradeoffs contribute to the Guiding Framework?

- Input from our riders and community will help us shape our approach to the details of the network improvements
- Which types of improvements should we emphasize?
- Example outcome:
  - “In core urban areas, Metro Transit will focus on strengthening the grid network of bus routes, emphasizing higher frequency service and relying on transfers”

# Public Engagement Plan

# Overall Engagement Approach for Guiding Framework

- Draw on best practices from past Metro Transit engagement efforts
- Build capacity among our riders and community stakeholders
- Collaborate with community partners to gather feedback
- Generate enthusiasm about the project to encourage participation
- ***Key Question: What types of improvements should we emphasize in Network Next?***

# Public Outreach and Engagement Efforts Informing the Guiding Framework

- Community-hosted conversations
- Pop-up events on bus network
- Council Member-hosted conversations
- Metro Transit staff-led workshops
- Online and paper survey
- Summary of previous feedback



# Community-hosted Conversations

- Solicit proposals from organizations, artists, community leaders to host a conversation around transit priorities in community
- Goals:
  - Reach people that may not participate in traditional engagement efforts
  - Build transit planning capacity in community
  - Events designed by communities to focus

# Pop-up Events on Bus Network

- Metro Transit staff posted at major transfer points, bus stops, park-and-rides to share information and get quick-hit feedback
- Goals:
  - Raise awareness and interest in Network Next
  - Meet riders where they are on the bus network
  - Get feedback on simple questions, survey

# Council Member-hosted Community Conversations

- Council Members host a conversation around transit priorities in their districts. May integrate into existing office hours/ engagement actions
- Goals:
  - Capitalize on existing Council Member networks and connections
  - Expand opportunities for public engagement and input on priorities
  - Council Members hear directly from transit riders and community members

# Metro Transit Staff-led Workshops

- Metro Transit staff work with community organizations to organize workshops to engage participants on transit tradeoffs.
- Goals:
  - Facilitate an interactive engagement opportunity that engages participants in transit tradeoffs
  - Collect feedback from participants on how they resolve transit tradeoffs

# Tradeoffs/ Priorities Survey

- Simple online and paper survey (less than 5-10 minutes to complete) that solicits feedback on preferences about transit tradeoffs.
- Goals:
  - Provide simple, sharable tool available in multiple contexts to solicit feedback on transit tradeoffs

# Summary of Previous Feedback

- Memo summarizing public engagement feedback from past Metro Transit planning and engagement efforts.
  - Ensure that input from past engagement efforts is carried forward and considered in Network Next planning

# Thank you!

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