

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2021-15

DATE: April 7, 2021

TO: Transportation Advisory Board

FROM: Technical Advisory Committee

PREPARED BY: Steve Peterson, Manager of Highway Planning and TAB/TAC Process (steven.peterson@metc.state.mn.us)
Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (joe.barbeau@metc.state.mn.us)

SUBJECT: Project Selection - 2020 Regional Solicitation Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Line

REQUESTED ACTION: Metro Transit requests award of \$25M identified in the 2020 Regional Solicitation to the METRO F Line along current Route 10 from Downtown Minneapolis to Northtown Mall via Central Avenue and University Avenue.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That TAB award \$25 million identified in the 2020 Regional Solicitation to the METRO F Line along current Route 10 from Downtown Minneapolis to Northtown Mall via Central Avenue and University Avenue.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: On December 16, 2020, TAB approved a program of 57 projects to be funded through the 2020 Regional Solicitation, primarily for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. Included in the nearly \$200M federal program was \$25M in federal funds (and therefore at least \$31.25M total) for an arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) project, with a final funding award to be decided upon by TAB in April 2021. This timing was selected to align with the Metropolitan Council's adoption of Network Next ABRT expansion recommendations and to enable robust community outreach in the selection process. TAB received information updates on the selection process across late 2020.

On March 24, 2021 the Metropolitan Council selected the following three lines as the region's next ABRT expansions, with 40 new miles of BRT corridors identified with planned implementation by 2030 serving four metro counties:

- The METRO F Line will serve the Central Avenue Corridor, largely replacing Route 10 from downtown Minneapolis to Northtown Mall via Central and University avenues.
- The METRO G Line will serve the Rice/Robert corridor, running from West St. Paul to Little Canada via Robert Street and Rice Street and replacing portions of routes 62 and 68.
- The METRO H Line will serve the Como/Maryland corridor from downtown Minneapolis to Sun Ray Transit Center in St. Paul via Como Avenue and Maryland Avenue, replacing and extending Route 3.

Since these near-term candidate corridors were presented to TAB in December 2020, robust engagement yielded strong support for each. The Central Avenue Corridor was selected as the F Line due to key differentiators that include high existing ridership, lower incremental annual

operating costs, and lower capital costs. Naming the G and H lines also enables project coordination to proceed with other near-term corridor roadway and transit projects.

Selecting the project will result in the project's inclusion in the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The F Line is identified for 2025 program year funding.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: TAB approves Regional Solicitation project selections for concurrence by the Metropolitan Council and recommends the TIP for approval to the Metropolitan Council.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: At its March 18, 2021, meeting, the TAC Funding & Programming Committee voted unanimously to recommend awarding \$25 million identified in the 2020 Regional Solicitation to the METRO F Line along current Route 10 from Downtown Minneapolis to Northtown Mall via Central Avenue and University Avenue.

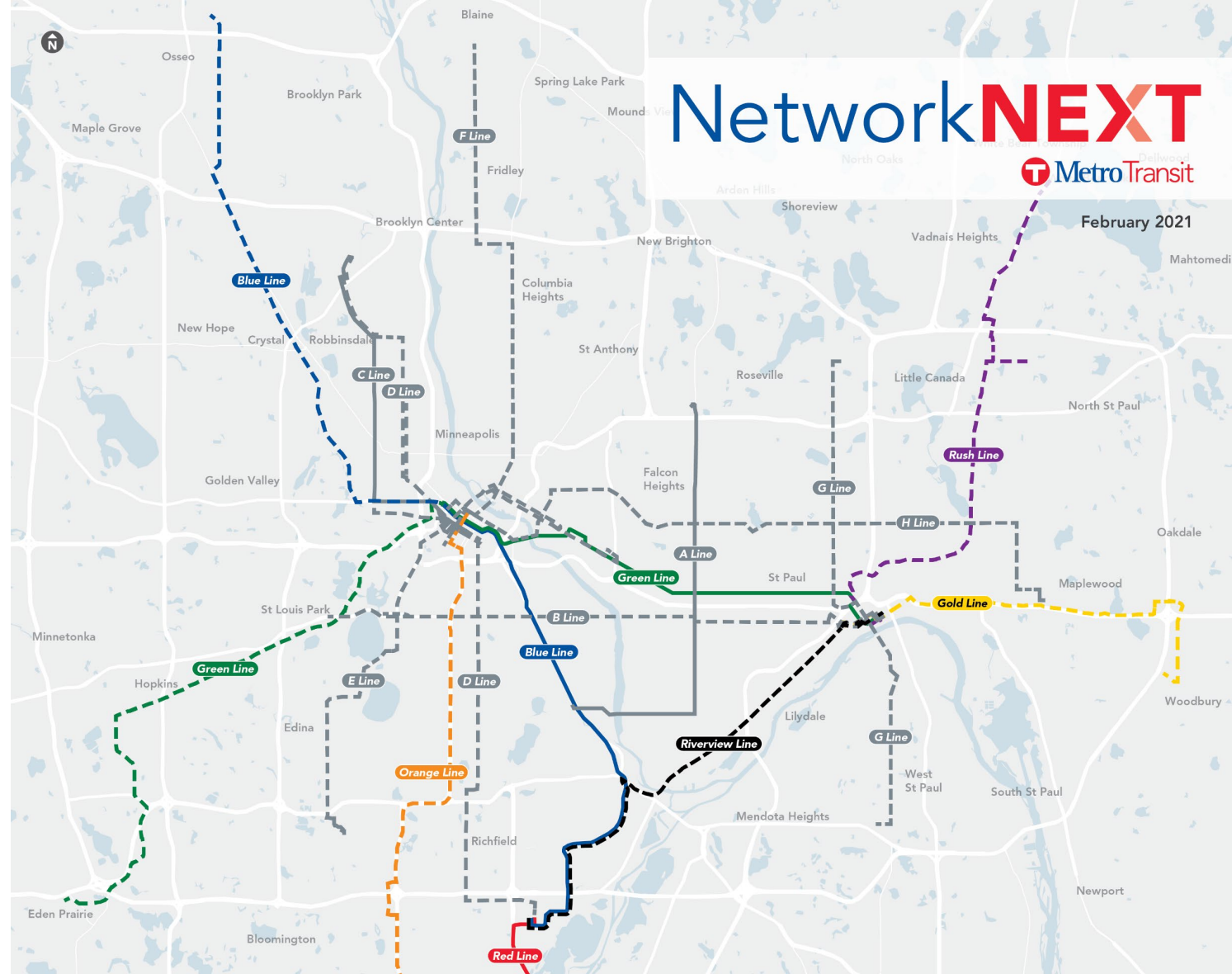
At its April 7, 2021, meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend awarding \$25 million identified in the 2020 Regional Solicitation to the METRO F Line along current Route 10 from Downtown Minneapolis to Northtown Mall via Central Avenue and University Avenue.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE SCHEDULED/COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	3/18/2021
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	4/7/2021
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	4/21/2021

Network Next Near-term BRT corridors

- F Line (Central)
- G Line (Rice / Robert)
- H Line (Como / Maryland)
- Aligns with Network Next principles
- Serves Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey counties
- Provides significant expansion in access by 2030



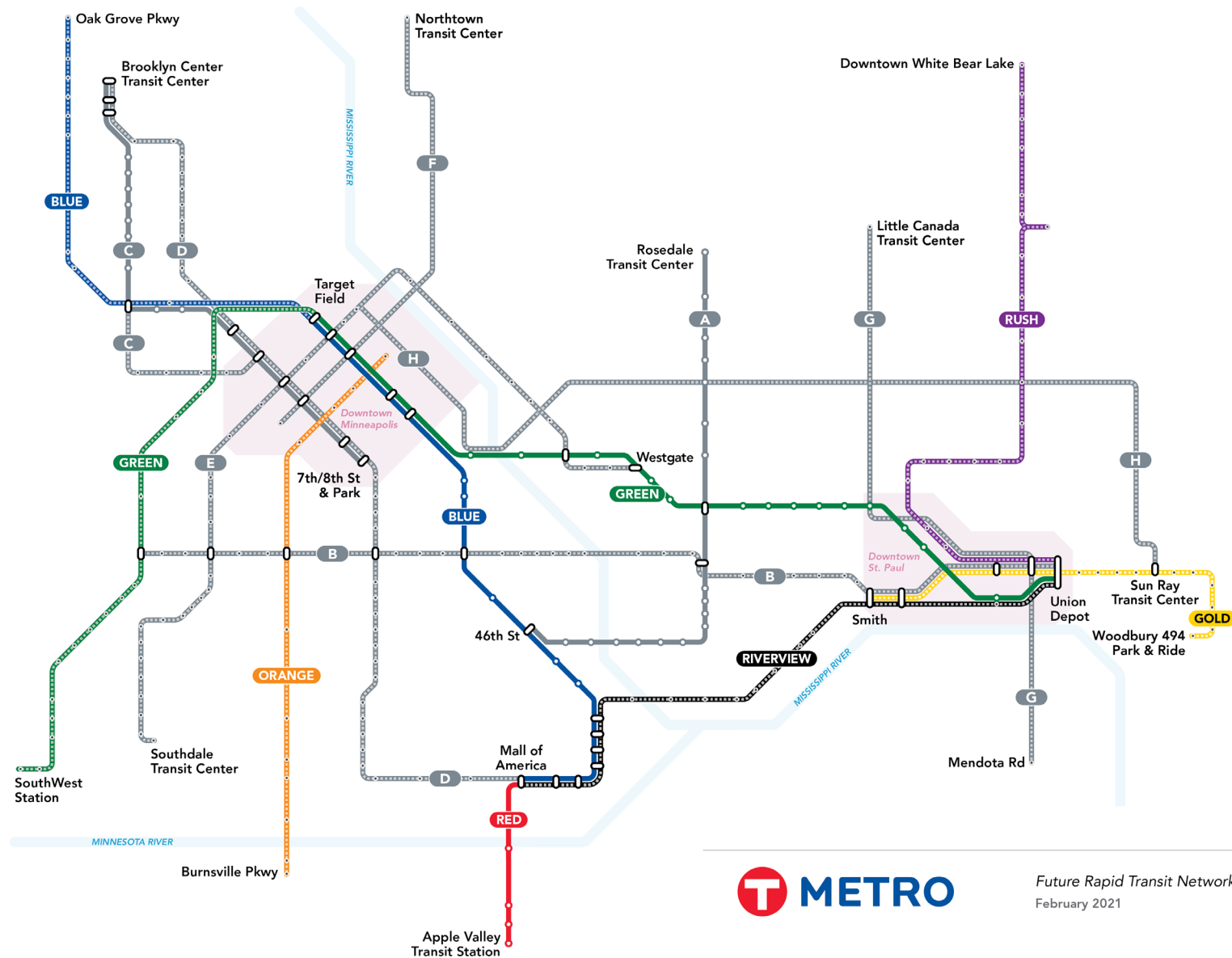
Current METRO network

- A Line
- C Line
- Blue Line
- Green Line
- Red Line

Planned METRO network

- - - Planned BRT
- - - Orange Line
- - - Green Line Extension
- - - Gold Line
- - - Blue Line Extension
- - - Rush Line
- - - Riverview Line

Future METRO vision with F, G, H lines



Future Rapid Transit Network
February 2021