

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 14, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 23, 2017

<b>Subject:</b>	METRO Orange Line BRT - Approve Station Names
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 5 (Elkins), District 7 (Cunningham), District 8 (Letofsky), District 15 (Chavez)
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Metropolitan Council's Transitway Guidelines
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Charles Carlson, Senior Manager, BRT/Small Starts, 612-349-7639 Natalie Westberg, Associate Planner, BRT/Small Starts, 612-349-7451
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit BRT/Small Starts Project Office

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the proposed station names for the METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit project.

### Background

The METRO Orange Line is a 17-mile highway BRT project along I-35W connecting the cities of Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville, with a future extension to Lakeville. The Orange Line is currently at 60% design, has secured all local project funding, and is advancing towards construction. Since late 2016, Orange Line staff have coordinated with internal and partner agency staff to develop a list of recommended station names. Council approval of the recommended names will allow for the finalization of design plans and public communications materials.

In December 2016, Orange Line staff developed a draft list of station names based on Regional Transitway Guidelines and the traditional "on & at" naming convention (for example, "Snelling & Grand Station"). The Orange Line has received input from the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee on the need for geographic precision in naming bus rapid transit stations. The "on & at" naming convention meets the Regional Transitway Guidelines and distinguishes the Orange Line's stations at Lake Street and American Boulevard from existing stations on the METRO Blue Line. The list of Orange Line station names has been refined over the course of 2017 to reflect input from the Orange Line internal Working Group and external Technical Advisory Committee.

Local partner agencies were asked to lead station naming processes, if needed. The two Burnsville stations were selected for local input, as the "on & at" naming convention does not suit the Burnsville street network or meet the goals of the Regional Transitway Guidelines for station naming. The City of Burnsville led this process and brought the item to the March 14, 2017 Burnsville City Council meeting. Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority also provided input on Burnsville station names at their May 23, 2017 meeting.

## Proposed Station Names

- Marquette & 3rd St
- 2nd Ave & 3rd St
- Marquette & 5th St
- 2nd Ave & 5th St
- Marquette & 7th St
- 2nd Ave & 7th St
- Marquette & 11th St
- 2nd Ave & 11th St
- I-35W & Lake St
- I-35W & 46th St
- I-35W & 66th St
- Knox Ave & 76th St
- Knox Ave & American Blvd
- I-35W & 98th St
- Burnsville Heart of the City (this station was formerly referred to as “Nicollet Avenue”)
- I-35W & Burnsville Pkwy

## Rationale

The Council’s Transitway Guidelines specify that the Council will select station names with input from the lead agency and project communities. The proposed station names are consistent with the Transitway Guidelines, follow the “on & at” naming convention implemented by the A Line, and are supported by regional partners.

## Thrive Lens Analysis

The METRO Orange Line supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity by providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the I-35W south corridor. The proposed action advances the stewardship outcome by advancing Orange Line design work efficiently and in close coordination with project partners. The recommended station names also advance the livability outcome, as they were selected to prioritize geographic clarity and provide a transit system that is easy to navigate.

## Funding

There is no funding impact associated with this business item.

## Known Support / Opposition

The Orange Line Technical Advisory Committee, with staff from all corridor cities, counties, and partner agencies, have provided input and approved this list of recommended station names. The City of Burnsville led the Burnsville station naming process, and the recommended names are supported by Burnsville City Council and Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority.

