

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 25, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 11, 2018

Subject:	Final D Line Station Plan
District(s), Member(s):	District 2, Lona Schreiber; District 7, Gary Cunningham; District 8, Cara Letofsky; District 5, Steve Elkins
Policy/Legal Reference:	Public Accountability Policy 2-1; Public Involvement in the Transportation Planning Process 1-3b
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Charles Carlson, Director, BRT Projects, 612-349-7639 Katie Roth, Manager, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Scott Janowiak, Senior Planner, BRT Projects, 612-341-5733
Division/Department:	Metro Transit, BRT Projects

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the final D Line Station Plan.

Background

On May 9, the Council authorized release of the recommended D Line Station Plan for public review and comment. The document functioned as a public report-back on previous planning efforts and was shaped by over 100 comments submitted in response to the draft D Line Station Plan published in February 2018.

Following release, public comments were accepted on the recommended D Line Station Plan through June 8, 2018. Comments on the recommended D Line Station Plan were solicited through the D Line project website, newsletter, social media posts, and direct communication with neighborhood and community organizations throughout the corridor. Staff also conducted direct outreach to businesses and residents immediately adjacent to added stations in the recommended plan. A total of 52 comments were submitted during this additional comment period. These comments are included in the plan and will continue to guide the project development process alongside those comments previously received.

Station locations in the final plan are consistent with those in the recommended plan.

Rationale

Approval of the D Line Station Plan will establish D Line station locations, providing critical direction and focus to the detailed design and engineering phase anticipated to begin later in 2018.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The D Line Station Plan process advances Thrive outcomes of equity, through engaging the full cross-section of the community in decision-making action, and livability, through working toward improved transportation choices. Investment in high-quality transportation options like the D Line will advance the thrive outcome of prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

Funding

The D Line planning process has been funded using Metro Transit operating budget resources. Full funding for delivery of the D Line project is not yet identified. While this action carries no direct funding implications, approval of the plan will direct the project to construct a defined number of stations in determined locations, a necessary step to delivering the project within budget.

Known Support / Opposition

Public engagement throughout the station plan process has identified generally strong support for the D Line and transit improvements in the Chicago / Emerson-Fremont corridor. Some property and business owners directly adjacent to planned stations have voiced opposition, which will help inform future design phases. Local partners have been supportive of the project and will continue to be closely involved as the project transitions into the detailed design and engineering phase.