

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 11, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 27, 2019

Subject:	Public Hearing on Proposed Elimination of Route 614
District(s), Member(s):	District 3, Jennifer Munt
Policy/Legal Reference:	Public Accountability Policy 2-1, Public Hearings Procedure 2-1b Transportation Service Changes and Restructuring 1-3a Public Involvement in the Transportation Planning Process 1-3b
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Adam Harrington, Director Service Development 612-349-7797 Cyndi Harper, Manager Route Planning 612-349-7723 Steve Mahowald, Senior Planner 612-349-7775
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Service Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes a public hearing to accept comments on proposed elimination of Route 614.

Background

In 2012 Metro Transit staff worked with Minnetonka reviewing local and national peer cities to determine the best options for local service operating within the city. Based on that review, Route 614 was implemented in August 2013 to test the feasibility of community fixed route service in a Transit Market Area III and IV environment such as Minnetonka.

As shown in the attached map, service operates between the Minnetonka Heights affordable housing complex and the Ridgedale shopping center area via Highway 101, Minnetonka Boulevard and Plymouth Boulevard. Weekday service is hourly between 5:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Initially, there was Saturday hourly service between 9:00 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. but it was eliminated in August 2015 due to low ridership.

The regional's minimum performance standard for a suburban local route, such as Route 614, is 10 passengers per in-service hour. Since its implementation Route 614 has consistency averaged below 5 passengers per in-service hour.

Marketing of the service has included the distribution of 'free ride' coupons as well as regular community outreach efforts.

Route 614 is operated by First Transit by contract to the Council. Minnetonka is an opt-out community with transit service provided by the Council under a Transit Cooperation Agreement. Service Development staff has been in communication with city staff regarding the route's performance, promotional efforts, and the decision to schedule a public hearing to consider the elimination of the route.

If Route 614 is eliminated, Transit Link service would be available to current riders.

Rationale

Council policy requires authorization for public hearing 45 days before the hearing begins. State law requires public notice of the public hearing at least 30 days in advance. The proposed hearing location, date and time are listed below.

Public Hearing for Proposed Elimination of Route 614 Service

Monday, April 15, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presentation at 12:15 p.m.

Hennepin County's Ridgedale Library, Room 174

12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305

Route 614 and 645 provide midday, direct service to the library and Route 615 stops at Ridgedale Shopping Center within ¼ mile of the library.

In addition to providing comments at the public hearing, the public will be invited to submit comments via telephone, fax, e-mail and the Council website.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Stewardship and responsibly managing the region's finite resources in a sustainable manner is the primary foci of the proposed elimination. The availability of Transit Link service in lieu of Route 614 supports equity by continuing to provide residents access to local destinations via transit.

Funding

The public hearing will be funded through existing operating budgets.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to scheduling the public hearing for this study.