



# Suburban Transit Providers

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NOVEMBER 25, 2018

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

# Membership

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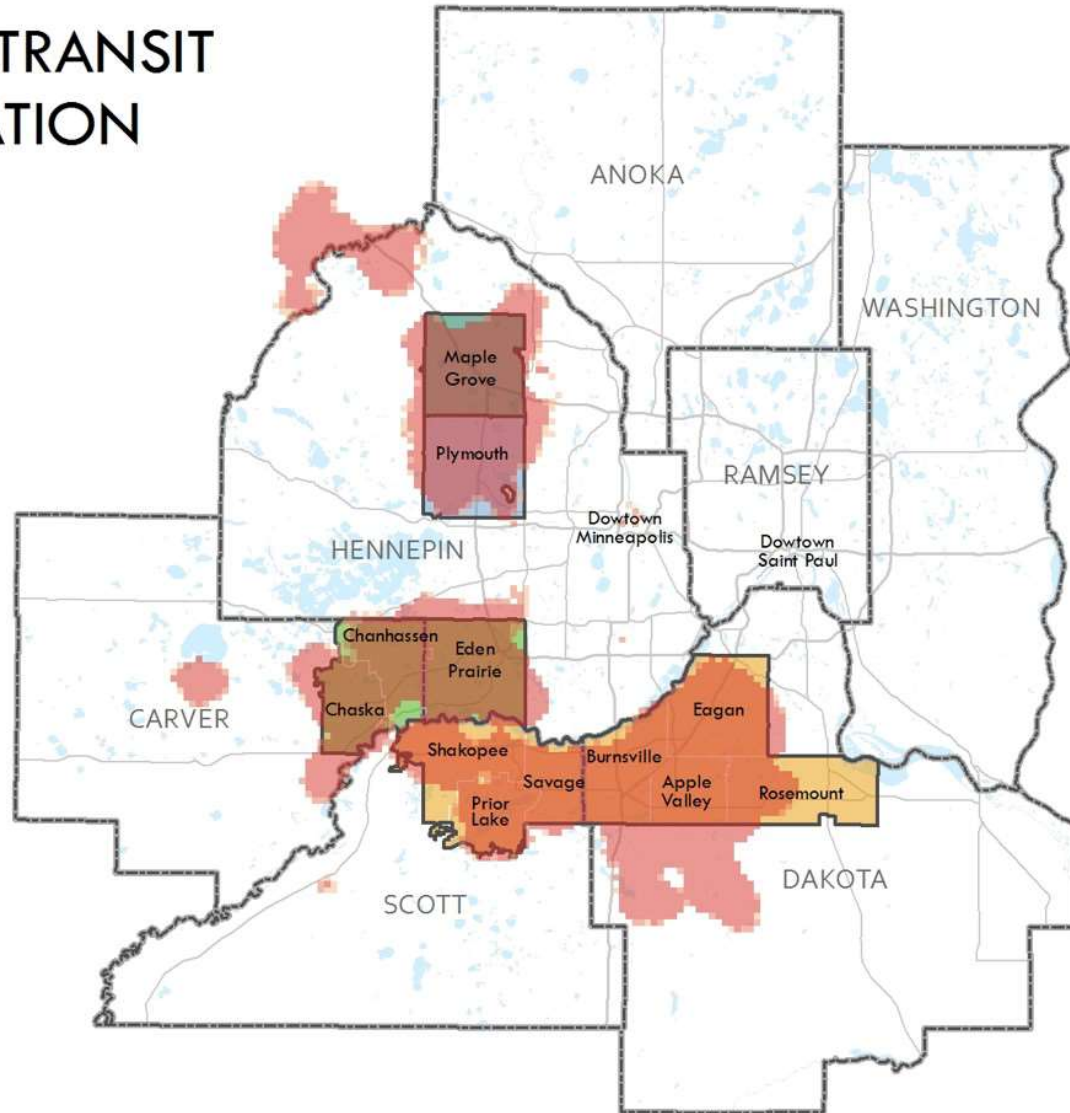
# SUBURBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

 **MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT**

 **Plymouth Metrolink**

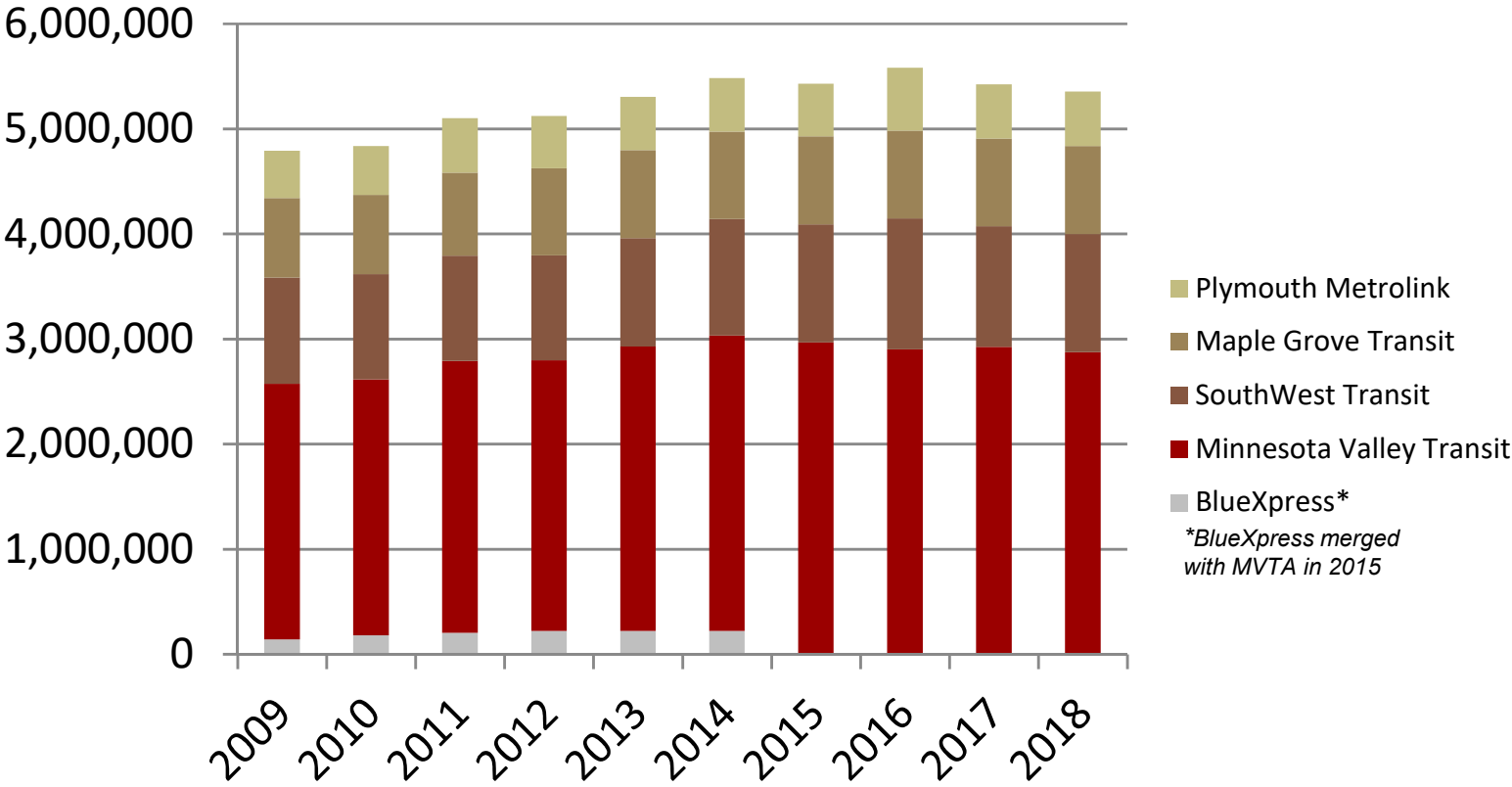
 **SOUTHWEST TRANSIT**

 **Minnesota Valley Transit Authority**



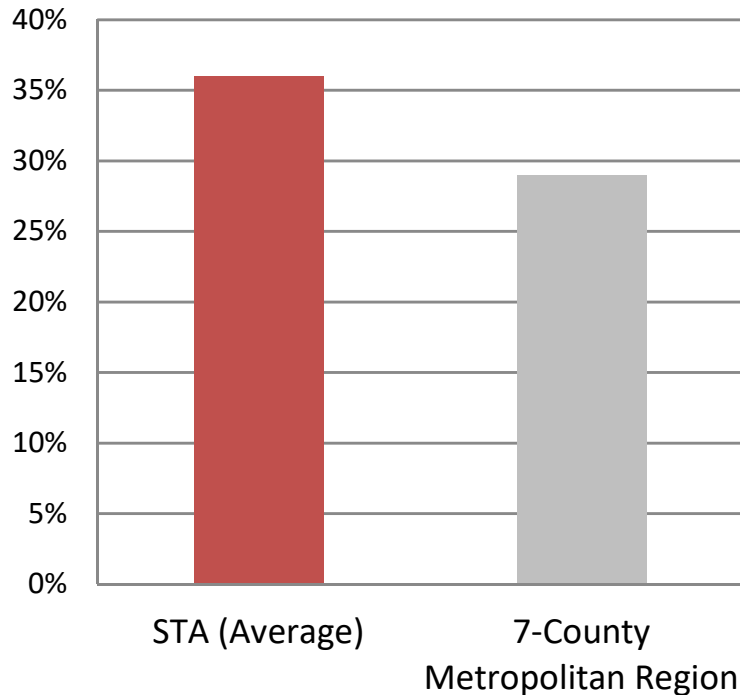
Date: 1/17/2017

# Ridership



# Connecting People to Places

**Population % Increase  
from 2010-2040**

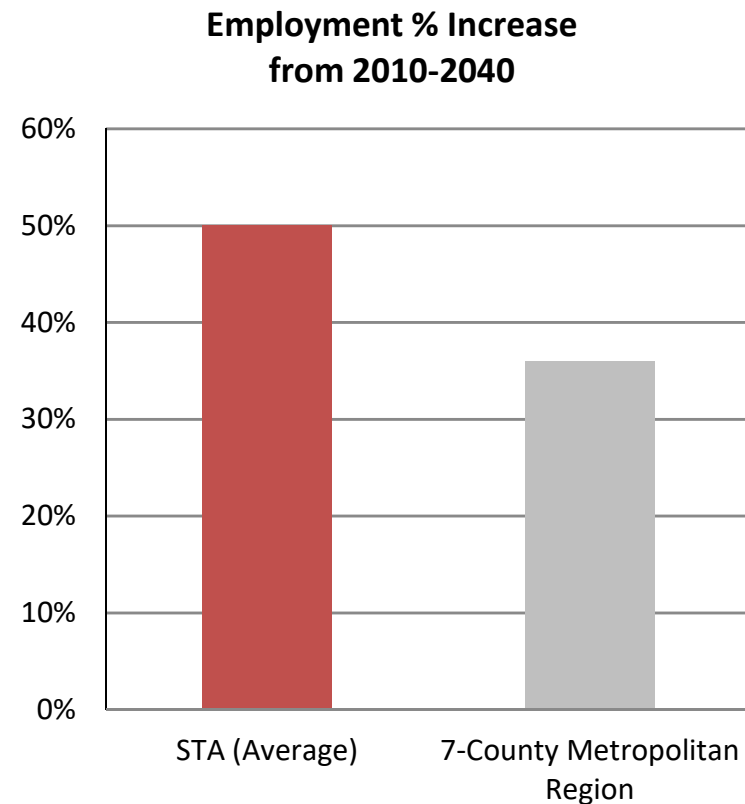


Population in the STA Providers' Service Area is expected to increase by an average of 36% by 2040\*

2010 STA Population: 521,915  
2040 STA Forecast: 715,700

# Connecting People to Jobs

Employment in the STA Providers' Service Area is expected to increase by an average of 50% by 2040\*



\*Sources: Thrive MSP 2040, 2040 Transportation Policy Plan



# 2019 Highlights



- **2019 Highlights:**

- Provided over 1 million rides annually (3 consecutive years of steady ridership).
- Prime continues to grow at double digit increases (11% in 2019).
- Record setting State Fair ridership of 115,679. Highest ridership through any public “bus gate”.
- Started Prime MD for non-emergency medical trips (touches medical facilities within and adjacent to the SWT service area).
- Purchased and put into service the region’s first low-floor 45’ coach expanding options for the disability community.

- **2020 Focus:**

- Continued expansion of the Prime and Prime MD services.
- Planning for MOA and Airport service.
- Connecting service to jobs – last mile.
- Expand vehicle storage (vehicles currently exceed garage capacity).
- Complete major construction related to the SWLRT project.
- Complete SWT’s Asset Management program.



- **Unmet Needs:**

- Operating funding to maintain current levels due to the loss of \$550,000 from the General Fund.
- Funding to meet our SOGR targets and maximize useful life.
- Meeting the mobility needs of the growing diverse population in our service area.
- Meeting the reverse commute needs prior to the start up of the LRT to Eden Prairie.
- Address the need created by the Metropolitan Council eliminating Transit Link service in Eastern Carver County.
- Funding to incorporate regional technologies that SWT has not been able to secure: 1) OMG Routers; 2) Ubisense Transponders; 3) Cubic Go-To Validators; 4) Dead Reckoning Capabilities; 5) MTrac; 6) New Fareboxes; and 7) Ticket Vending Machines.







# Plymouth Metrolink



Provided more than 500,000 rides with 97% Customer Satisfaction rating

## Service includes:

- Express Routes to downtown Minneapolis
- Reverse Commute routes to employment in Plymouth
- Local Service
- Dial a Ride Service



## Highlights:

Introduced 1<sup>st</sup> Microtransit pilot project in the State in 2018.

- Dial-a-Ride ridership up 38.5% in past year.
- 20% of rides are reverse commute
- Core service is Express to Downtown – 75% of rides

# **MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT**

- Express & Demand Response (MY RIDE) services: 837,000 Annual Rides.
- Two Transit Stations and three Park-and-Ride Lots.
- MY RIDE serves Maple Grove, Brooklyn Park, and Osseo with potential 2020 service to Brooklyn Center Transit Station.
- Fleet Size: 47 buses.
- Park and Ride Users originate from 40 different Cities.
- 2020 Focus is on Work Force rides:
  - First Mile/Last Mile Service through Added MY RIDE service.
  - New Reverse Commute Service to and from Minneapolis.

**NEED: Capital Funding to purchase two small buses for expanded MY RIDE service.**

**NEED: Operating and Capital Funding to implement a local fixed route circulator with a connection to the Bottineau Blue Line extension.**





**Route Map and Schedules**

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Weekday Commuter Routes:  
**780 781 782**  
**783 785 789**

Shuttle Routes:  
**787 788**



Effective December 3, 2018

[maplegrovetransit.org](http://maplegrovetransit.org)



## 2019 Highlights:

- MnTA System of the Year – MPTA
- Agency Rebranding Campaign – “We Got This”
- Microtransit Pilot Savage and Western Burnsville - July 2019
- Demonstration Project (Route 495) – Initially funded by Legislature
  - Ridership – Almost 5% of MnTA Total Annual Ridership.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in Region Public Private Partnerships: Amazon & Mdewakanton Sioux provide Operating funding .
- Apple Valley Transit Station Expansion – Started June 2019
  - Adding 2 parking levels and 392 spaces.
  - Adding a second elevator at the ramp.



## Unmet Needs:

- Capital:- \$1.5M - \$1.7M in NTD authorization- Unable to maintain State of Good Repair for the 20 transit stations and park & rides in service area.
  - Per Council no RTC funds for 2020.
- Operating Deficits: Unfunded base services with increasing operating costs, loss of 2019? General fund and expiration of CMAC grants.
  - 2019 – (\$1.2M)
  - 2020 – (\$1.4M)
  - 2021 – (\$1.8M)

# General Fund Allocation



## I. Policy

The Metropolitan Council shall allocate funds it receives from the State of Minnesota for metropolitan area transit operations to Council activities and replacement service municipalities established under Minnesota Statutes (MS) Section 473.388.

## II. Procedure

### A. State General Fund Appropriations

The State of Minnesota provides the Council with appropriations from the general fund for the transit system operations in the metropolitan area. They are allocated as follows:

1. As directed in law, then
2. Blue Line, Green Line, Northstar and Metro Mobility operations required to meet federal and state mandates, then
3. Service providers in the same manner as under paragraph II-B-2

- In 2018 a new STP funding policy was adopted by the Council that included a General Fund allocation. Prior STP's primary only received MVST.
- During the 91<sup>st</sup> Legislative session the Council requested a \$36M in General Fund appropriation, which **STP's Supported**. That General Fund request didn't have funding for STP Bus Operations, despite our new funding model. We did discuss our concerns during session and educated Council Staff that we too relied and received General Fund dollars.
- Result: STP's received no General fund dollars as of July 1, 2019, resulting in approximately \$1.5M in lost funding for \*FY20.
  - FY18: STP \$1.5M
  - FY19: STP \$525K (1/19 – 6/19)

\*State Fiscal year is July 1 – June 30, STP's January 1 – December 31. These funding cuts occurred in the middle of year that negatively impacted service delivery and budgets.

# Future Discussion and Follow-up Items

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- 1. Future Presentations** - The STP's would welcome the opportunity to provide regularly scheduled service updates at future Transportation Committees.
- 2. Funding** - How Can Suburban Providers priorities and funding needs be incorporated into the Metro Transit and Met Council?
  - Operating - STP's have deficits in the upcoming Biennium's due to General Fund cuts, CMAC grant expirations, etc.
  - Capital – Establish procedures and policies that allow STP's to access RTC funding beyond bus replacement like our counterpart Metro Transit.
- 3. Technology** – Create opportunities and use “Regional Funding” and provide STP's ability to access technology used by The Council and Metro Transit such as Ticket Vending Machines, Card Readers and etc.

# Resources

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## Contact information:

- Mike Opatz, Maple Grove Transit: [mopatz@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:mopatz@maplegrovern.gov) or (763) 494-6005
- Luther Wynder, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority: [lwynder@mvtta.com](mailto:lwynder@mvtta.com) or (952) 882-7501
- Len Simich, SouthWest Transit: [lemsimich@swtransit.org](mailto:lemsimich@swtransit.org) or (952) 974-3110
- Laurie Hokkanen, Plymouth Metrolink: [lhokkanen@plymouthmn.gov](mailto:lhokkanen@plymouthmn.gov) or (763) 509-5300

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