E Line Staff Recommended Alignment

Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee
Monday, September 23, 2019

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E Line alignment alternatives under consideration

• Known alignment between downtown & Lake Street
• Initial options studied
  - 2 north end
  - 7 south end
• North end recommendation along 4th & University
• 3 south end options recommended for advanced consideration
  - Alternative 4 dropped from consideration due to integration with connecting bus plan
E Line corridor staff recommendation

• Northern terminal:
  - Serve 4th Street and University Ave
  - Final terminal to be determined

• Southern terminal:
  - Southdale Transit Center

• Alignment:
  - 44th Street to France Avenue

• Service Mix:
  - E Line:
    • 10 minutes all day
  - Route 6:
    • 20 minutes all day
    • Downtown to Minnesota Drive via Xerxes Avenue
Supporting rationale

• Little significant difference between France Ave and Xerxes Ave on comparative quantitative metrics of potential benefit
  - Overall benefit/impact to existing Route 6 riders
  - Population and jobs served
  - Benefit to populations of concern (race and income)

• Key difference between France Ave and Xerxes Ave: access to key regional destinations
  - France Avenue alignment:
    • Commercial nodes at 44th St & France and 50th St & France
    • Fairview Southdale Regional Hospital campus

• Comparable resource requirements for concept capital and operating plans
• Aligns with public feedback
Existing Route 6 ridership served
Population density

[Maps showing population density around various streets like 44th Street, Southdale Transit Center, France Ave, Xerxes Ave, and 4th Street/University Ave.]
Job density

44th Street
Southdale Transit Center
Xerxes Ave
France Ave

France Avenue
Xerxes Avenue

Southdale Transit Center
Percent of population below 185% of the poverty line
Percent people of color
Public Preference
(Feedback from survey and two open house rounds)
Next steps for alignment recommendation

• On-corridor outreach
  - Already occurring community events
  - Community organization meetings
  - Targeted door knocking

• Open houses and public comment period targeted for November

• Recommended alignment taken before Council to consider for adoption following public comment period
Thank you

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