METRO Orange Line
Connecting Bus Study
Transportation Committee
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METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Background:
• 12 stations, 17 miles
• All day, frequent station-to-station BRT and express bus service along I-35W
• Builds on precursor Route 535
• Provides access to more than 50,000 jobs and 80,000 residents outside of downtown Minneapolis

Project Status:
• Fully funded
• Under construction
• Opening late 2021
Connecting Bus Study Area

Includes 21 bus routes:

- Connect with Orange Line
- Potential service improvements without a direct connection
- Significant changes proposed on ten routes
Why are we doing this study?

• Most Route 535 service will be replaced by Orange Line, but local branches will need to be served by other routes

• Many Orange Line riders will use the bus to a station, so high-quality connecting bus service will be essential

• Revisit overall transit needs in the study area
Project Goals

• Link significant concentrations of residents, jobs and services with the Orange Line
• Retain existing riders, grow ridership
• Simplify route network- emphasize directness, avoid branches
• Enhance mobility, connectivity of the transit network
• Complement existing commuter and express service in the corridor
Project Timeline

✓ Evaluate Existing Conditions ................................. August-October 2019
✓ Stakeholder/Community Engagement ......................... October-November 2019
  • Develop Concept Plan ........................................ Winter 2019-2020
  • Council Sets Public Hearing ................................. February-March 2020
  • Present Concept Plan ........................................ March 2020
  • Public Reviews Concept Plan, Public Comment Period...... April-May 2020
  • Plan Revision ................................................ Summer 2020
  • Recommended Plan Outreach ................................. Fall 2020
  • Final Plan Approval .......................................... Late 2020
  • Implementation .............................................. Late 2021
Fall 2019 Pre-Concept Plan Outreach and Engagement

Process
• www.metrotransit.org/metro-orange-line-connecting-bus-service
• 500+ Surveys, Electronic Rider Alerts, Social Media postings, Connect
• Three Open Houses

Outreach Results
• 65% have heard of the Orange Line
• 62% ride every day or most days
• 70% work trips, 70% peak period trips
• Most rode Routes 4, 18, 46, 535, 539, 597, Blue Line, Green Line
• Most said Orange Line would “favorably affect” their travel
• Key connections with Orange Line stations
  • Normandale College
  • Lyndale and Penn Ave in Bloomington and Richfield
  • 94th/James area employers
Spring 2020 Concept Plan Outreach and Engagement

- April 2020: Targeted Outreach to riders, community-based organizations
- April 1-May 9: Public Comment Period
  - Comment via e-mail, postage-paid comment card in brochure, phone, or at a meeting

COMMUNITY MEETING
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Southdale Library
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
7001 York Ave S, Edina

COMMUNITY MEETING
Wednesday, April 22, 2020
Bloomington Civic Plaza
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington

PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, April 29, 2020
Minneapolis Central Library
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
Proposed Action:

Metropolitan Council authorizes a public hearing on proposed service changes outlined in the Orange Line Connecting Bus Study Concept Plan.