



# METRO Orange Line Connecting Bus Study

Transportation Committee  
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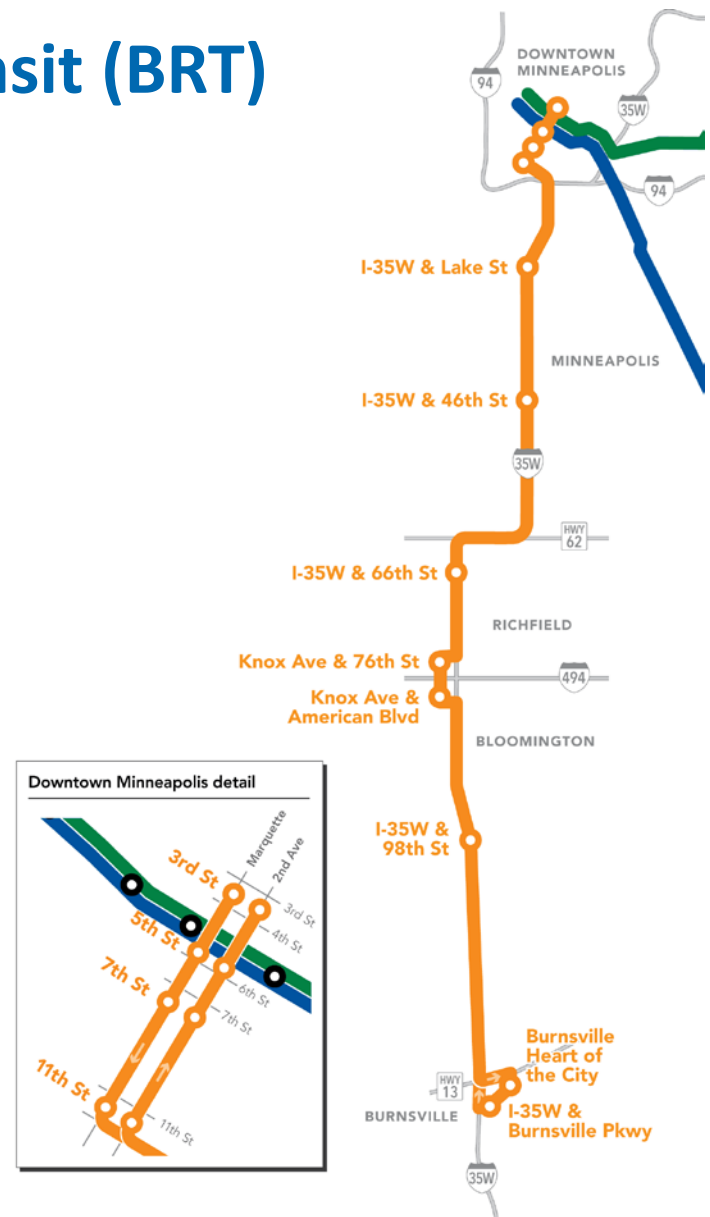
# METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

## 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:

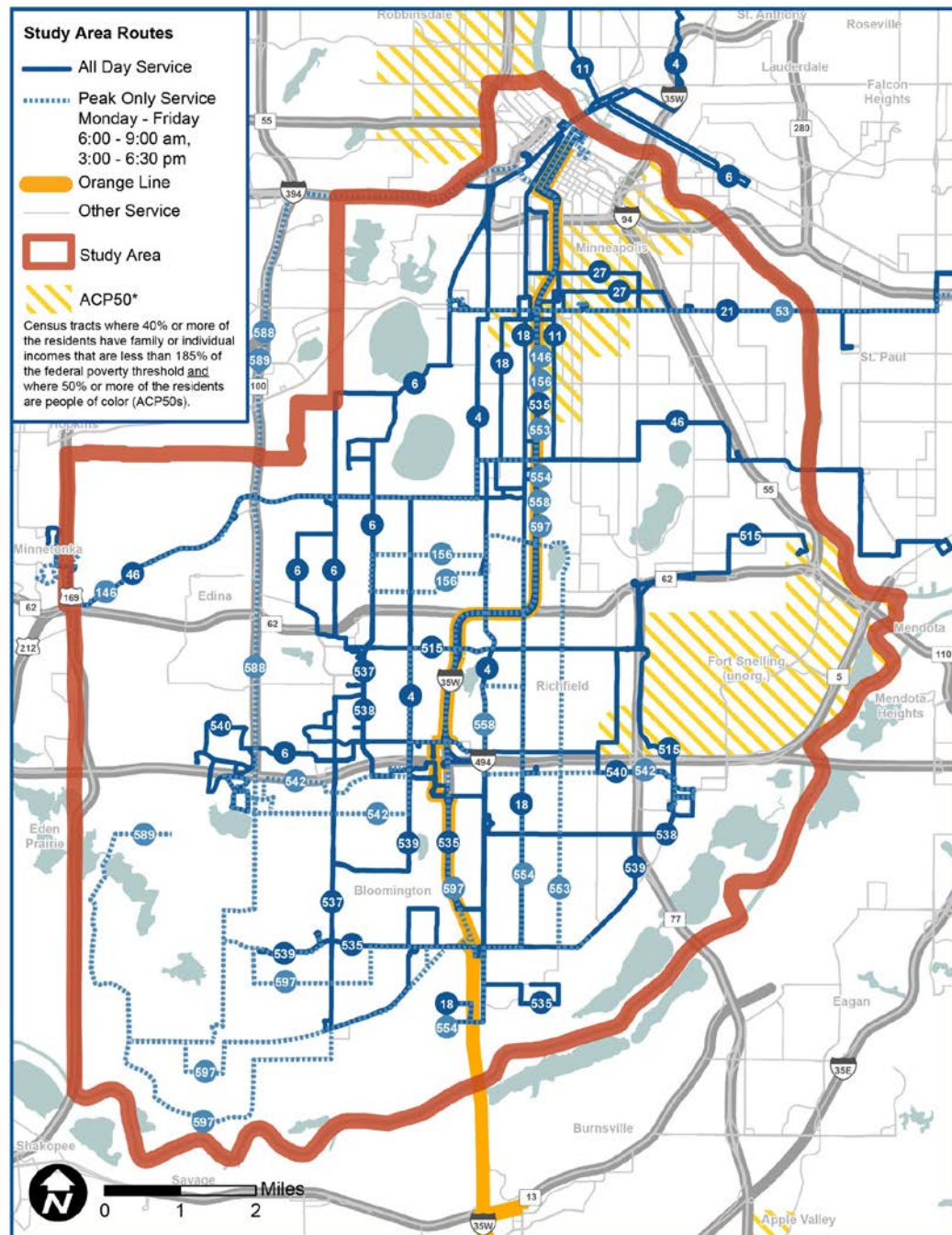
- Fully funded
- Under construction
- Opening late 2021



# Connecting Bus Study Area

Includes 21 bus routes:

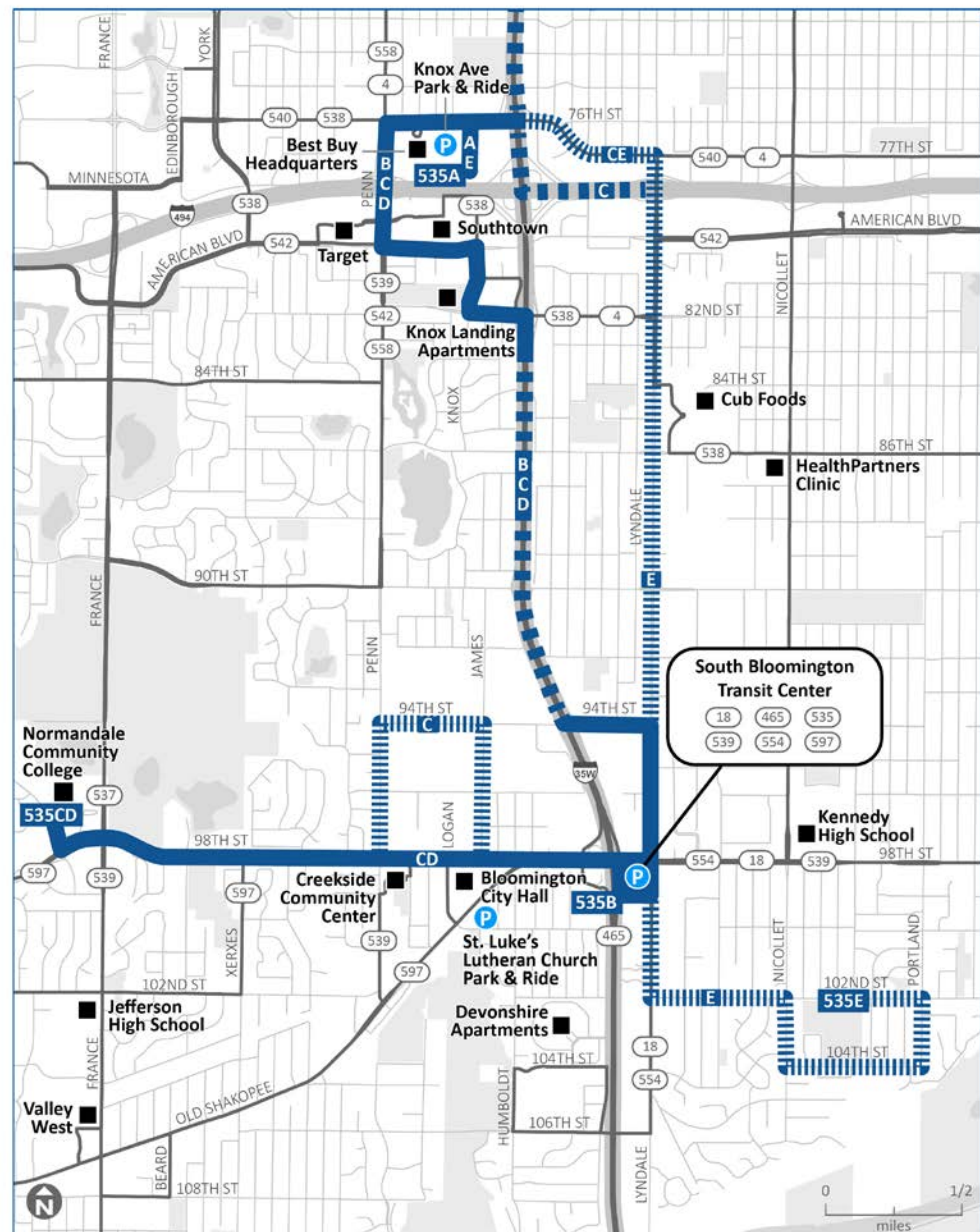
- Connect with Orange Line
- Potential service improvements without a direct connection
- Significant changes proposed on ten routes





# 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



 Metro Transit

Route 535 - Existing Connecting Service

Date: 10/18/2019

# 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](http://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
  - 94<sup>th</sup>/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**