

METRO E Line Recommended Alignment

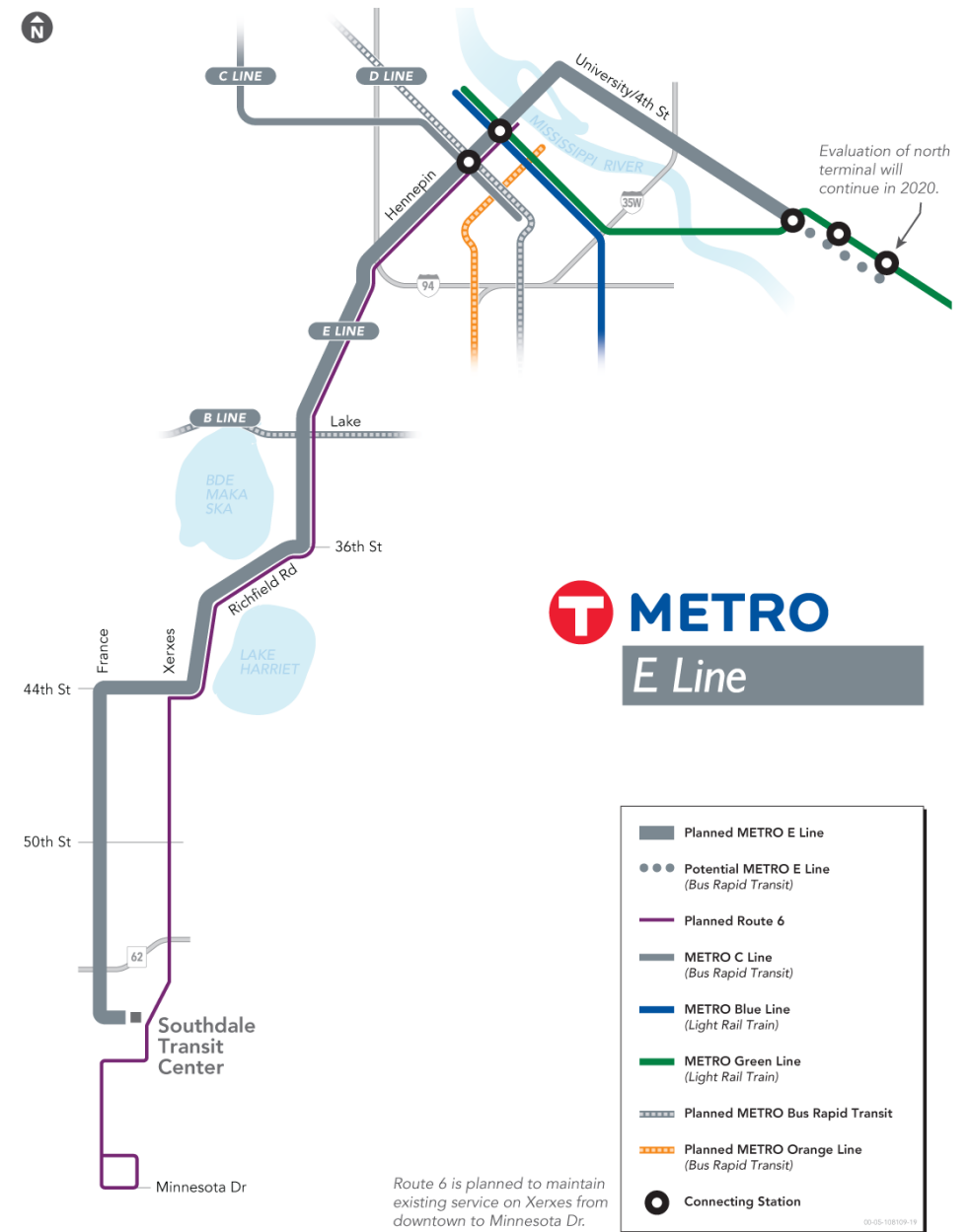
Business Item 2020-14

Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee
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E Line alignment recommendation

- Northern terminal:
 - Serve 4th Street and University Ave
 - Final terminal between Westgate and Prospect Park to be determined
- Southern terminal:
 - Southdale Transit Center
- Alignment:
 - 44th Street to France Avenue
- Concept service mix:
 - E Line:
 - 10 minutes all day
 - Route 6:
 - 20 minutes all day
 - Downtown to Minnesota Drive via Xerxes



Supporting rationale

- Little significant difference between alternatives 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 alternatives: *access to key regional destinations*
 - Alignment along France Avenue serves:
 - 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

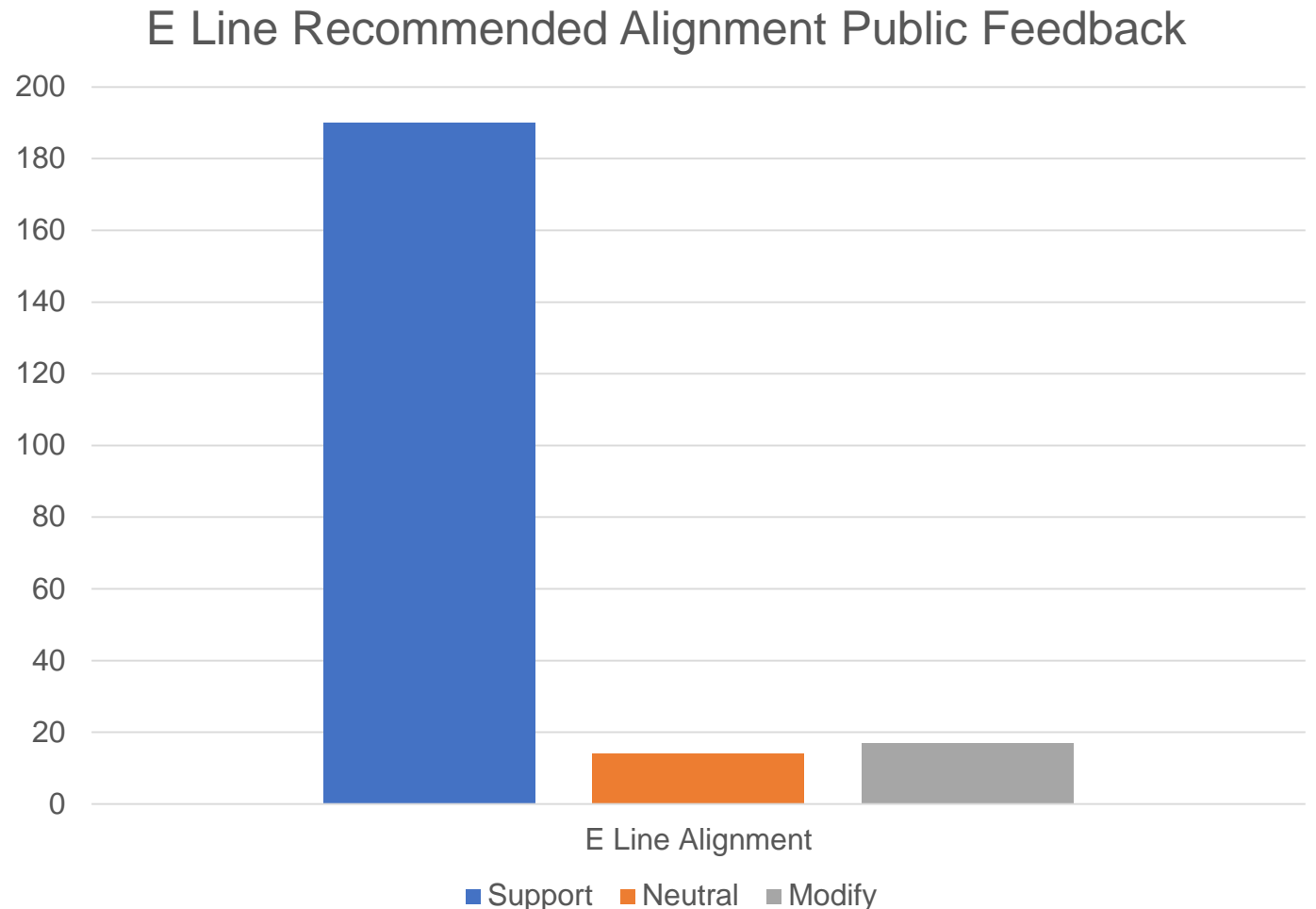
Outreach and engagement around recommended alignment

- Two open houses
- Online survey with interactive map
- Door knocking at businesses along corridor and meeting riders at stops
- Meeting with neighborhood organizations
- Communications
 - Corridor Mailing
 - Route 6 Electronic Rider Alert
 - Metro Transit Rider's Club
 - E Line Update Newsletter
 - Metro Transit Connect Newsletter



Public feedback on recommendations

- Strong support for the proposed E Line alignment (92 percent support or neutral)
- Resolution of Support from the City of Edina
- Key themes:
 - Support for connecting to major destinations along France Avenue
 - Support for extending to Westgate Station
 - Support for pursuing bus-only lanes and other transit advantages
 - Interest in additional stations at select sites
 - Concern about potential lack of service along Wooddale Avenue



Next steps

- Update Transportation Policy Plan to include final E Line alignment
- E Line project development
 - 2020 – E Line Corridor Plan Development
 - Corridor plan will finalize:
 - Station locations and platform layouts
 - Transit advantages along the corridor
 - North terminal location
 - Ongoing public engagement
 - Will be presented to the Metropolitan Council for consideration and approval
 - 2021-2022 – Engineering
 - 2023 – Construction (pending full funding), Detailed Service Planning

Proposed action

- That the Metropolitan Council approve the recommended alignment for the METRO E Line.

