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.