



Orange Line Connecting Bus Study

Transportation Committee

November 23, 2020

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Metro Transit Service Development

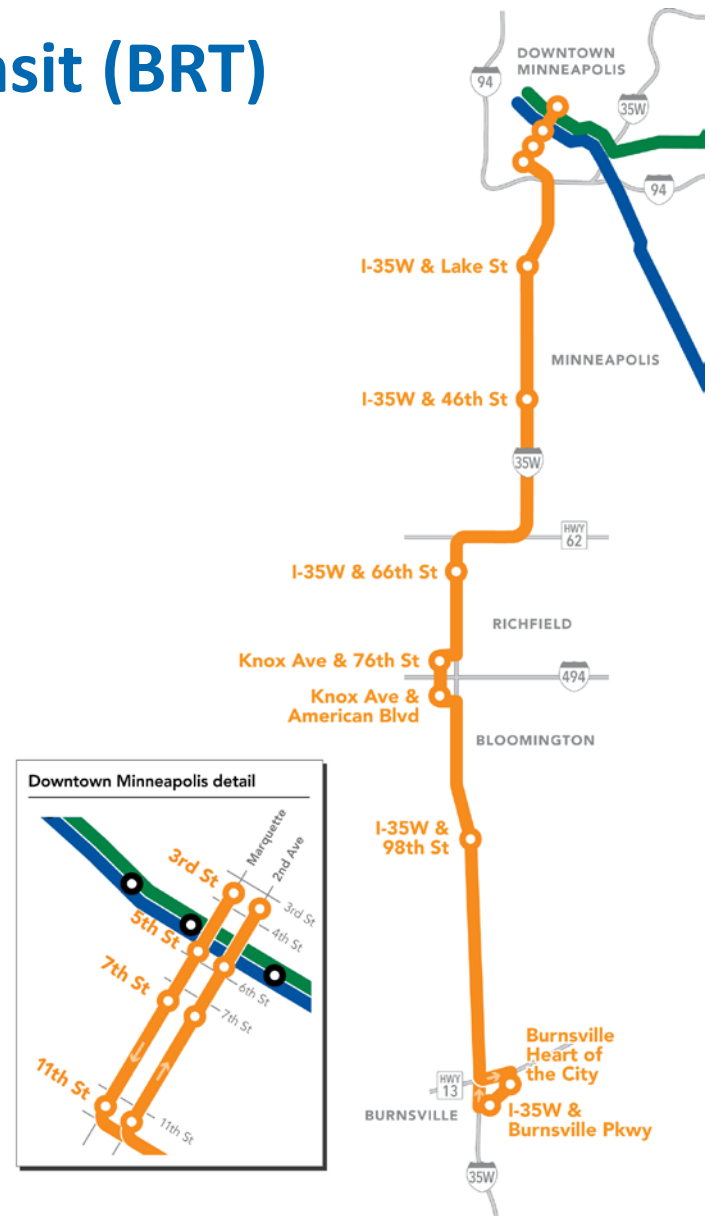
METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

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

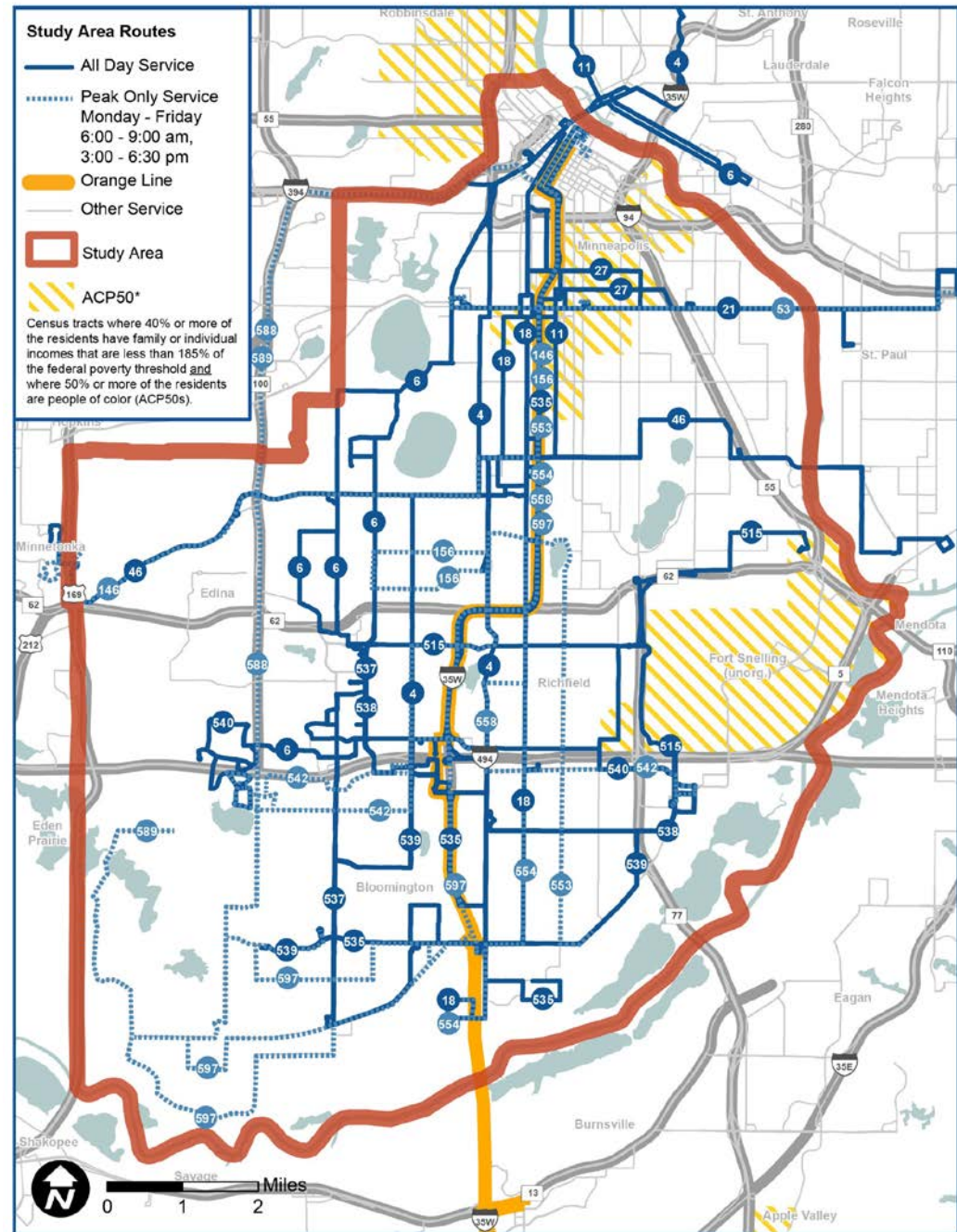
Project Status:

- Fully funded
- Under construction
- Opening late 2021



Scope and Purpose

- 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 Orange Line with significant number of residents, jobs, services
- Retain existing riders and grow ridership in an equitable way, prioritizing service for those to rely on transit the most
- Simplify route network by emphasizing directness and avoiding branches
- Enhance mobility and connectivity of the transit network
- Complement existing commuter express service in the corridor



Knox Ave - Tunnel View Looking South

Original Project Timeline

- ✓ Evaluate Existing Conditions August-October 2019
- ✓ Stakeholder/Community EngagementOctober-November 2019
- ✓ Develop Concept PlanWinter 2019-2020
- Review Concept Plan, Public Comment Period..... Spring 2020
- Plan Revision Summer 2020
- Recommended Plan Outreach Fall 2020
- Final Plan Approval Late 2020
- Implementation Late 2021

Relaunching the Project

What has changed since March?

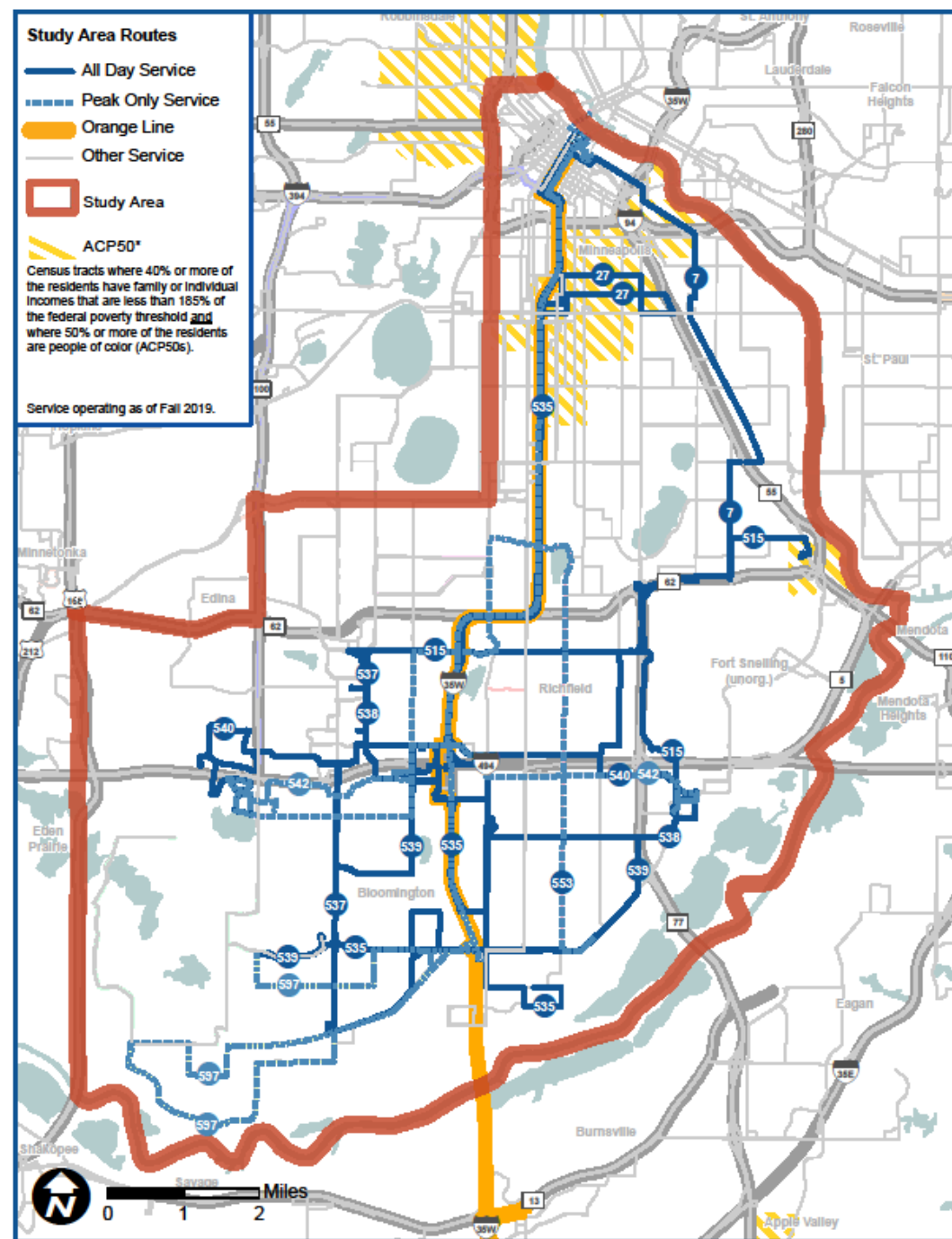
- Transit ridership and demand
- Travel patterns and needs
- Budget and resources
- Some routes suspended
- Some service changes already implemented



Relaunching the Project

How do we adjust the plan and process?

- Narrow the scope to focus on replacing Route 535 local branches, directly related to Orange Line
- Review the goals
- Revisit engagement feedback, strategies
- Role of suspended routes
- Three scenarios for flexibility
 - Low (Sept 2020)
 - Medium (Sept 2019)
 - High



Revised Project Timeline

- ✓ Evaluate Existing Conditions August-October 2019
- ✓ Stakeholder/Community EngagementOctober-November 2019
- ✓ Develop Initial Concept Plan Winter 2019-2020
- Revise Concept Plan.....Fall 2020
- Outreach & Engagement/Public Comment Period...January-February 2021
- Plan Revision March-April 2021
- Recommended Plan Outreach May 2021
- Final Plan Approval June 2021
- Implementation Task Force..... June 2021
- Implementation Late 2021

Concept Plan Outreach and Engagement

- January- February 2021: Targeted outreach to riders, community-based organizations
- January 25-February 21: Public Comment Period
 - Virtual meetings for COVID safety
 - Comment via e-mail, survey, phone, or at a meeting

COMMUNITY MEETING

Saturday, February 6, 2021

11:00 a.m. - noon

COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Proposed Action:

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



www.metrotransit.org/metro-orange-line-connecting-bus-service