



# Orange Line Connecting Bus Study Recommended Plan

Transportation Committee  
June 13, 2021

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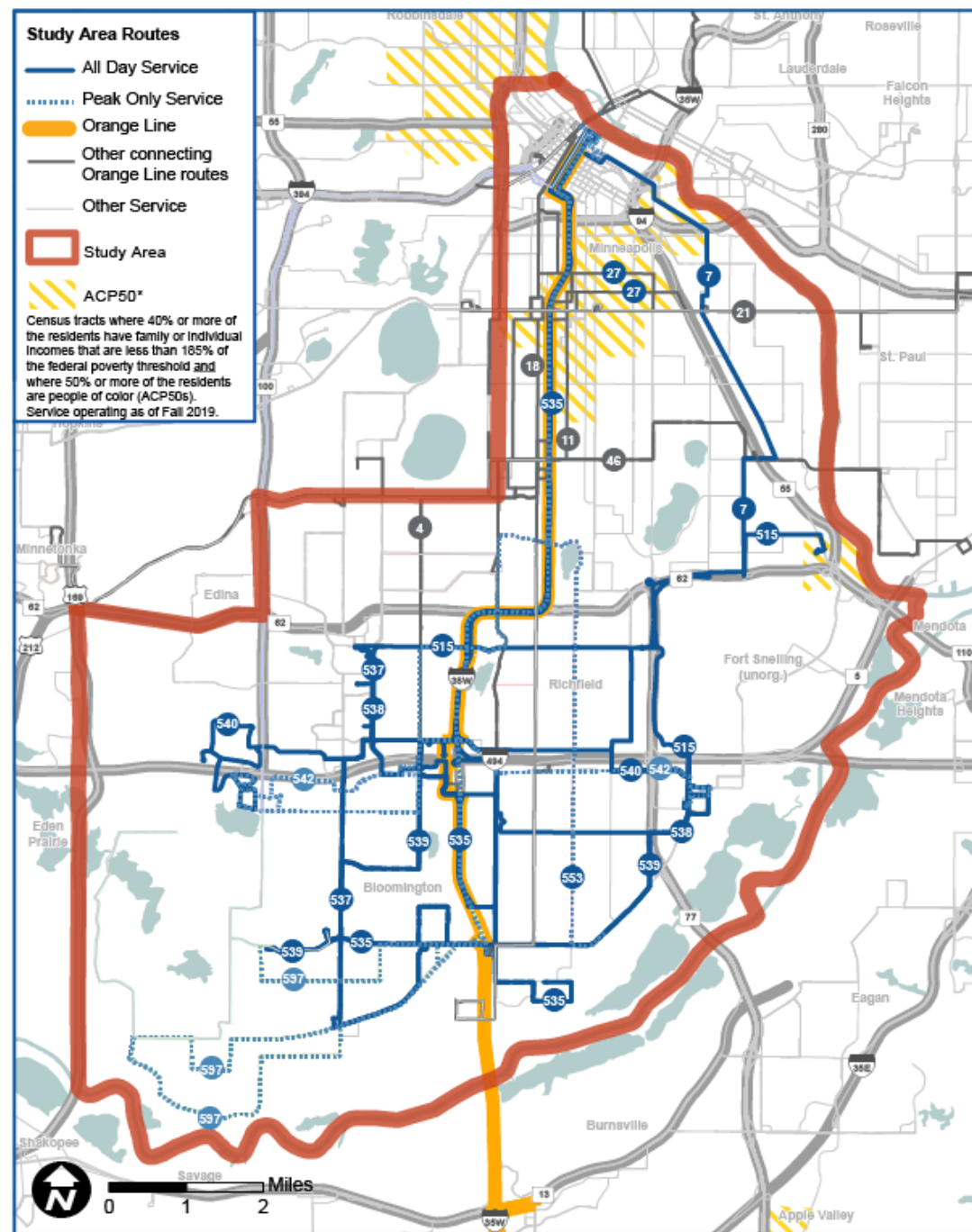


**METRO**

Orange Line

# Project Goals

- Link residents, jobs, services
- Retain existing riders and grow ridership
- Prioritize service for those who rely on transit the most
- Simplify route network, enhance mobility

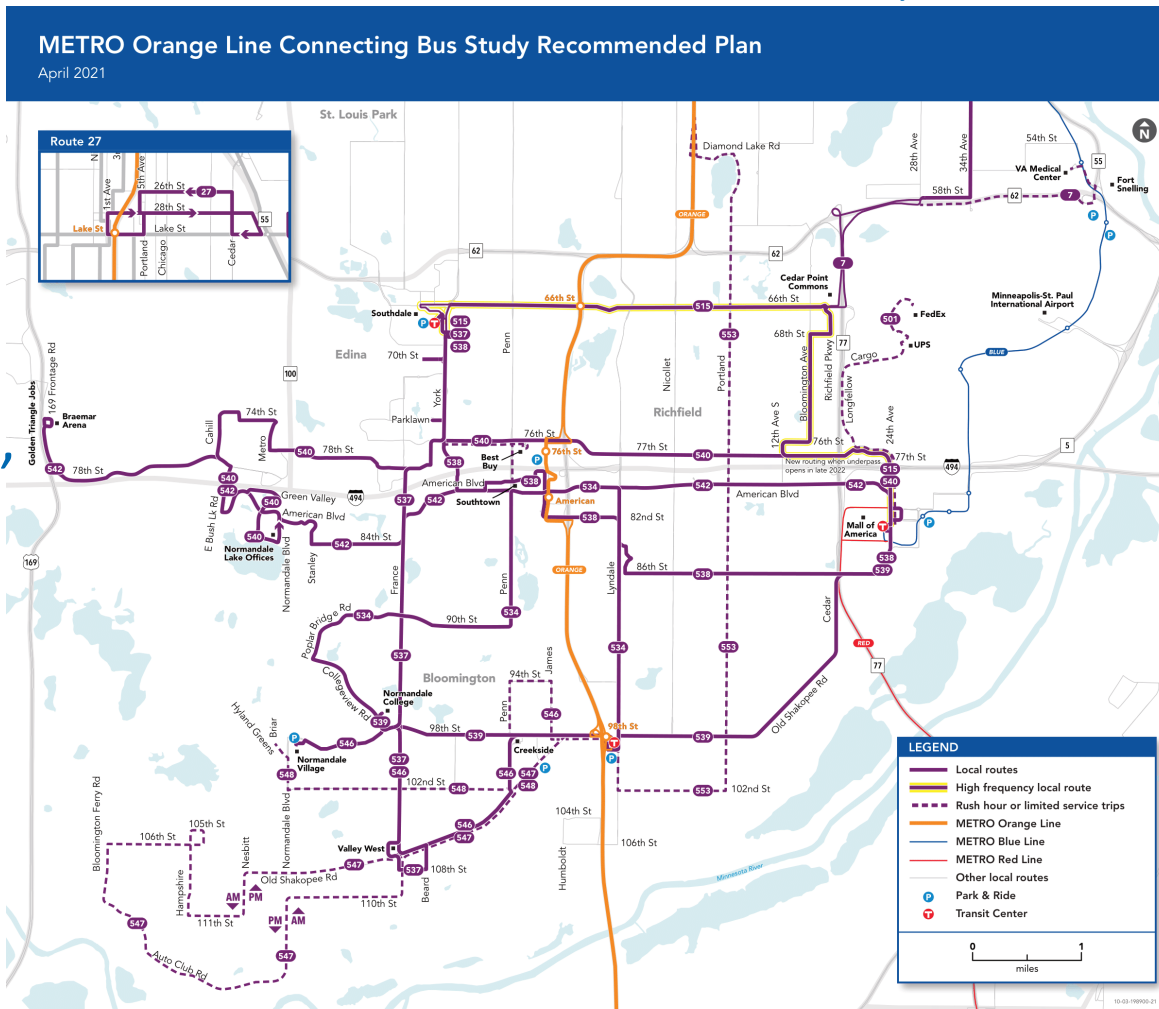


# January-February 2021 Public Input Process

- Outreach strategies
  - Website, survey, video presentation
  - Social, ethnic and local media
  - Virtual community meetings/public hearing
  - Postcard mailer, in-person outreach at key stops, partnered with stakeholders
- Received nearly 600 comments
- Overall support
  - Orange Line
  - Coverage of local branches on Route 535
  - Restoration of Routes 537, 542
  - Simplification of Routes 515, 539, 540, 542
  - Frequency improvements on seven routes
- Primary areas of concern
  - Route 515B, E branches
  - 90<sup>th</sup> St between Penn and France
  - Route 597 replaced by Orange Line and local transfer
  - Need to transfer to travel between Old Shakopee Rd east and west of 35W, Valley West shopping center

# Modifications from Concept Plan

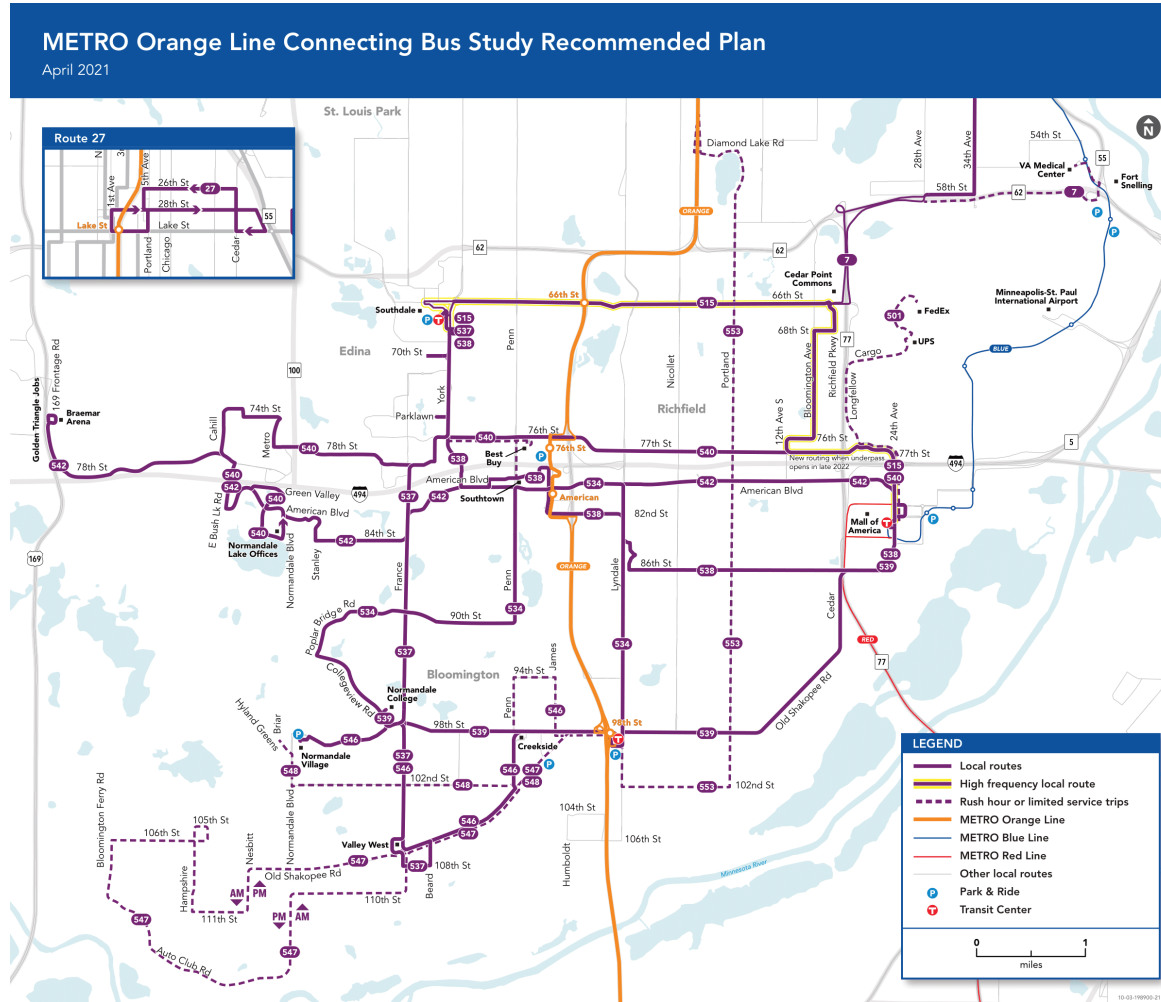
- New Route 7 branch to VA Medical Center in rush hours retains 66<sup>th</sup> St link
- New Route 501 between MOA and main entrance to FedEx, UPS on Cargo Rd
- Route 515 will serve affordable housing near 77<sup>th</sup> St/12<sup>th</sup> Ave
- New Route 534 extends west of I-35W (Penn Ave, 90<sup>th</sup> St, Normandale College)



South of the Minnesota River, transit is provided by Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA).

# Modifications from Concept Plan

- Restore Route 537 (August pick)
- Restore Route 542
  - Extend to Braemar Arena, keep 84<sup>th</sup> St jog, connect with SW Prime on-demand service
  - Add off-peak service on weekdays
- New Route 546 (replace proposed Route 536)
  - 98<sup>th</sup> St Station, Old Shakopee Rd, France Ave and 98<sup>th</sup> St to Normandale College, Village
  - Relocate transfer to 98<sup>th</sup> St Station



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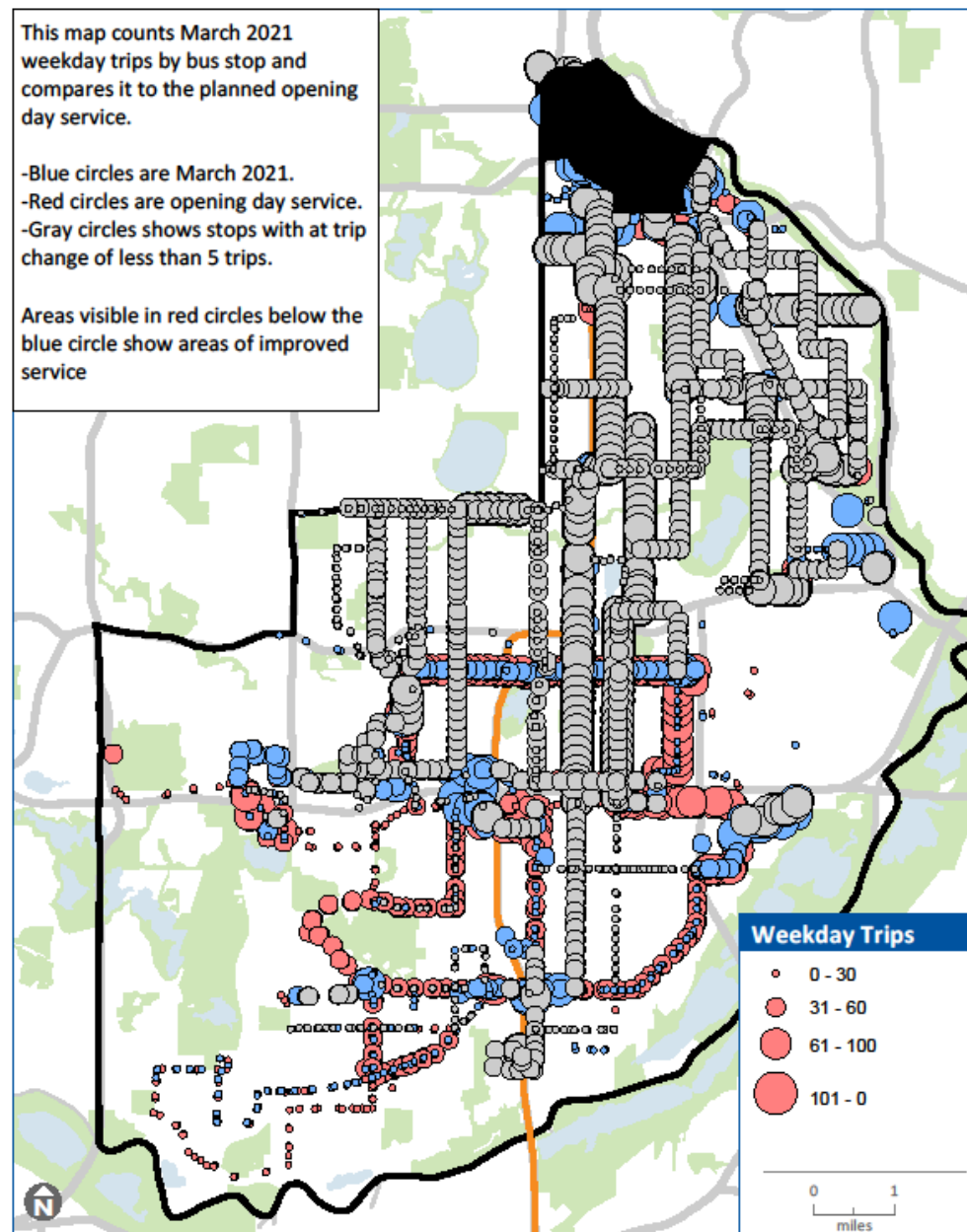
# Highlights

- Frequent Orange Line service seven days a week
- 20% increase in service hours (plus Orange Line)
- All I-35W South express buses resume stop at Lake St
- Improved frequency on seven routes
- All Route 7 trips will serve Cedar Point Commons
- Route 515 returns to High Frequency Network
- All Route 535/597 local branches have replacement service
- Fast connection between Orange Line and Normandale College via 98<sup>th</sup> St on Route 539
- West Bloomington coverage service on 84<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> streets and Poplar Bridge, Collegeview roads



# Maintain High Access to Urban Destinations

- There is already a high level of service in many places where many BIPOC and/or people with lower-incomes reside
  - Existing routes provide good connectivity with Orange Line stations
  - Core local routes are operating at pre-pandemic levels
  - Nearly 100% of the residents have access to service
  - 70% of the area have access to high-frequency service
- Recommended Plan mostly maintains or improves existing service levels in these areas

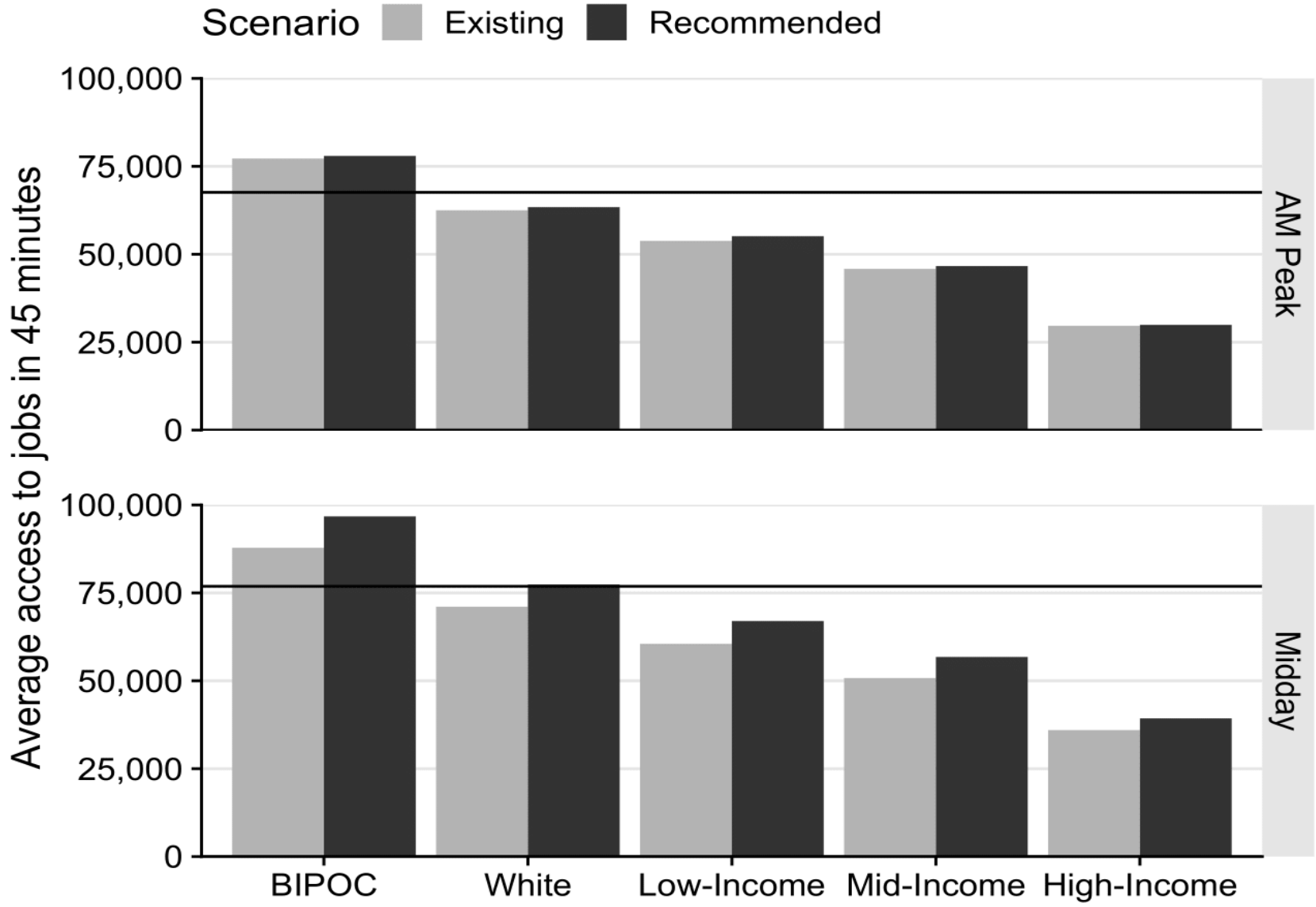


# Improved Access to Suburban Destinations

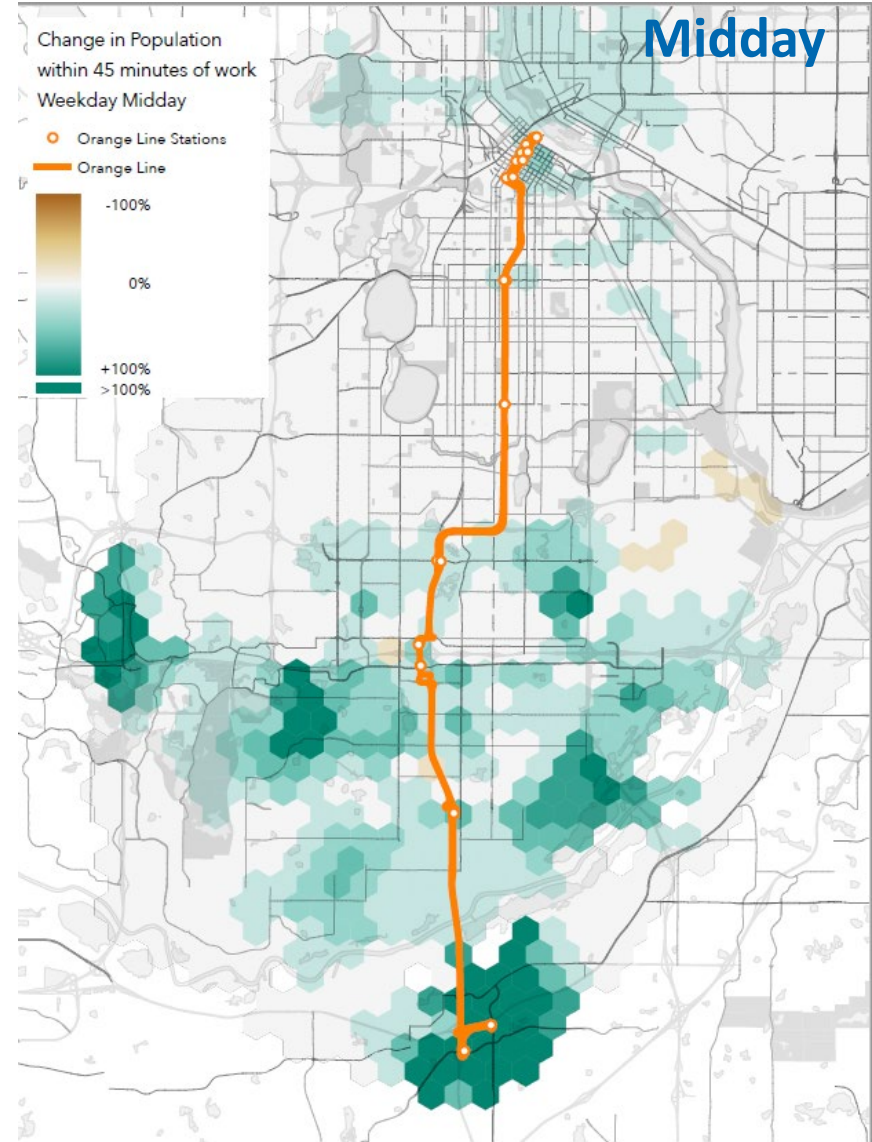
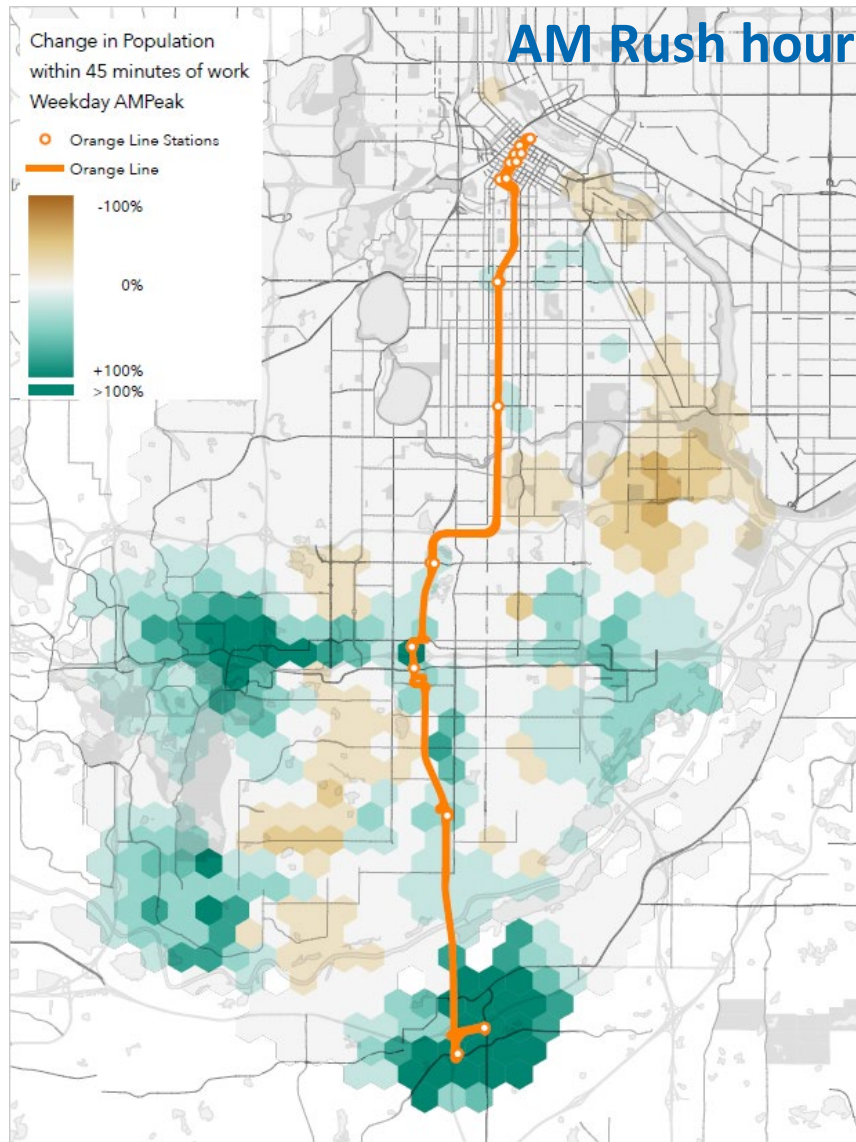
- 10,000 students enrolled at Normandale Community College (40% BIPOC)
- 55,000 jobs in the I-494 corridor between Mall of America and Hwy 169 (20% BIPOC)
- SW Bloomington Industrial Park: 4,500 jobs (15% BIPOC)
- Golden Triangle: 18,000 jobs (15% BIPOC)





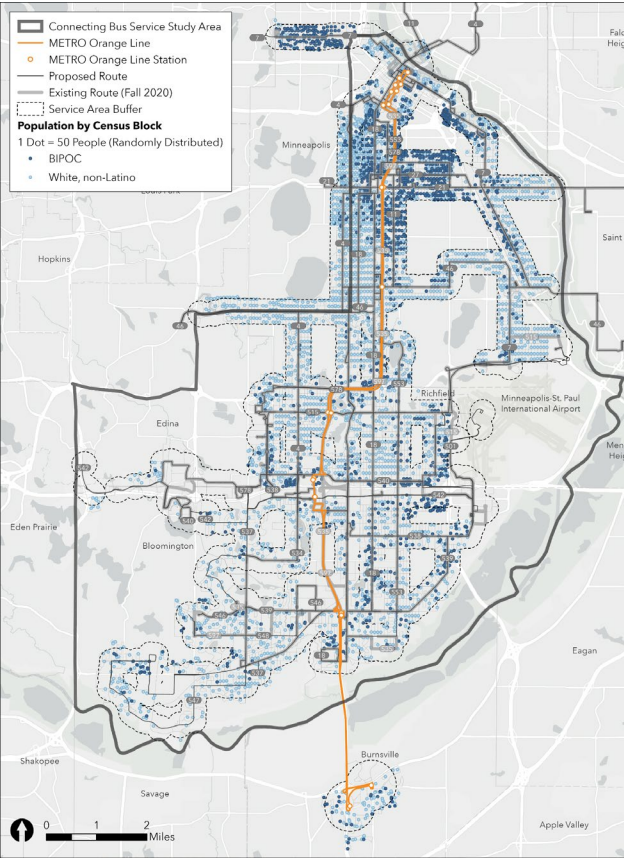


# Improved Job Access

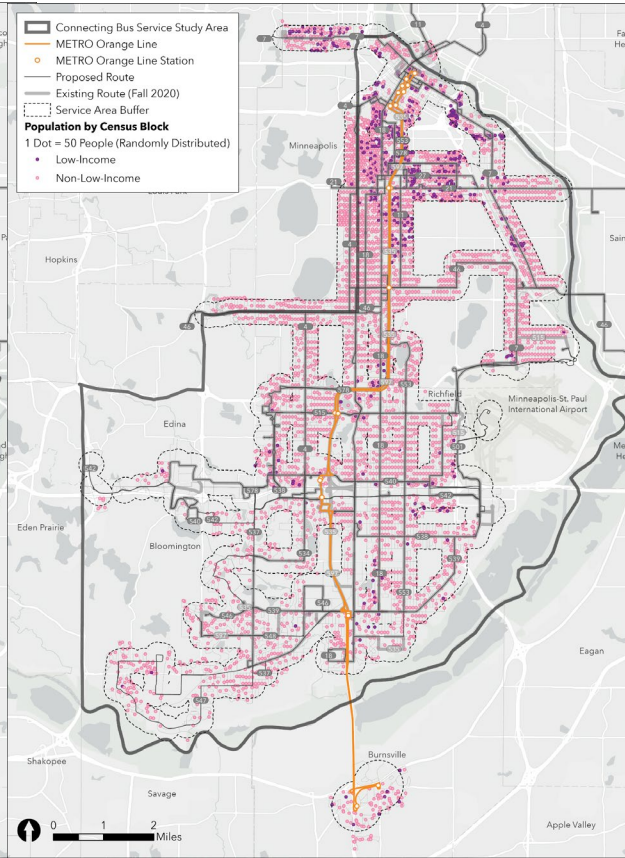


# Equity Considerations

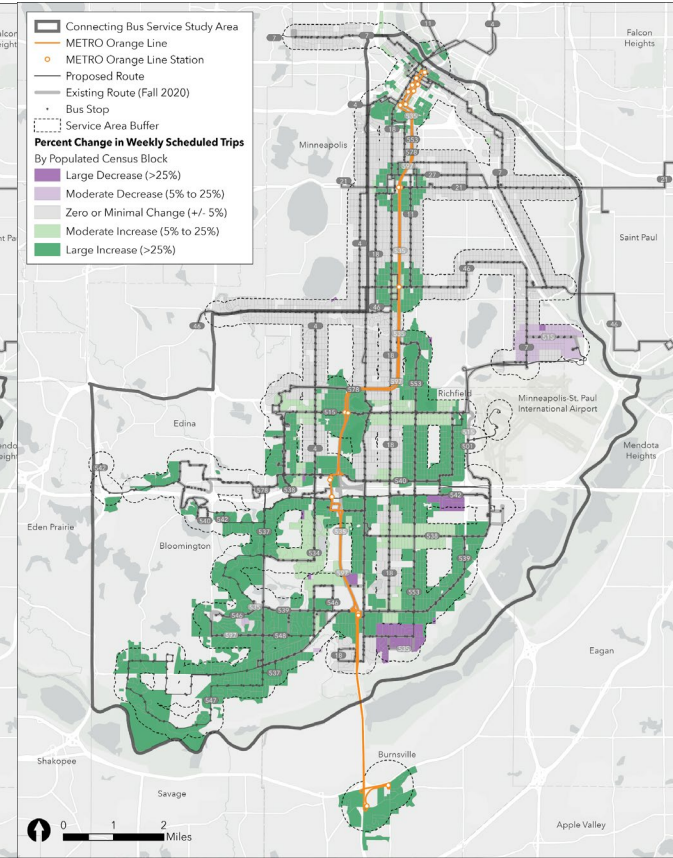
## Race



## Income



## Number of Trips





# Communications

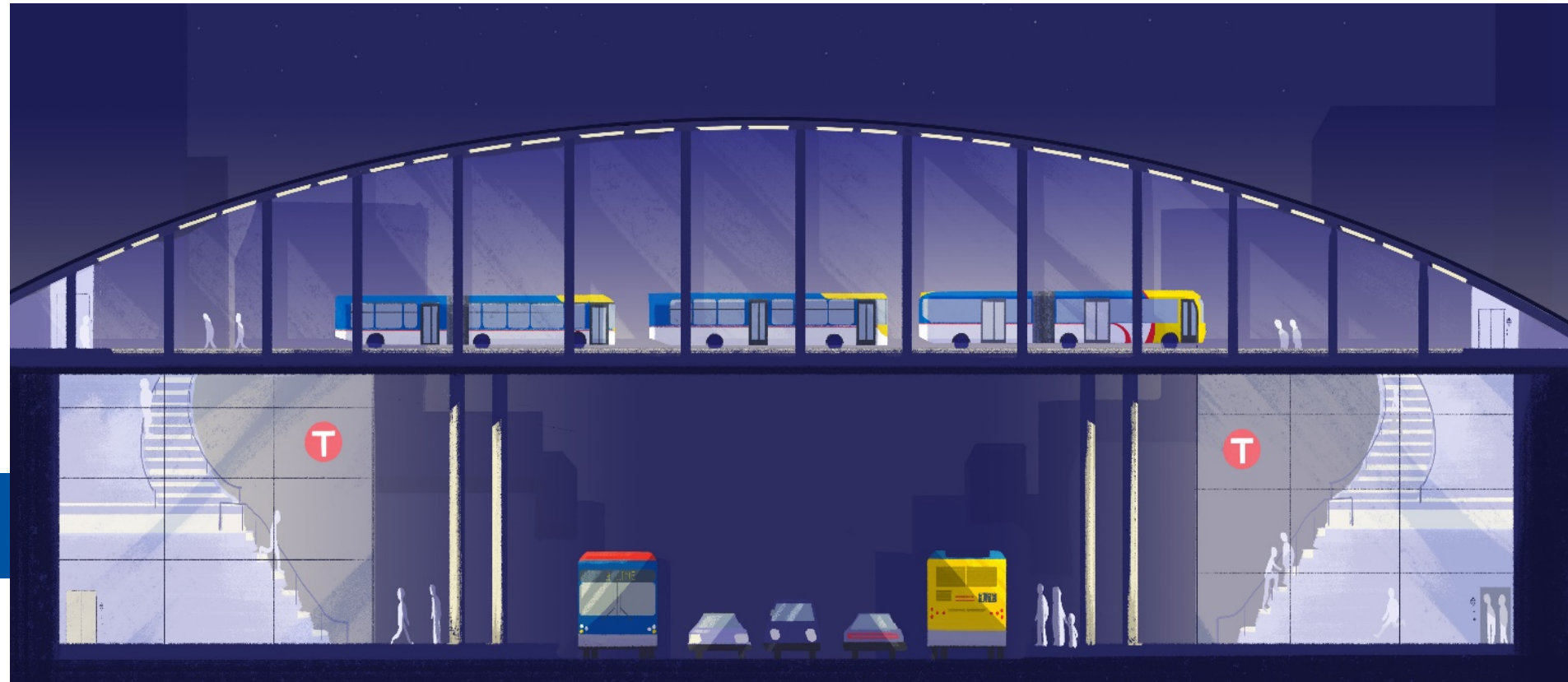
- Primary goal is to inform
- Key outreach tools: website, video, Recommended Plan report
- Use social media, ethnic and local media
- Rider alerts and shelter postings
- Updated staff from Minneapolis, Bloomington, Richfield, Edina
- Widespread outreach again closer to implementation with opening of Orange Line in late 2021



## Business Item 2021-117

That the Metropolitan Council approve the service changes in the METRO Orange Line Connecting Bus Study Recommended Plan for implementation with the opening of the Orange Line BRT project.





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