

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 27, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 13, 2021

Subject: Adopt Network Next Arterial BRT 2040 Candidate Corridors

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: PIC 2-2 - Accountability to the Public Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit / BRT Projects

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Network Next recommendations for 2040 arterial BRT expansion corridors.

Background

In 2020 and 2021, as part of the Network Next 2040 vision for the bus network, Metro Transit led a planning process to identify the region's next arterial BRT priorities. Staff conducted extensive technical analysis and engaged regional stakeholders and the public, resulting in 10 corridors identified for tiered-priority implementation before 2040.

In March 2021, the Council adopted recommendations for near-term expansions in the BRT network, naming the F, G, and H lines. At that time, additional coordination was needed to determine the approach to integrating the remaining mid-term and longer-term priority corridors in the Transportation Policy Plan. Staff recommend adoption of the arterial BRT corridors identified in Network Next in order to replace the corridors included in the current Transportation Policy Plan, including those that did not emerge as priorities through Network Next evaluation. This action adopts six new corridors as expansion priorities and would position three corridors to be removed from the TPP through upcoming amendment: North Snelling/Lexington, East 7th/White Bear Avenue, and American Boulevard. These corridors could be reconsidered in future BRT planning efforts.

Rationale

Council adoption of Network Next recommendations for the remaining mid-term and longer-term priority BRT corridors will establish the Council's vision for arterial BRT expansion through 2040. These priorities would be reflected in the Transportation Policy Plan through a future amendment, planned for fall 2021.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Network Next process has advanced the equity outcome by engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision making and using equity as a lens to evaluate candidate corridors. The BRT lines recommended for expansion further address equity through significantly expanding transit access for BIPOC communities to jobs and opportunity. The plan recommendations advance prosperity, through considering the reach of the METRO network and balancing major investments across the region. Finally, the

recommendations advance stewardship by prioritizing expansion of the arterial BRT network in areas with infrastructure and development patterns to support a successful transit system, balancing transit ridership with added connectivity.

Funding

There is no funding attached to this action.

Known Support / Opposition

Recommendations were made following a robust process that included multiple rounds of community input and feedback, along with ongoing engagement with regional stakeholders.

