

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 11, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: April 27, 2022

Business Item: 2022-77

METRO D Line – Station Plan Amendment #1

District(s), Member(s):	District 2 (Chamblis); District 5 (Cummings); District 7 (Lilligren); District 8 (Muse)
Policy/Legal Reference:	PIC 2-2 - Accountability to the Public Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Adam Smith, Environmental Compliance Lead, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7160
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Council approve Amendment #1 to the D Line Station Plan, to add a new station at Osseo Road & 47th Avenue and update the location for a permanent southbound platform at Portland Avenue & 77th Street.

Background

Through its approval of the D Line Station Plan, the Council established the number and location of stations on the D Line project. On July 25, 2018, the Metropolitan Council approved the final D Line Station Plan (Business Item 2018-62). On January 23, 2019, the Metropolitan Council approved an addendum to the D Line Station Plan to confirm the station location at Chicago & 48th Street (Business Item 2019-2). Construction activities for the D Line began in 2021.

Through additional agency coordination with other street construction projects and associated public engagement efforts, staff have identified two changes to the D Line Station Plan, both of which would be implemented as future modifications to the line after D Line operations begin.

Hennepin County plans to reconstruct Osseo Road between Penn Avenue and 49th Avenue beginning in 2023. The approved Station Plan identified a future opportunity to add a station in this segment, supported by public and agency feedback. Through coordination with the County and public engagement efforts, a new D Line station is recommended at Osseo & 47th Avenue. Once construction is complete, both the C and D lines would serve this station.

As part of its I-494: Airport to Hwy 169 project, MnDOT is planning changes to Portland Avenue in the vicinity of the I-494 interchange, with construction planned to begin in 2023. Metro Transit is constructing temporary D Line platforms on the northwest and northeast corners of the Portland & 77th Street intersection to provide passenger waiting facilities prior to D Line opening day later in 2022. To accommodate the selected design for the interchange project, a change to the D Line plan is necessary. With this amendment, the permanent southbound D Line platform will be constructed in the southwest intersection quadrant rather than the northwest intersection quadrant, as was shown in the approved Station Plan. This configuration is preferred by stakeholders and has been included in public and stakeholder engagement led by MnDOT.

Rationale

Approval of this amendment will establish one new D Line station location and revise one D Line platform location, providing critical direction to the continued design of these stations in advance of construction.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The D Line Station Plan amendment will further advance the D Line project's contributions to the Thrive outcome of Prosperity by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

By increasing access to the D Line, the Station Plan amendment also advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by further improving transit access for communities of color and for workers at low wage jobs. Investment in the D Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by efficiently coordinating the delivery of two D Line stations as part of other agencies' street construction projects with partnership from Hennepin County and MnDOT.

Funding

While there is no direct funding attached to this action, approval of the Station Plan amendment will allow design and construction to advance for these stations in coordination with agency partners.

Small Business Inclusion

There is no contracting, and therefore no small business inclusion, associated with this action.

