

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: July 24, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: August 9, 2023

Business Item: 2023-134

METRO F Line – Approval of Final Corridor Plan

District(s), Member(s): District 2 (Chamblis), District 7 (Osman), District 10 (Lindstrom)

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

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Division/Department: Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the METRO F Line Final Corridor Plan to establish the number and location of stations included in the project.

Background

The Final Corridor Plan builds on previous versions of the plan published for public comment. The Draft Corridor Plan was released for public comment from October 24, 2022, through December 5, 2022. Following review of feedback received and additional analysis, the Recommended Corridor Plan was released for public comment on April 12, 2023 (following Council action on Business Item 2023-60), through May 14, 2023.

Both previous plan releases were communicated through print and digital communications including postcards, flyers at bus stops, door knocking and meeting with station neighbors, tabling at events and in public spaces in the corridor, partnerships and meetings with community organizations and neighborhood groups, shared promotion by partner agencies, emails to subscribers and Rider Alerts, and targeted social media posts. Vital project documents were translated into English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Oromo, and Arabic.

Across both comment periods, Metro Transit received a total of 851 public comments on the plan and one petition letter. Staff read and categorized each of the comments received during both corridor plan public comment periods, as well as those submitted by agency partners. In response to comments, staff completed additional analysis of alternative platform locations at multiple station locations. Staff have developed additional information and met with concerned stakeholders throughout the process to better understand and respond to the concerns raised.

In the Final Corridor Plan, additional analysis was completed for station locations at Central & Lowry and Central & 1st Avenue/7th Street. Based on that analysis, staff recommend no changes be made at those station locations.

Staff recommend that the station location at Central & 18th Avenue be shifted one block north to Central & 18 1/2 Avenue. This recommended change is in response to comments received during the public comment period and subsequent additional analysis.

Metro Transit coordinated closely with partner agencies throughout the planning process through a technical advisory committee. Partner agency support for the F Line Corridor Plan and station locations was affirmed through formal agency comments included in the plan document.

Rationale

Approval of the F Line Final Corridor Plan will establish F Line station locations at the intersection quadrant level, providing critical direction and focus to the detailed design and engineering phase beginning in summer 2023.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The F Line will upgrade Route 10, one of Metro Transit's highest ridership bus routes. Investment in high-quality transit options in the Route 10 corridor will advance 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.

The F Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for people with low incomes and communities of color. About 40 percent of Route 10 customers live in low-income households, and over half of Route 10 customers are people of color. Investment in the F Line will provide riders with faster and more reliable service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for F Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from MnDOT, Hennepin and Anoka counties, the cities of Minneapolis, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, and Blaine, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Funding

While there is no direct funding attached to this action, approval of the Final Corridor Plan will establish the scope of the F Line project to include defined number of stations in determined locations, a necessary step to delivering the project within budget.

Small Business Inclusion

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

