

#### **METRO F Line Recommended Corridor Plan**

Transportation Committee, Business Item 2023-60

Jake Knight, Senior Planner, Arterial BRT | March 27, 2023



## Proposed action 2023-60

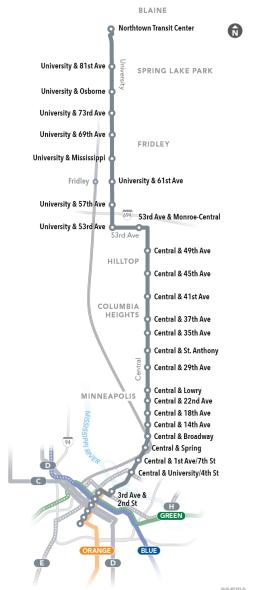
- Authorize release of the METRO F Line Recommended Corridor Plan for public review and comment
- Direct staff to collect public comments through Sunday, May 14, summarize comments, and report the findings to the Metropolitan Council



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### Arterial BRT: Designed to be faster, more reliable, and easy to use

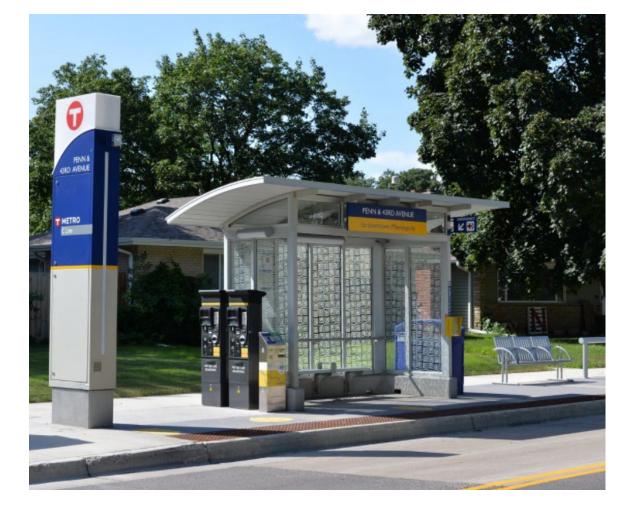
2-3 stations per mile, designed for faster stops High-tech, highamenity, secure stations

Pre-boarding fare payment for faster stops

Higher-capacity buses & boarding through all doors

Bus priority signals & lanes

Faster, frequent, all-day service





# METRO F Line arterial bus rapid transit project

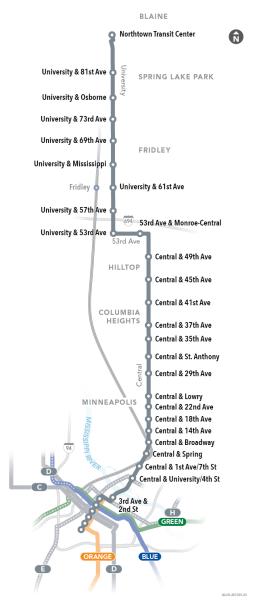
F Line

March 2023

- Faster, frequent, all-day service
- 13-mile corridor from downtown Minneapolis to Northtown Transit Center
- Substantial upgrade to Route 10
- All-day, all-purpose ridership
- Improved speed and reliability
- Planned 32 stations with enhanced features
- \$98 million project cost estimate, includes standard FTA contingency and escalation levels





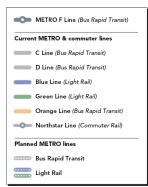




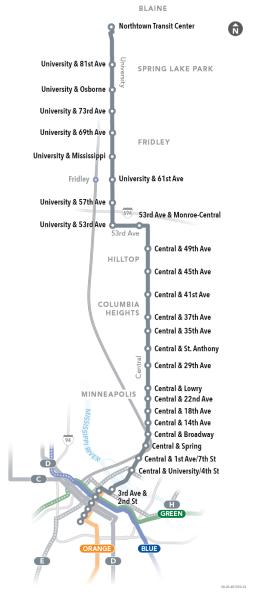


- METRO
  F Line
  - March 2023

- Funding next steps
  - \$45.3 million FTA Small Starts funding recommended in Pres. Biden's FY 2024 budget
  - Small Starts funding, together with secured state and federal funding would fully fund the project
  - Governor's capital recommendations and bills in House (passed) and Senate include \$72 million for arterial bus rapid transit investment, including G and H lines
- Engineering and construction administration services contract award anticipated in May/June 2023
- Ongoing coordination with MnDOT Hwy 47 and Hwy 65
  Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study,
  examining broader alternatives for corridor changes

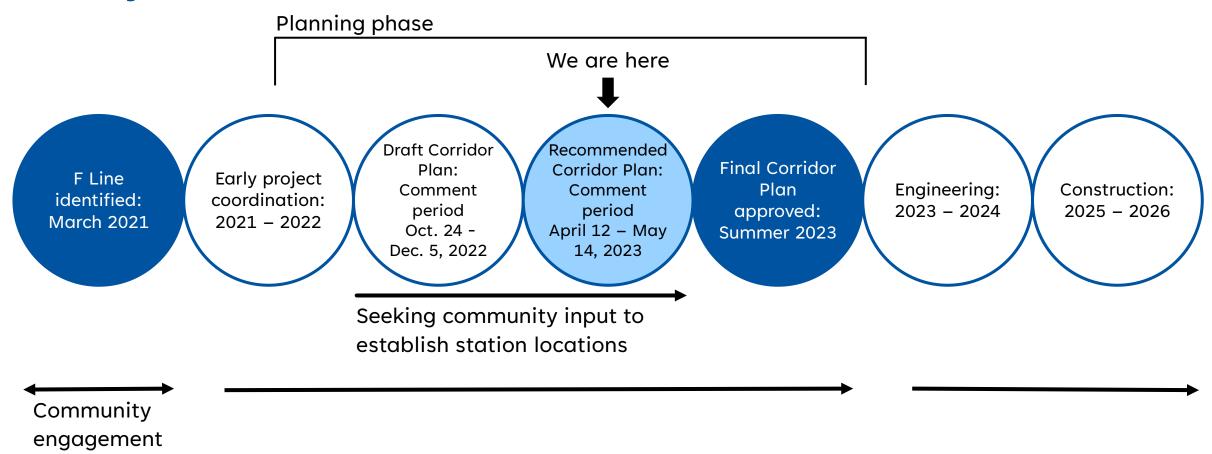








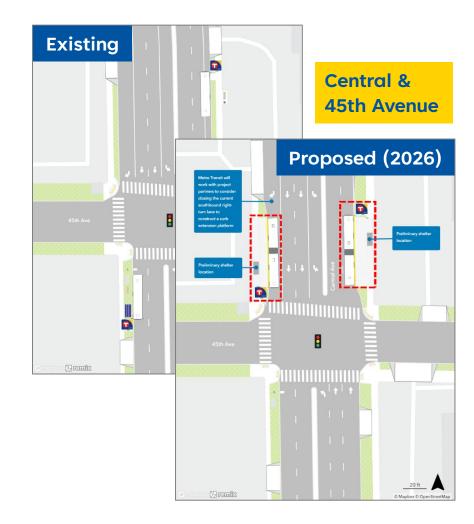
# **Project schedule**





#### **Corridor Plan contents**

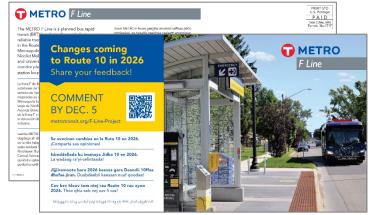
- Station locations: station intersections and locations of platforms within each intersection
- Concept bus service plan
- Priorities for bus priority treatments to meet speed and reliability goals
- Project history and planning process to date





# Draft Corridor Plan engagement: Strategies

- 13,000 email addresses received project information
- 12,900 postcards mailed to homes and businesses
- 683 people engaged at 27 events and meetings
- 129 properties visited, talking to station neighbors and leaving station-specific materials
- 64 bus stop poles signed with project information
- 20 newsletters, websites blurbs, and social media postings from agency partners
- 2 rounds of Metro Transit social media ads targeted by zip code; posts on Metro Transit and Council social media accounts
- 1 virtual open house presentation with Q&A
- Translation of vital documents in English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Oromo, and Arabic





Anoka County @AnokaCounty · 1d Tonight! (Tuesday, Nov 15)

information, how you can get involved in

Metro Transit staff will share

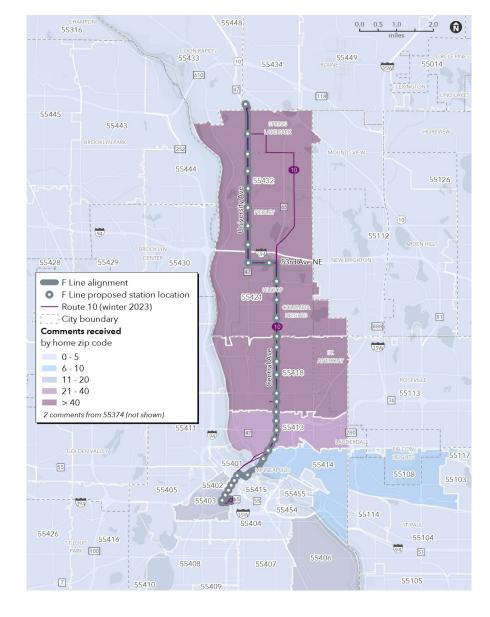






# Draft Corridor Plan feedback: Demographics

- 332 comments via survey, email, phone
- Majority of survey respondents:
  - Use Metro Transit at least a few times per month (71 percent)
  - Have home ZIP code within corridor (76 percent)
  - Identify as white alone (83 percent)
  - Have lower than average household incomes
     (63 percent under \$100k)\*
- 17 percent identify as having a disability

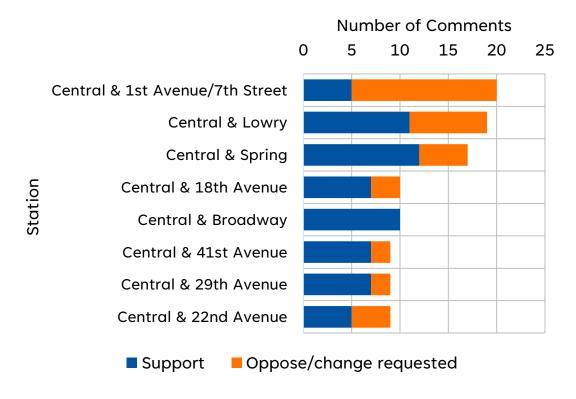




#### Draft Corridor Plan feedback: What we heard

- 74 percent of comments received were in support of the plan (survey, email, phone)
- One petition letter in opposition to Central & 1st Avenue/7th Street Station
- Key themes
  - Support for bus priority treatments
  - Importance of pedestrian safety and connections
  - Support for station designs that integrate bicycle facilities
  - Support for improved access to destinations
  - Suggested changes to route alignment
  - Concerns about the removal of on-street parking

- Individual station feedback
  - Stations receiving 9 or more comments





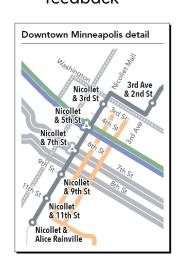


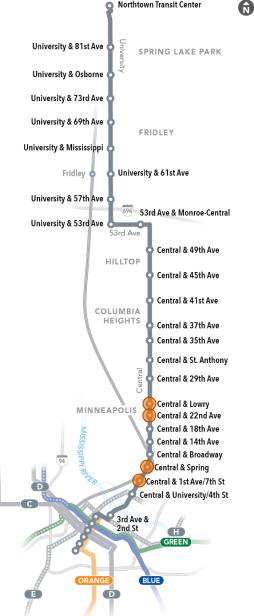
- No changes to station or platform locations are recommended
- Additional analysis and response to comments at several stations
  - Central & Lowry
  - Central & 22nd Avenue
  - Central & Spring
  - Central & 1st Avenue/7th Street
- Responses to comments received were often regarding platform placement, including issues to address throughout engineering



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Additional analysis and response to feedback





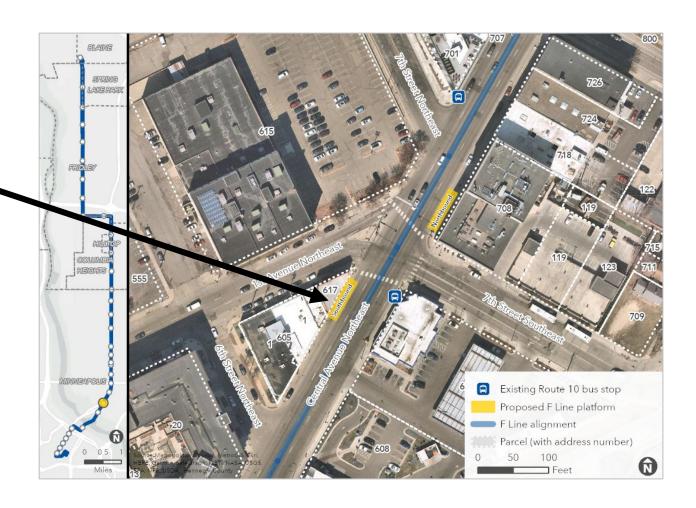
BLAINE

# Additional analysis example: Central & 1st Ave/7th St - southbound

Received petition letter from
 Otter's Saloon in opposition to
 Central & 1st Avenue/7th Street
 Station southbound platform

 Concerns over removal of onstreet parking spaces

 Staff compared two alternative locations to the baseline proposed location





# Additional analysis example: Central & 1st Ave/7th St – southbound (2)





# Additional analysis example: Central & 1st Ave/7th St - southbound (3)

Key	Green = Preferred	Yellow = Not preferred	Orange = Undesirable
Factor	Baseline	Alt. A	Alt. B
Safe pedestrian crossings	Encourages safe behavior [green]	Encourages safe behavior [green]	Encourages unsafe behavior [orange]
Access to destinations	Centrally located [green]	Centrally located [green]	Farther away [yellow]
Station spacing	Within standard [green]	Within standard [green]	Within standard [green]
Available right-of- way (space)	Enough space [green]	Not enough space [orange]	Enough space [green]
Speed and reliability	Supportive [green]	Not supportive [yellow]	Supportive [green]
Traffic operations	No or minimal impact [green]	Pedestrian and bicyclist safety concerns [orange]	No or minimal impact [green]
On-street parking	3 to 5 total spaces removed [yellow]	0 spaces removed [green]	0 spaces removed [green]

- Recommendation:
   Retain platform
   location from Draft
   Corridor Plan
- Continue engagement with stakeholders
- Seek to minimize impacts through station design



# Recommended Corridor Plan engagement

- Collecting feedback
  - Public comment period: April 12 May 14
  - Survey linked on project website metrotransit.org/f-line-project
  - FLine@metrotransit.org, 651-829-5305
- Sharing information
- Meeting people in community





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