

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: February 24, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: March 12, 2025

Business Item: 2025-33

METRO G Line – Approval of Final Corridor Plan

District(s), Member(s):	District 10 (Lindstrom), District 13 (Lee), District 14 (Carter), District 15 (Vacant)
Policy/Legal Reference:	PIC 2-2 - Accountability to the Public Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Kyle O'Donnell Burrows, Planning Manager, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7749 Laura Greteman, Planner, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7672
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Council approve the METRO G 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 September 25, 2023, through November 6, 2023. Following review of feedback received and additional analysis, the Council authorized release of the Recommended Corridor Plan for public comment from September 25 through October 25, 2024 (Business Item 2024-193).

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, emails to subscribers and Rider Alerts, and targeted social media posts. Vital project documents were translated into English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Oromo, Vietnamese, and Karen.

Across both comment periods, Metro Transit received a total of 586 public comments on the plan. 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.

The results of Recommended Corridor Plan engagement were consistent with themes that staff recorded in the Draft Corridor Plan public comment period. Similarly, staff did not receive any new concerns about station and platform locations from partner agencies. Based on feedback from the

public and partner agencies, staff is not recommending any changes to the station and platform locations in the Final Corridor Plan.

Metro Transit coordinated closely with partner agencies throughout the planning process through a technical advisory committee. Partner agency support for the G Line Corridor Plan and station locations was affirmed through formal agency comments included in the plan document. Staff will continue to engage with agency partners in the engineering phase of the project.

Rationale

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

Thrive Lens Analysis

The G Line will enhance transit in the Rice Street / Robert Street corridor, currently served by Route 62 and Route 68.

Investment in high-quality transit options in the G Line 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 G Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for people with low incomes and communities of color. Over 40% of Route 62 and Route 68 customers live in low-income households and over half of Route 62 and Route 68 customers are people of color. Investment in the G 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 G Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from MnDOT, counties, cities, and other stakeholders.

Funding

While there is no direct funding attached to this action, approval of the Final Corridor Plan will establish the scope of the G 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.

