



Network Now Framework

Transportation Committee | March 10, 2025

Cyndi Harper, Manager | Service Development

Mark Christianson, Planner | Service Development

Network Now Framework 2025–2027 Service Improvements

Improves:

- New or redesigned routes
- Frequency or span improvements
- METRO line investments
- Microtransit

Resolves:

- Status of routes that are currently suspended (some since 2020)
- Facility closure needs

Builds upon data:

- **Performance:** details network performance, changes since 2019, and opportunities
- **Policy:** regional policy guidance from the Metropolitan Council applied
- **Engagement:** multiple rounds of engagement from values to specifics with nearly 8,000 comments

How we connected in 2024

- 25 community events
 - Includes events held primarily in other languages
- 35 municipal and county public briefings
- 15 committee and other presentations
- 420 hours of onboard and transit center intercept work with material handed to over 4,000 customers
- Rider alerts, interior cards, newsletters, social media, partner collaboration and more
- Nearly 1,600 comments were received



Comment Form
Draft Concept Plan

Over the past two years, Metro Transit has used public input to shape this draft plan. Based on the comments we receive, we will update the plan and share it this winter. Please share your comments below, or, to learn more, visit metrotransit.org/Network-Now.

1. The overall service proposed in Network Now meets my travel needs.
 - Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree
2. Metro Transit is proposing service in Network Now that meets **when** I need to travel.
 - Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree




If not, at what times would you like to see service improvements?
Sometimes. I need to wait 30 min between 2 buses
3. Metro Transit is proposing service in Network Now that meets **where** I need to travel.
 - Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree

If not, where would you like to see service improvements?
4. Compared to today, do these services improvements make you: (select one)
 - More likely to use transit
 - Less likely to use transit
 - The same as today (no change)
5. Please let us know what you most like about the plan:





Bus - timing - No delay
6. Please let us know what you would like to see changed or added:

over

What we heard and what we changed (1 of 2)

Comments	Change	Specifics	Included
Support for investments in the METRO network	Added resources for the METRO network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G Line Phase 2 added (2028) and related changes in Dakota County Gold Line Extension 10-minute frequency, replaces Route 94 (2027) 	
More frequency or hours of service	Added frequency and service related to themes requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More hours of high-frequency service on six routes Six routes will start earlier in the morning/end later in the evening. Saturday and/or Sunday frequency improvements on 11 routes 	
Express routes with all day service	Improved mid-day frequency on express routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-minute service during rush hours and hourly midday service for five key commuter express routes 	

What we heard and what we changed (2 of 2)

Comments	Change	Specifics	Included
More service later at night	Added service and increased frequency later in the evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service after 1 a.m. on Routes 10, 18, C and D Lines • 30-minute service until last trip on high frequency routes 	
Suburban to suburban connections	Added frequency and restored service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most suburban local routes operate every 30 minutes or better • All suburban local routes operate routes every 60 minutes or better 	
Desired connections	Route restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restored routes 27, 156, 672, 758, 763, 765, and 766 	
Route simplification	Removed branches / patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simpler structure of several routes 	
More micro service	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to work with stakeholder in defining micro zones 	

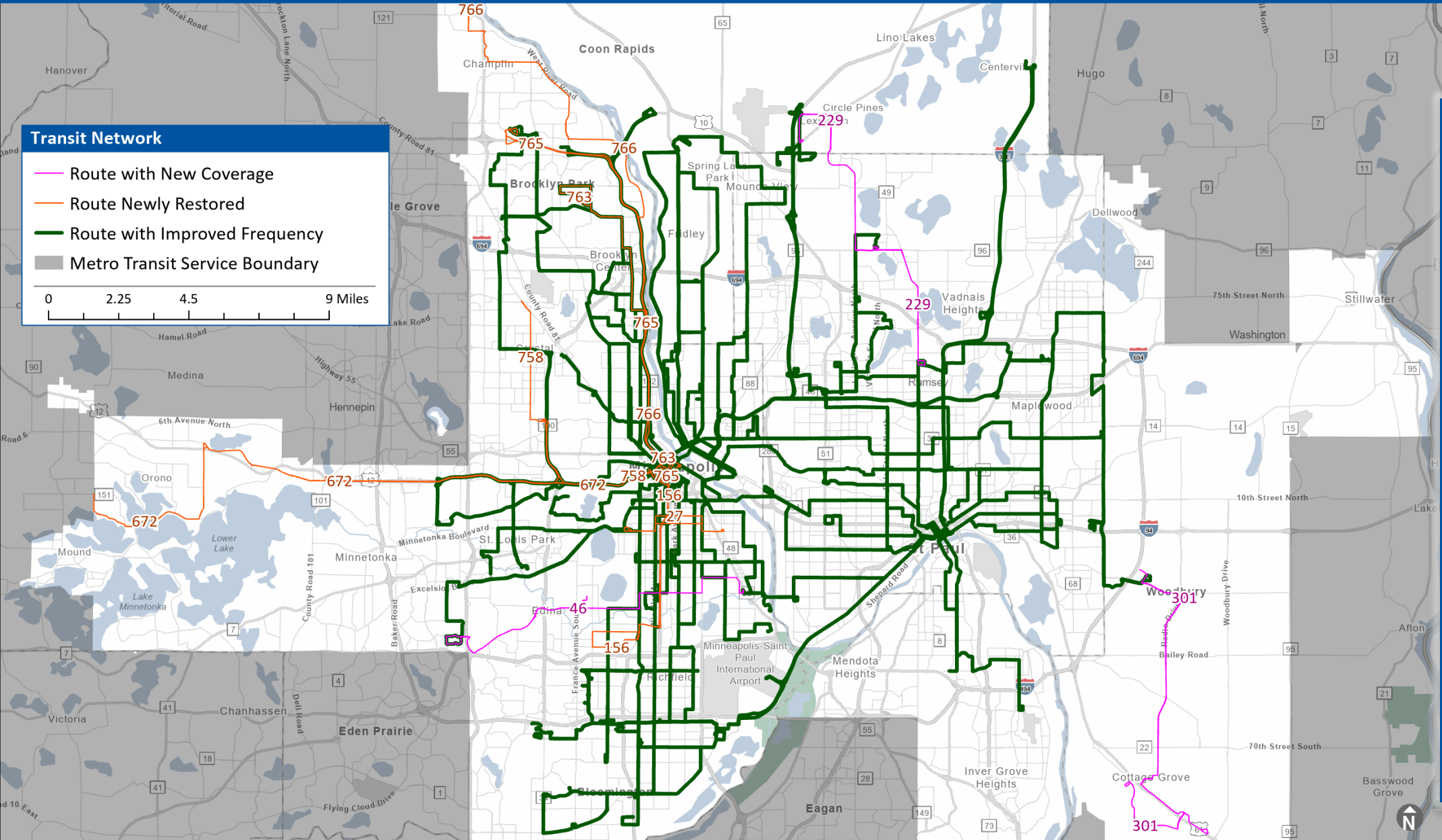
Changes from Network Now Plan to Framework



Transit Network

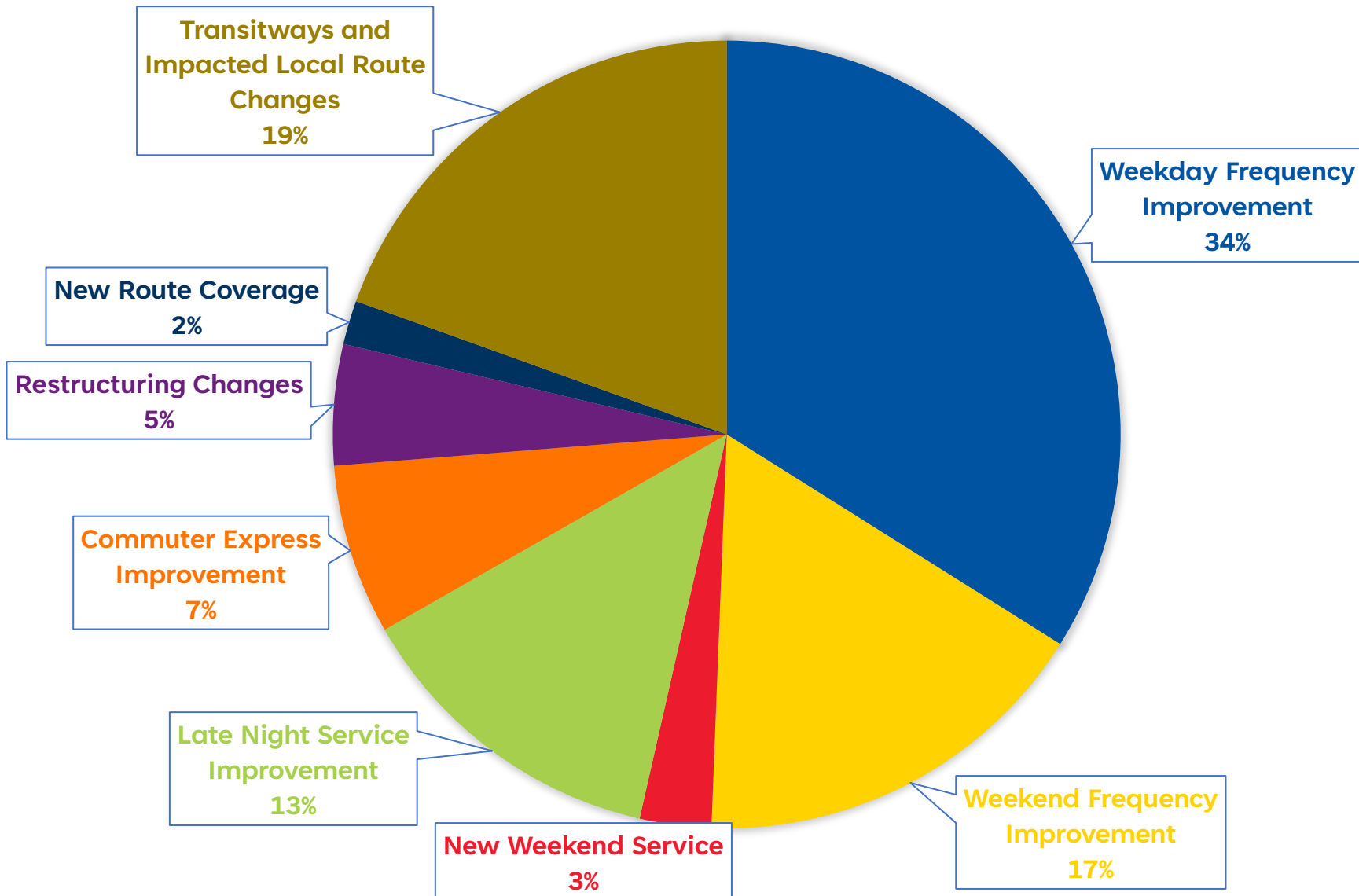
- Route with New Coverage
- Route Newly Restored
- Route with Improved Frequency
- Metro Transit Service Boundary

0 2.25 4.5 9 Miles



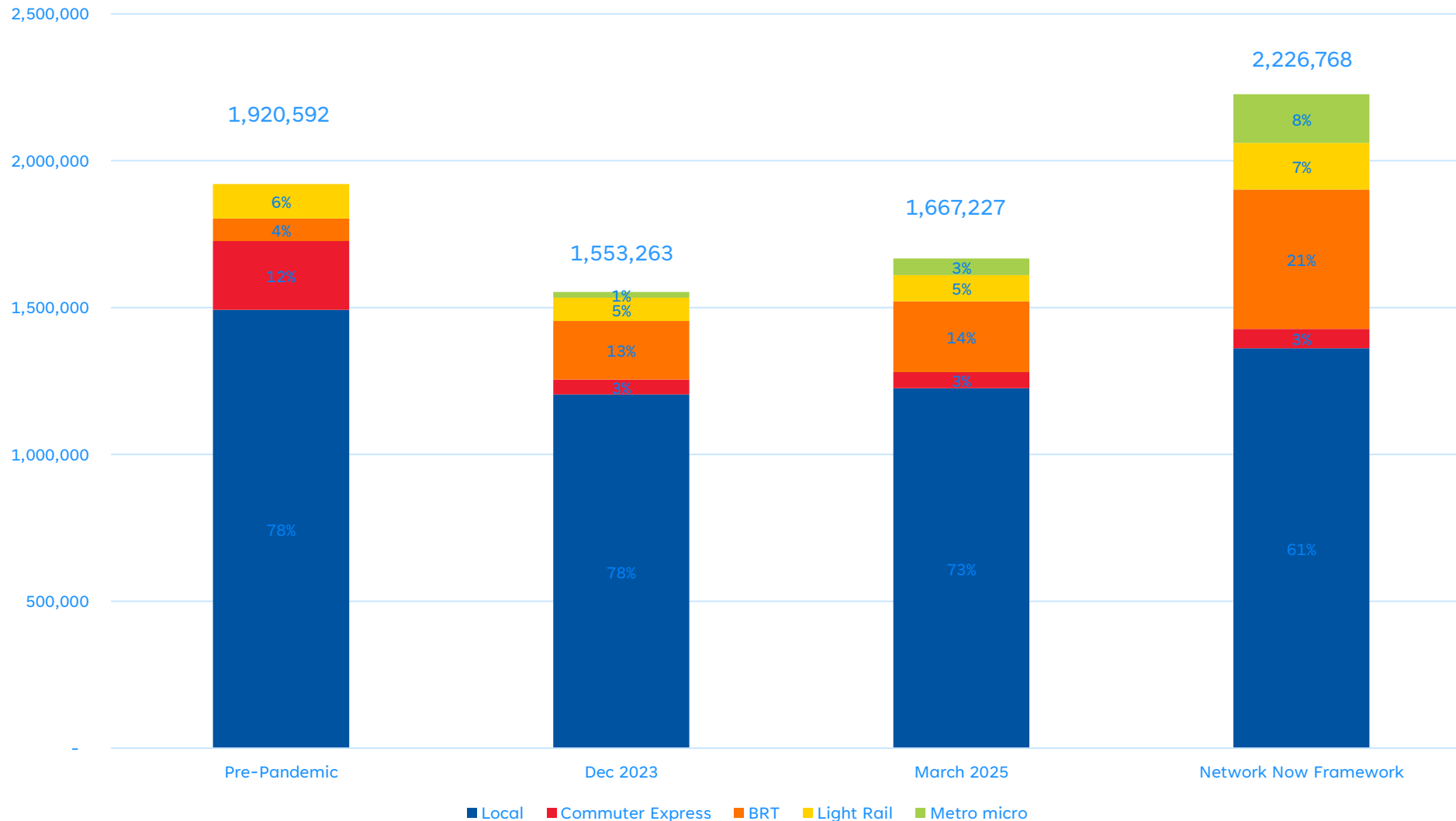
- 48 routes with improved frequency over the draft framework
- 7 routes restored
- 3 routes with significantly new coverage
- Service is expanded by addition 5% from the draft framework

FRAMEWORK ADDITIONS BY CATEGORY



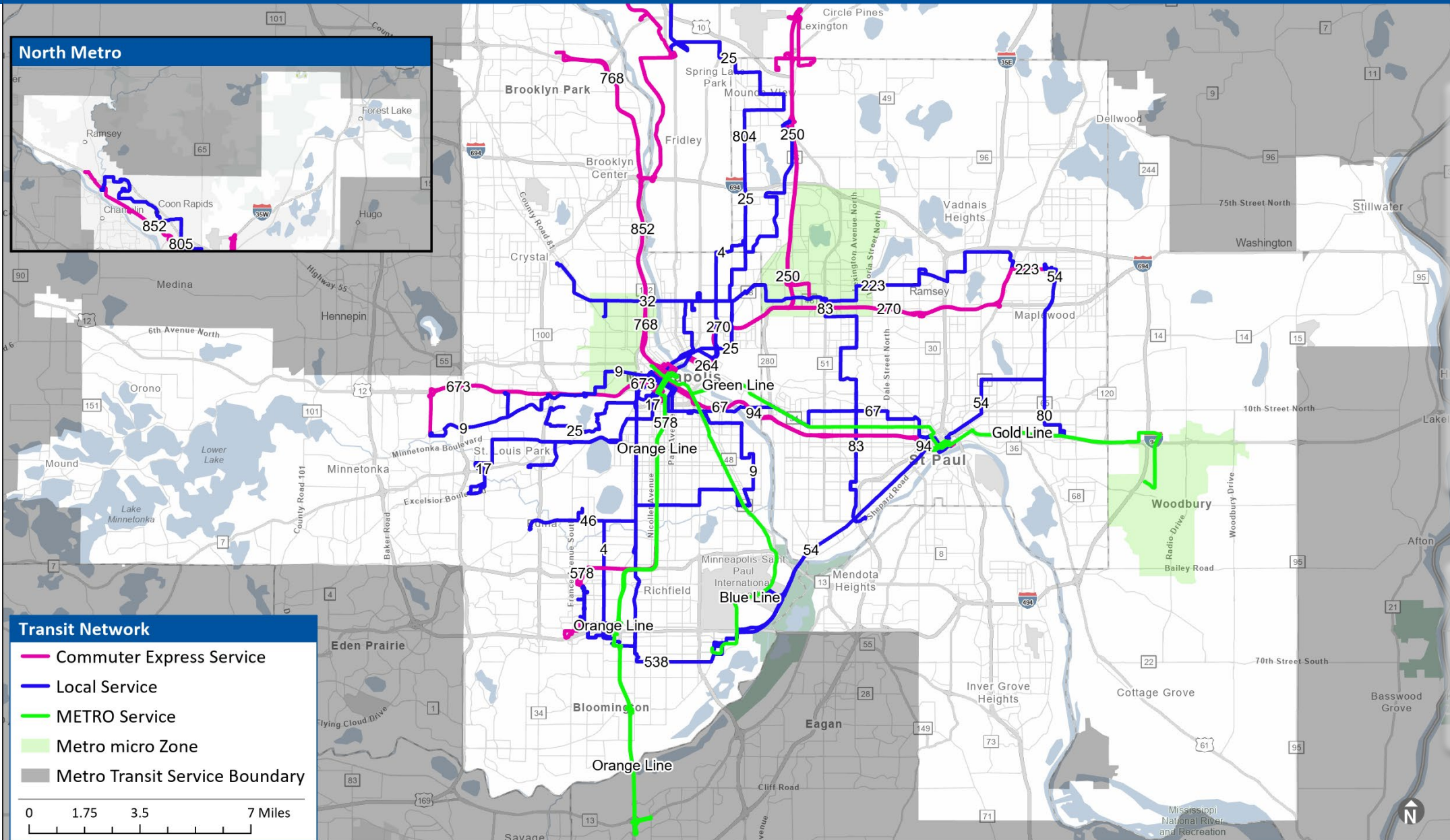
- 54% of Network Now framework additions are for improved frequency on weekdays and weekends on local routes
- 19% of changes are transitway or impacted local route changes
- 13% for late night service improvements
- 7% for new route coverage or restructuring
- 7% for commuter express improvements

In-Service Hour Changes: increase ~5% over Concept



- **Framework**
40% increase from 2023
- **March 2025 Pick**
7% increase from 2023

Routes Improved Baseline (Dec-23) to Current Network (Mar-25)



Progress is already underway to implement improvements on routes throughout the region

- 25 routes with improvements as of March 2025

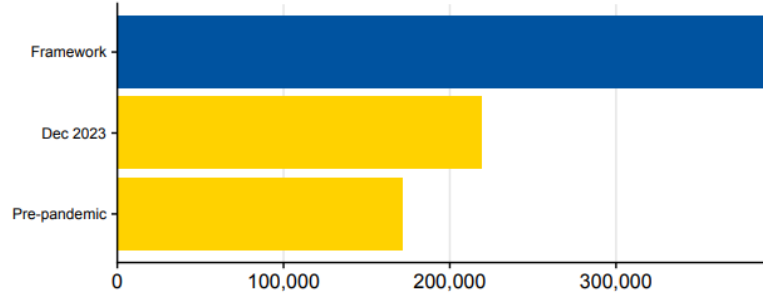
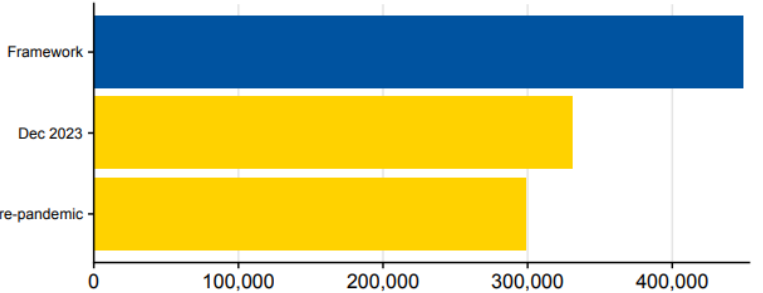
Evaluation Results: Residents within 5-minutes of high frequency or better service

Weekday Midday

Sunday Midday

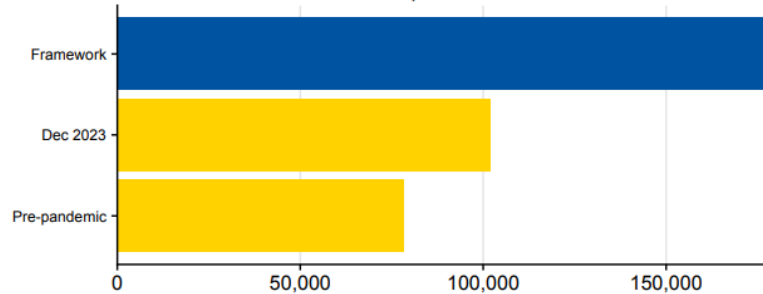
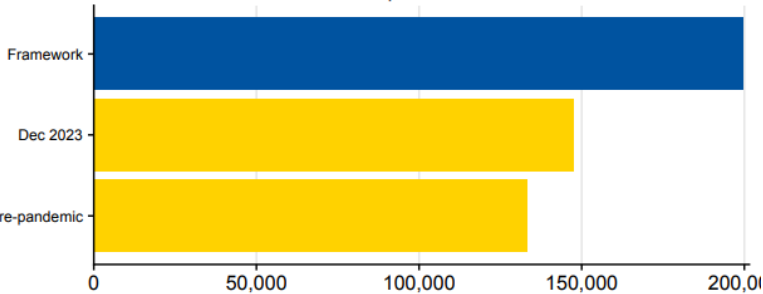
All Residents

All Residents



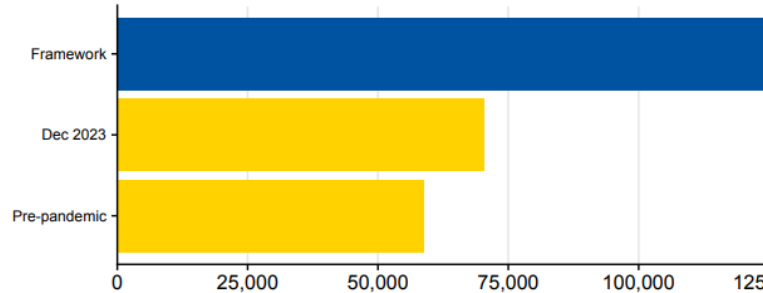
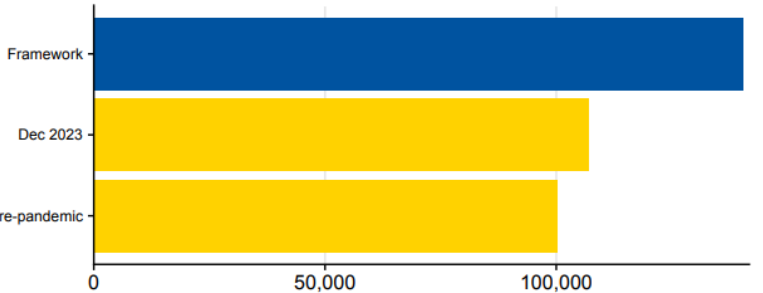
People of Color

People of Color



Low-income Residents

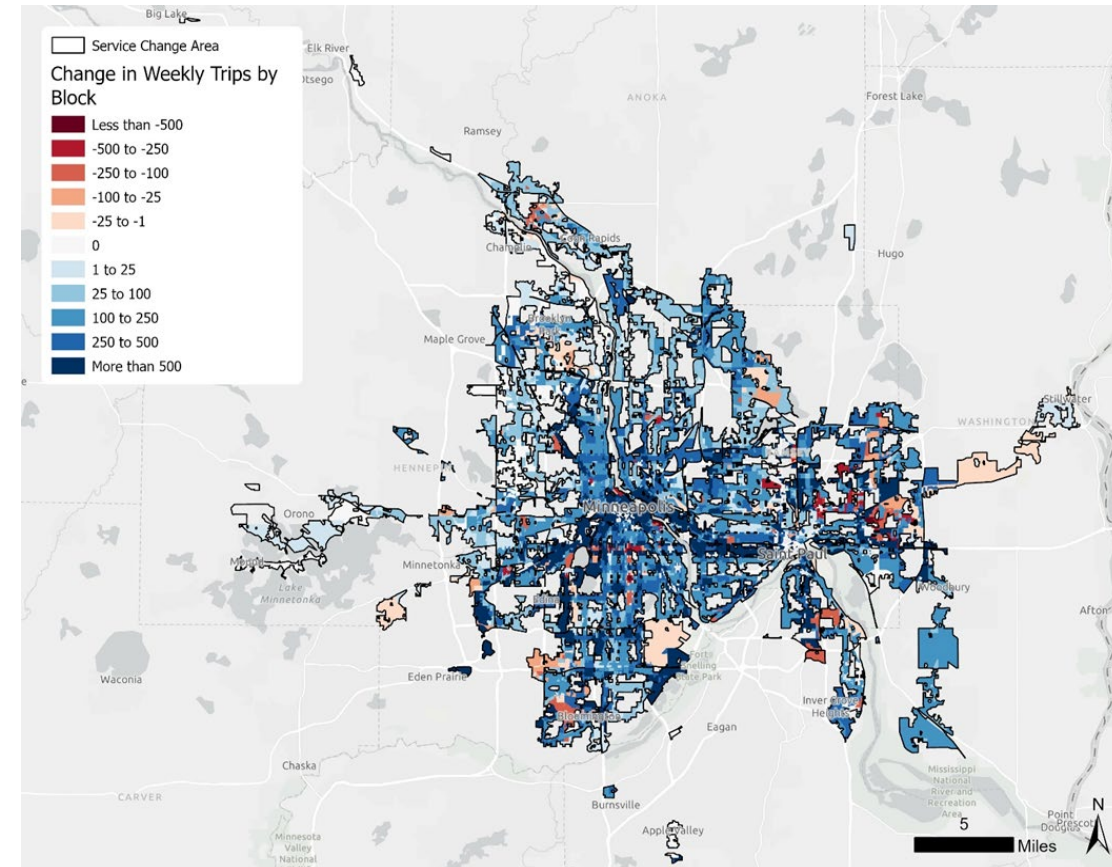
Low-income Residents



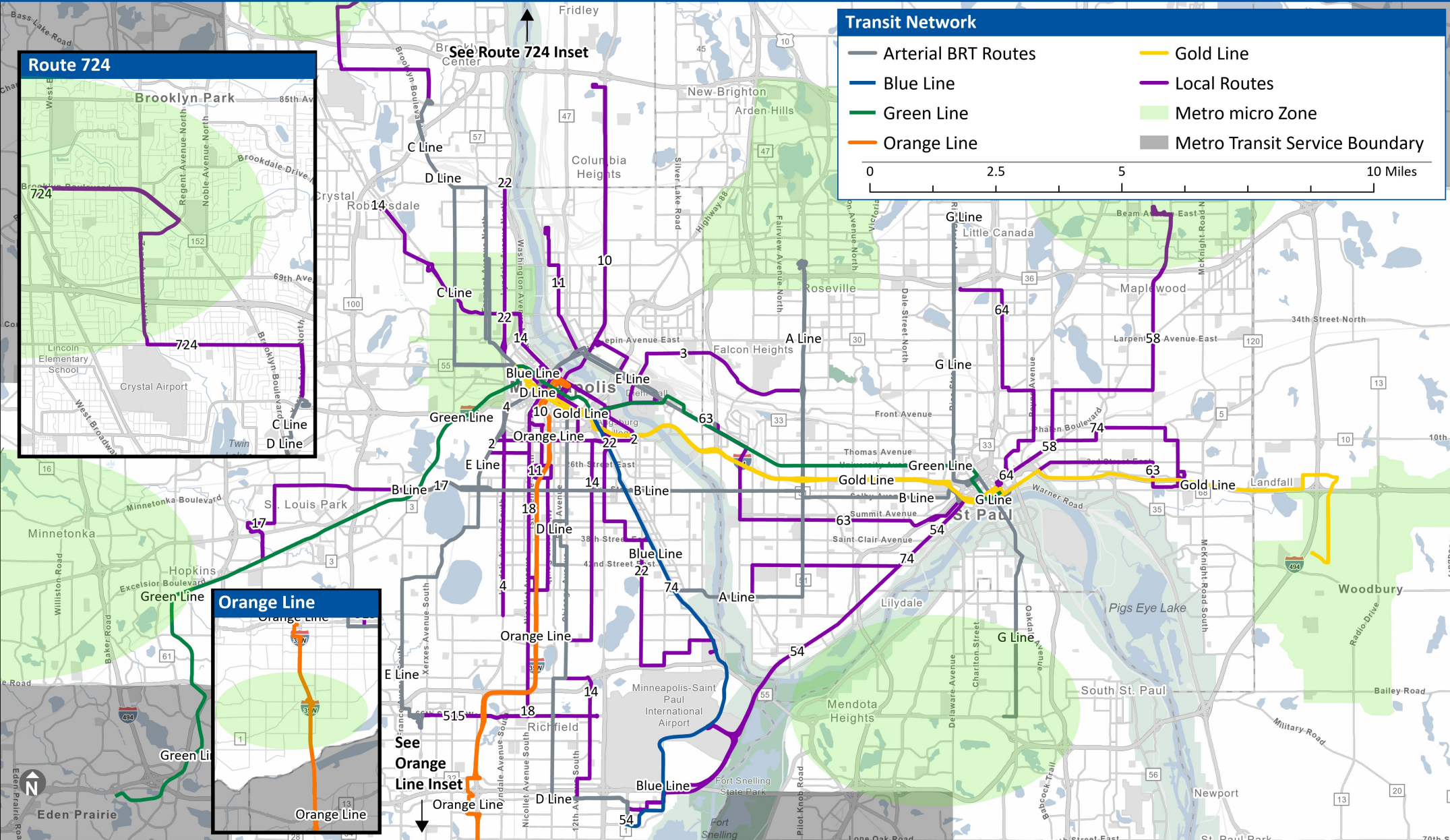
- Availability of high frequency service on weekdays increases by 35% over baseline levels
- Availability on Sundays nearly doubles

Title VI Service Equity Evaluation

- Compares the change in weekly trips serving BIPOC and/or low-income communities to changes serving White and/or non-low-income communities
- Results: no potential for disparate impact (race) or disproportionate burden (income) in review of absolute change
- Currently, 94% of Metro Transit trips serve low-income individuals, 80% serve BIPOC communities



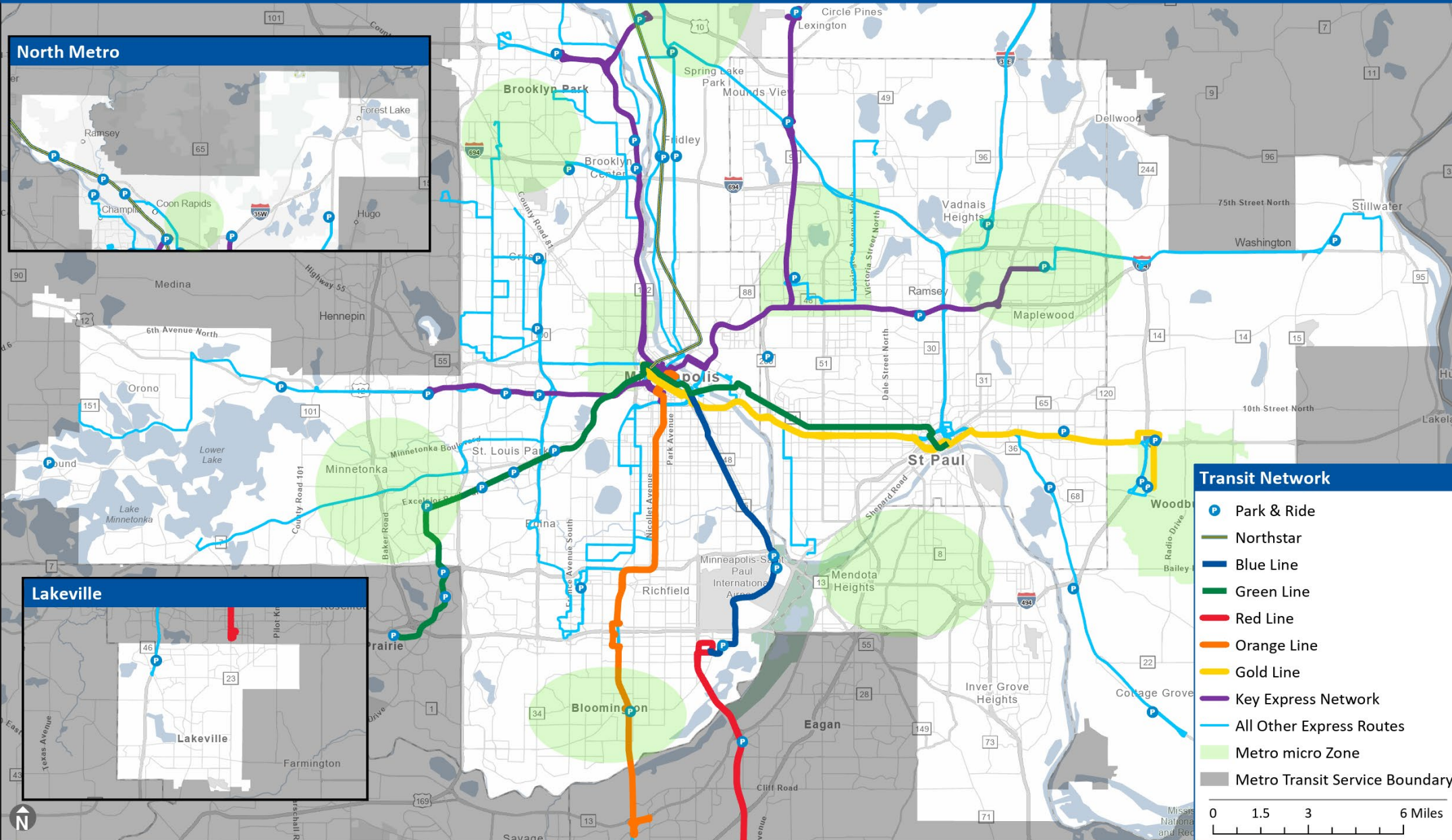
High Frequency Routes



New weekday high frequency service on Gold Line/Extension, Green Line Extension, B Line, E Line, G Line, Routes 22, 58, 74 and 515

More of our region can access frequent all-day service in walking distance

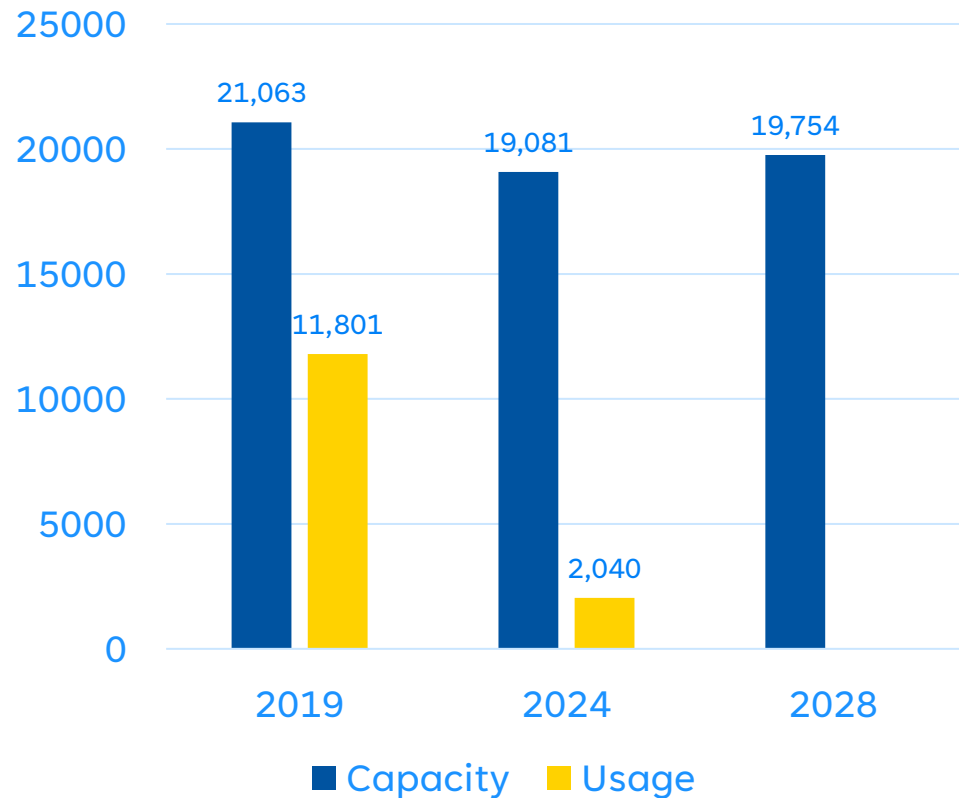
Commuter Oriented Service Network



Key express network

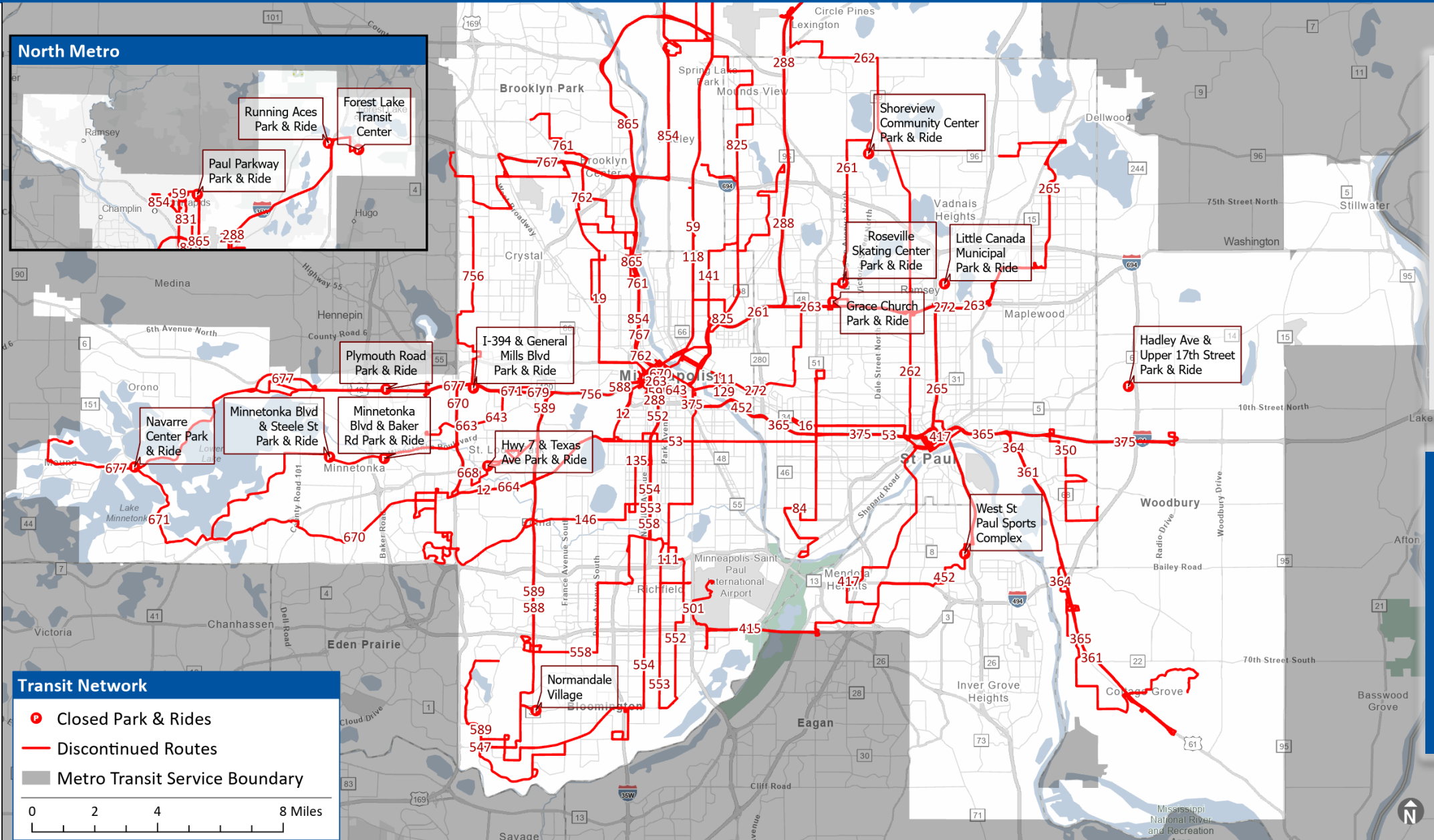
- 15" service during highest ridership of rush hours
- Hourly midday bi-directional service
- Serves all major highway corridors
- Rt 250, 270, 673, 768, and 850

Metro Transit Park & Ride System



Timeframe	Locations	Capacity
2019 System	72	21,063
<i>2019-2024 closures</i>	<i>-15</i>	<i>-1,982</i>
2024 System	57	19,081
<i>2025-2027 closures</i>	<i>-16</i>	<i>-1,710</i>
<i>2025-2027 openings</i>	<i>+10</i>	<i>+2,383</i>
2028 System	51	19,754

Discontinued Routes and Facilities



Discontinuing service to meet travel demand and strengthen commuter-oriented network

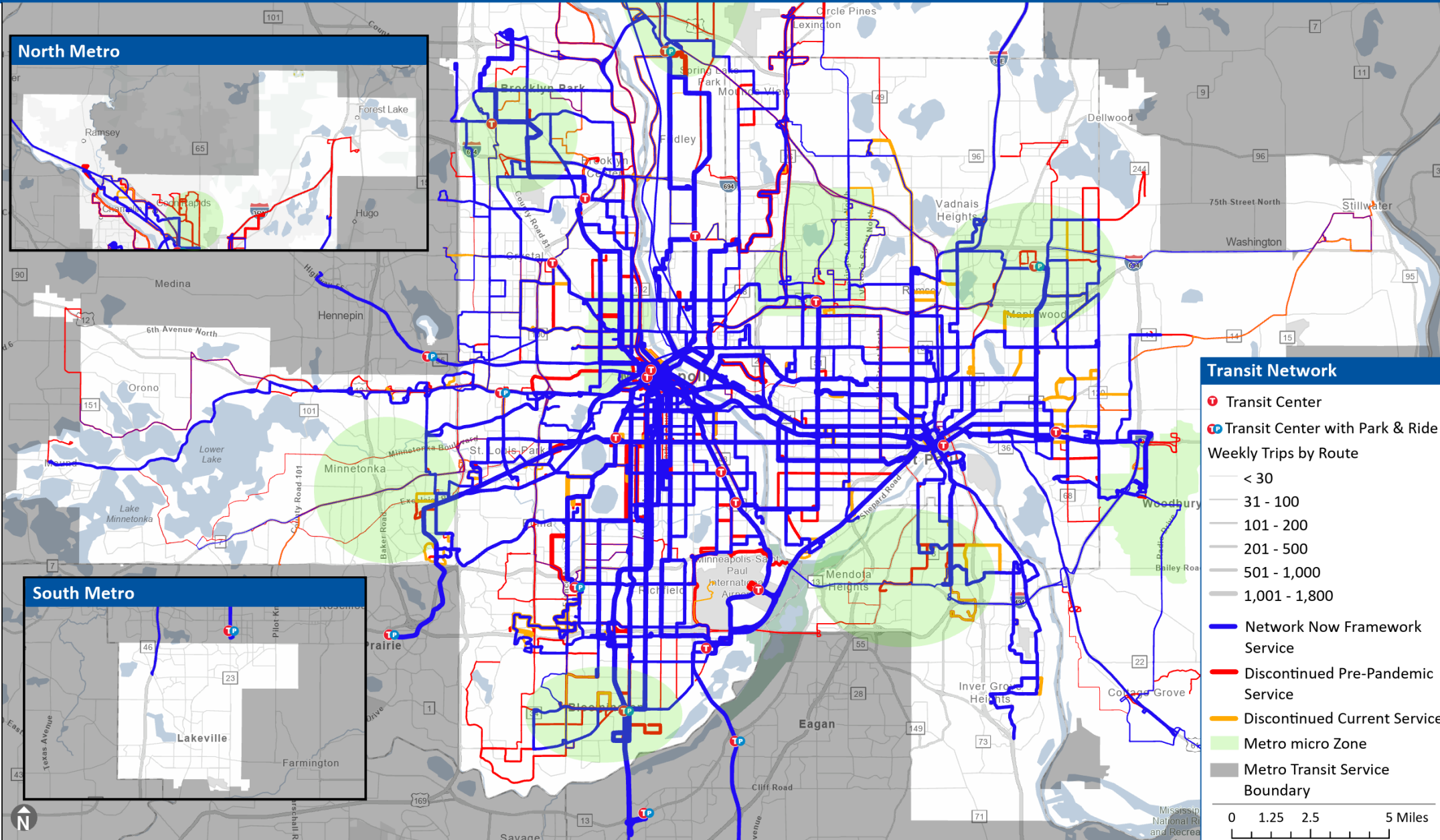
- 50 routes discontinued
- 16 park & rides closed
- 12 routes restored

Network Now Framework by Number of Weekly Trips



Network Now framework invests in frequent service

- 70+ routes improved frequency or span
- 26 routes with service 15"
- LRT 10-minute frequency
- 8 new micro zones
- 10+ routes with new areas of coverage



Next Steps

- Specific changes will be implemented as part of quarterly regular service changes in 2025 – 2027.
- Improvements sequenced on METRO line implementation, bus fleet and operator availability, ridership growth
- For discontinued service, begin to remove signs, close park-and-rides, and update system maps
- 2026 progress report

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the discontinuation of 50 bus routes as outlined in Network Now framework and endorse the Network Now framework.

**Full project report available at
metrotransit.org/network-now**