

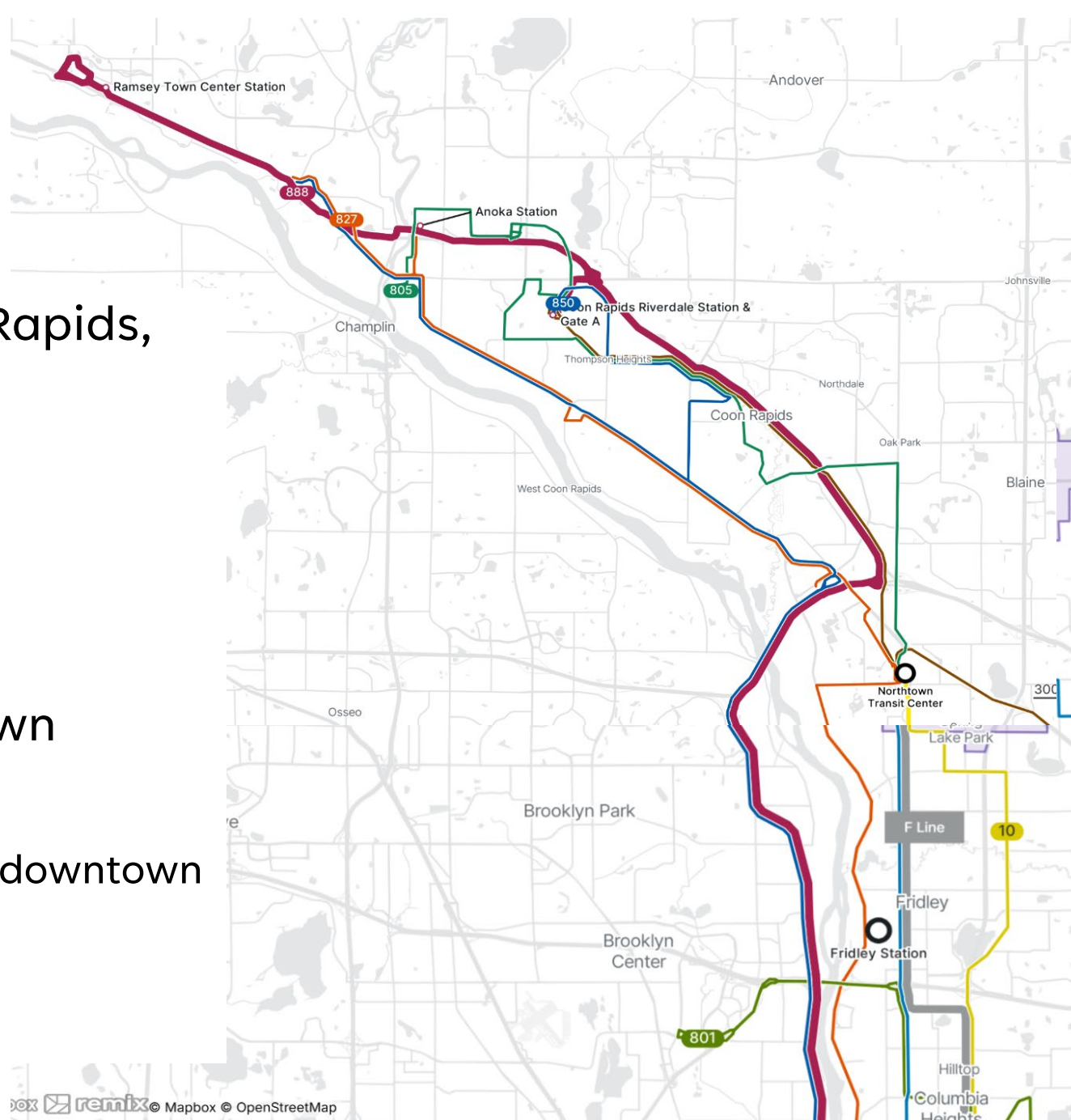


BI2025-256: Northstar Replacement Service to Big Lake and Elk River

Adam Harrington | Director, Service Development

Metro Transit service January 5, 2026

- Route 888: Ramsey, Anoka, Coon Rapids, downtown Minneapolis
 - Every 30 minutes rush hours
 - Every hour minutes midday
 - 3 round trips Saturday/Sunday
- Route 827: Anoka, **Fridley** Downtown Minneapolis
 - Every 30 minutes rush hours Foley to downtown
 - Every hour middays
 - Every hour Saturday



MNDOT Request

- MnDOT request to provide express service to Big Lake and Elk River
 - Sherburne County support
 - Responding to Northstar rider feedback
 - ~50% of Northstar riders board at Big Lake or Elk River
- Council does not have statutory authority to operate it's own bus service outside of seven county Metro area, **but** can be a contracted operator
- MnDOT has statutory authority to operate bus service outside of Council transit service boundary

Proposed Service

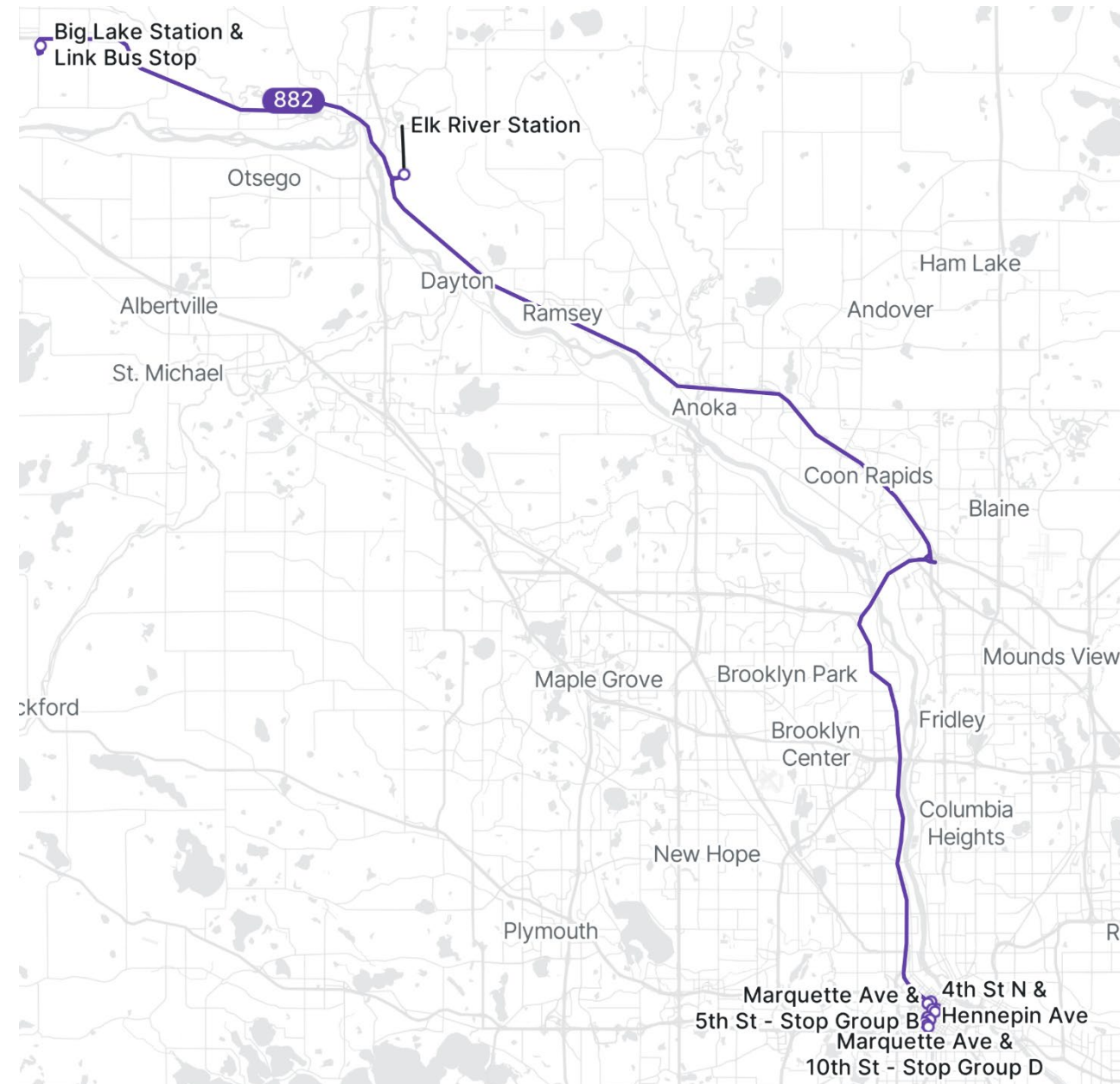
- Service recommendation developed with MnDOT and Sherburne County
 - 2-years of service
 - Coach buses
 - Council express bus fares (\$3.25 cash), pass programs, discount products
 - Periodic performance evaluations and adjustments as needed

| Trip | TFS Arrival | Big Lake & Elk River | Ramsey, Anoka, Coon Rapids |
|------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| AM1 | 6:22 AM | 52.3 | 51.0 |
| AM2 | 7:52 AM | 65.3 | 67.7 |
| AM3 | 8:42 AM | 30.2 | 26.1 |

Northstar February 2025 95th percentile boardings

Proposed Route 882

- 3 morning and afternoon weekday trips
- Serve prime work start/end times rush hours
 - 6:30–8:30am, 4:30–5:30pm
- Travel Time estimate
 - Big Lake - Marquette/5th: 77 mins
 - Elk River – Marquette/5th: 51 mins



Proposed Action

- That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract number 25I100 a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the Council to operate commuter express bus service between Big Lake, Elk River, and downtown Minneapolis at no net cost to the Council.

Thank You!

Adam Harrington

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