Transit Investment Plan

2050 TPP Technical Working Group

Cole Hiniker & Bradley Bobbitt

January 2024  metrocouncil.org
Chapter Updates Overview

Major changes since 2040 TPP

- Travel behavior
- Funding Sources
- New transitways

New approaches to transit investment chapter

- Focuses on investment categories (fleet, transitways, customer facilities, etc…)
- Presents only a fiscally-constrained investment plan
  - Regionally-significant projects identified
- Identifies opportunities for regional investment beyond plan
- Acknowledges uncertainties
  - Travel behavior
  - Funding
Chapter Outline

Introduction
- Importance of transit
- Connection to 2050 regional goals and objectives
- Met Council & TPP Roles in Regional Transit Planning

Existing Transit System
- Service Providers
- Types of Transit Service
- Transitways
- Transit Advantages
- Transit Infrastructure and Assets
- Transit System Trends and Uncertainties

Transit System Operating Policies and Procedures

Transit Investment Plan
- Transit Investment Guidelines and Standards
- Regular-route bus service
- Transitways
- Non-Fixed Route Bus Service
- Fleet
- Support Facilities
- Customer Facilities
- Transit Advantages

Financial Summary
- Revenues
- Expenditures
- Omnibus Transportation Bill & Regional Sales Tax
- Additional Funding Opportunities
Introduction

Connection to Regional Goals & Objectives

• Connection to regional goals and objectives
• Met Council and TPP roles in regional transit planning
• Connection to passenger travel beyond the region

Existing Transit System

• Transit service providers and service areas
• Types of transit service
• Transitways
• Transit advantages
• Transit infrastructure and assets
Introduction (2)

Transit system trends and uncertainties

- Ridership changes since 2020
- Development around high-frequency transit
- Ridership on zero-emission transit vehicles
- Microtransit
- Transit workforce

Transit system operation policies and procedures

- Regional policies (fare structure, fleet management, etc…)
- Federally required
  - Title VI Policy
  - Performance Targets
- 2023 Omnibus Transportation Bill Sales Tax
  - Discusses funding changes
  - Met Council will work with transit providers to determine uses for funds
  - Met Council will consider adopting policy for the new funding source
Transit Investment Plan

Transit Investment Guidelines and Standards

- Public engagement
- Transit Market Areas
- Transit Design Guidelines and Performance Standards
- Service Provider Planning

Investment Categories Structure

- Introduction/Scope of Category
- What guides decision-making for the category
- Investments included in the plan (current revenue)
- Investment opportunities beyond the plan
Transit Investment Plan (2)

Regular-Route Bus Service

Scope
- Local bus (core local, suburban local, etc…)
- Commuter and express bus

Decision-making
- Individual service provider planning
- Inter-agency collaboration
- Public engagement
- Regional guidelines and performance standards

Investments included in TPP
- Continued operation and adjustments at current service levels
- Return to pre-covid service levels by 2025
- Regular-route expansion

Investments opportunities beyond the plan
- Additional regular-route expansion
Transit Investment Plan (3)

Transitways

Scope
- Transitway Modes (BRT, LRT, Streetcars, Commuter Rail)
- Transitway Design Guidelines

Decision-making
- System Planning
- Corridor Planning
- Transitway Advancement Policy
- Project Development and Implementation
- Capital Preservation and Maintenance
Transit Investment Plan (4)

Transitways Continued

Expansion Investments included in TPP
- METRO Green Line LRT Extension
- METRO Blue Line LRT Extension
- METRO Gold Line Dedicated BRT
- METRO Purple Line Dedicated BRT
- METRO B Line Arterial BRT
- METRO E Line Arterial BRT
- METRO F Line Arterial BRT
- METRO G Line Arterial BRT
- METRO H Line Arterial BRT
- Riverview Corridor Modern Streetcar

Investments opportunities beyond the plan
- Arterial BRT
  - 63rd / Zane
  - Grand Ave
  - Johnson Ave / Lyndale Ave
  - Lowry Ave
  - Nicollet Ave
  - Randolph St / East 7th St
  - West Broadway Ave / Cedar Ave

- Under Study/Follow-up Work
  - Highway 169 BRT
  - Highway 55 BRT
  - METRO Orange Line Extension
  - METRO Red Line Future Stages
  - Midtown Rail
  - Red Rock Highway BRT
  - West Broadway Modern Streetcar
  - I-35W North
  - Highway 36
  - Rethinking I-94
  - County Road 42
  - American Boulevard
Transit Investment Plan (5)

Non-Fixed Route Transit

Scope
- Special transportation services (Metro Mobility)
- General public dial-a-ride (Transit Link)
- Metro Vanpool
- On-demand, app-based services like microtransit

Decision-making
- Mode-specific requirements
- Demand
- Workforce and fleet

Investments included in TPP
- Metro Mobility service expansion
- Microtransit pilot projects
- Transit Link and other dial-a-ride programs
- Metro Vanpool service expansion

Investments opportunities beyond the plan
- Service expansion
- Zero-emission fleet investments
Other investment categories

- Transit fleet
- Transit support facilities
- Customer facilities
- Transit advantages
- Fare equipment and supporting systems
- Safety and security

Highlights of Investments included in TPP

- Fleet replacement & overhauls (Light Rail, Buses, Etc…)
- Support facilities modernization & expansion
- Mobility hubs
- Transit advantages expansion
- TRIP Staffing

Highlights of Investments opportunities beyond the plan

- Low/no emissions fleet investments
Financial Summary

Projected Transit Revenues & Expenditures
- Roughly one third of regional transportation revenues and expenditures ($55.2 billion out of $171.5 billion)
- Operations 73% of all transit spending (bus system, current transitways and planned transitways)
- Major expenditures
  - Light rail vehicle replacement - $1.1 billion
  - Light rail vehicle overhauls - $600 million
  - Transitway extensions and new lines

Regional Transportation Sales and Use Tax
- 31% of total revenues through 2050
- Most funds used to address structural operating deficit and planned projects or expenses (transitways, fleet replacement)
- $1.5 billion through 2050 remain to be identified for new opportunities
- Other major implications
  - State general fund supporting Metro Mobility starting 2026
  - Counties’ transitway operating cost share shifted to Met Council
  - Required spending on specified purposes
Transit Chapter Review

Things to keep in mind

• Chapter tries to strike balance on covering regional transit investment direction and policies without delving into transit provider work
• Conceptual or material comments preferred over grammar/word choice
• Maps and graphics still in development
• Some data points still pending
• Data included may be updated once full 2023 data is available
• Suggestions for how to make content clearer with text, photos, graphics, etc... appreciated
• Coordination across chapters is ongoing
• Additional data from regional transit providers