

# TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

## LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)

System Statements

Local Planning Handbook

Community Pages

Sector Representatives

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Guide

Metropolitan Council's TAZ Forecasts

Minnesota Geospatial Commons

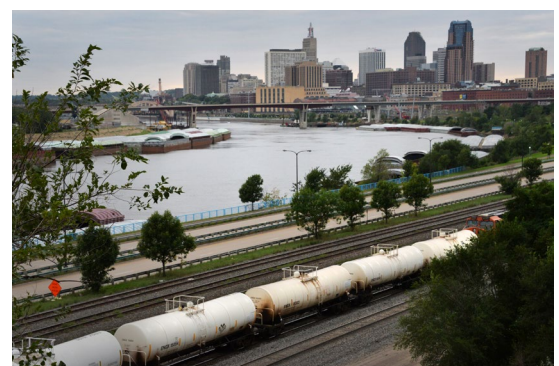
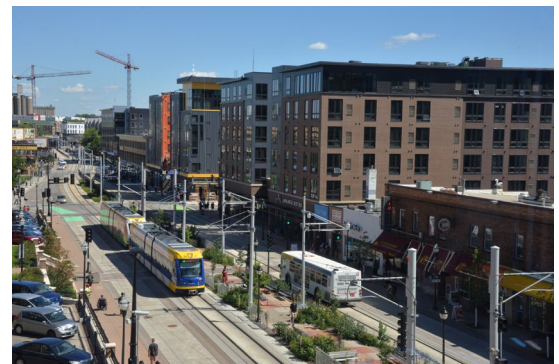
Minnesota Department of Transportation Access Management

Minnesota Department of Transportation Aeronautics

FAA Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Coordinator:  
Elaine Koutsoukos, 651-602-1717  
[elaine.koutsoukos@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:elaine.koutsoukos@metc.state.mn.us)

Aviation Information:  
Russ Owen, [russell.owen@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:russell.owen@metc.state.mn.us)



August 2016

LOCAL PLANNING  
HANDBOOK

Metropolitan Council  
390 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

[metro council.org](http://metro council.org)

Main: 651.602.1000  
TTY: 651.291.0904  
Public Information: 651.602.1500  
[public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us)



# TRANSITWAY STATION GUIDANCE

## TRANSITWAY STATION STATUS: DEFINITIONS AND EXPECTATIONS GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The purpose of this matrix is to outline expectations for communities around station-area planning during different phases of developing a regional transitway. Because the process often takes many years, the nature of local planning and support moves from general planning to specific implementation efforts, and the expectations of the Council and the Federal Transit Administration follow a similar path. Corridor planning and local land use planning provide guidance for early design and engineering. Over time, aspects of the transitway become more certain, including the alignment, the number and location of stations, the certainty of funding commitments, the scheduling of construction, and the opening of transitway service. As the transitway and its station locations become more certain, communities must adopt local plans, policies, and programs that support these important regional investments. [The 2040 Transportation Policy Plan identifies requirements and guidance on station-area planning and policies.](#) This matrix attempts to clarify the timing of those expectations for local governments. The Metropolitan Council is also developing resources, such as the Transit-oriented Development Guide, to provide more-specific guidance to local government about how to best plan for and implement land use that supports transitway investments.

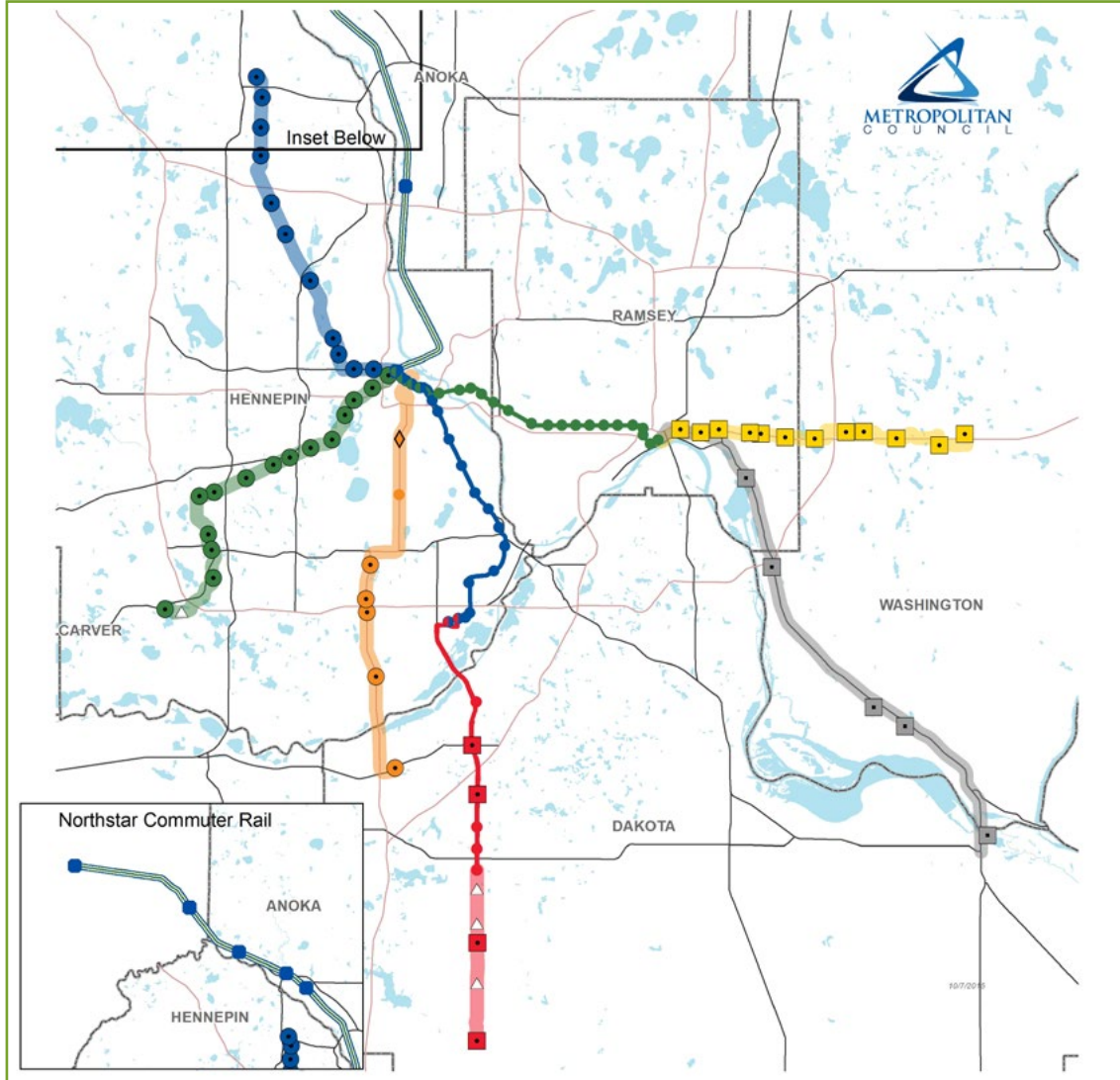
		Milestone Statuses			
		Corridor Alternatives and Initial Planning <i>Planning, analysis of modes and alignments, before or including early environmental work</i>	Project Development <i>Early design, environmental work in progress or complete</i>	Engineering <i>Final design, construction bid packages</i>	Construction and Operation
Milestone Status for the Corridor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendation of locally preferred mode and alignment, including preliminary station locations</li> <li>Adoption of locally preferred alternative in Transportation Policy Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of environmental review and progression of design and engineering from 1% to 30% completion</li> <li>Submit first New Starts application for entry into engineering (if applicable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of final design</li> <li>Submit final New Starts or Small Starts application for funding (if applicable)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of construction and begin operation of transitway service</li> </ul>
	Milestone Status for the Stations on the Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corridor mode and alignment (LPA) recommendation included in Transportation Policy Plan</li> <li>General station locations proposed through LPA adoption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary designs of station locations by lead agency working with communities</li> <li>Communities asked for municipal approval for station locations to advance into final design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Station locations and designs finalized for construction</li> <li>Agreements for local financial participation in transitway finalized (e.g. local enrichments)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stations constructed and transitway service operational</li> <li>Future infill stations, extensions, or reconfiguration of stations would need to be considered through separate projects</li> </ul>

Milestone Statuses				
	<b>Corridor Alternatives and Initial Planning</b> <i>Planning, analysis of modes and alignments, before or including early environmental work</i>	<b>Project Development</b> <i>Early design, environmental work in progress or complete</i>	<b>Engineering</b> <i>Final design, construction bid packages</i>	<b>Construction and Operation</b>
<b>Council Expectations for Communities at Milestone – Station-Area Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in alternatives analyses and initial planning</li> <li>Resolution of support for mode and alignment recommendation</li> <li>Commitment and to develop transit-supportive plans and policies that meet minimum expectations for transit station areas and to undertake station-area planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake station-area plan with policies supportive of transit that address requirements in the TPP and other funding criteria (e.g. New Starts)</li> <li>Incorporate small area plan into comprehensive plan and submit amendment to Council for review</li> <li>Request forecast changes and adjust forecast allocations in conjunction with comp plan amendment</li> <li>Begin implementing elements of station-area plan, such as updating zoning ordinances, adopting overlay districts, and updating Capital Improvement Plans</li> <li>Identify potential FTA Joint Development opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete zoning studies and adopt zoning and other regulatory changes supportive of station-area plan implementation</li> <li>Schedule improvements in local Capital Improvement Plan; coordinate opening-day, station-supportive capital improvements with transitway construction, including Locally Requested Capital Investments (LRCIs)</li> <li>If undertaking FTA Joint Development project, finalize agreement with partner jurisdictions and developers on participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local opening-day, station-supportive improvements completed, including LRCIs</li> <li>Ongoing implementation of the adopted zoning and regulatory changes</li> <li>Completion of Joint Development projects</li> </ul>

The focus of this table is on the initial construction of transitway projects or major extensions of lines. However, throughout a project’s development including after a transitway opens, there will be opportunities to consider infill stations. The Regional Transitway Guidelines section on Station-Spacing and Siting outlines project considerations for infill stations and communities should plan for Council expectations for station-area planning similar to those in the table above when infill stations are being considered.

Stations identified as “Not included in the TPP Current Revenue Scenario” do not have Council expectations associated with them. These stations are not currently included in funding plans. However, communities can still undertake station-area planning efforts to better position these potential investments for future funding with the understanding that their implementation is uncertain and not guaranteed, regardless of the completeness of station-area planning.

# TRANSITWAY STATIONS PLANNING STATUS FOR LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS



### Planned Stations

- Corridor Alternatives and Initial Planning
- Project Development
- ◇ Engineering
- △ Not Included in TPP Current Revenue Scenario

### Planned Transitway Alignments

- Gold Line
- Orange Line\*
- Red Line - Phase 2
- Blue Line Extension
- Green Line Extension
- Red Rock\*\*

### Existing Transitways

- Blue / Green Line
- Blue Line
- Green Line
- Northstar Line
- Red Line

- Existing BRT / LRT Stations by METRO line color
- Existing Commuter Rail Stations

### Notes:

\* The location of the Orange Line Burnsville station is currently under study in cooperation with local governments.  
 \*\* Red Rock stations reflect the Alternatives Analysis Update. Station locations will likely shift in early 2016 once the Implementation Plan is adopted.



November 2015