

METRO Red Line project (Cedar Avenue BRT)

About the corridor: The Cedar Avenue Corridor links the communities of Lakeville, Apple Valley, and Eagan to the Mall of America (MOA), MSP Airport, and downtown Minneapolis (via Blue Line connection at the MOA). Traffic volumes at the Minnesota River crossing exceed 100,000 vehicles a day, with congestion extending to County Highway 42 in Apple Valley. That intersection is one of the busiest in the state, with 70,000 vehicles per day, with average speeds of 24 mph by 2040. Initial service (June 2013) will connect the Apple Valley Transit Station and the Mall of America.

Length: 11 miles, utilizing bus-only shoulders along Cedar Avenue/State Highway 77 between the Apple Valley Transit Station and the Mall of America. (Bus-only shoulders extend south to Lakeville for future service.) It will connect with the METRO Blue Line at the Mall of America. (The full corridor to Lakeville is 16 miles.)

Buses: 7 new vehicles, which can accommodate 30 people seated and 30 people standing. Buses have bike racks inside like LRT.

Stations: 5 stations total, including two new walk-up service stations in Apple Valley: Apple Valley Transit Station, 147th Street, 140th Street, Cedar Grove Station, Mall of America Transit Station

Service: Buses operating every 15 minutes during peak travel periods, with a travel time of approximately 30 minutes between Apple Valley and the Mall of America.

Projected Weekday Ridership: 975 in the first full year of operation, growing to 1,600 per day by 2017.

Construction Cost: \$112 million
(Full corridor – highway, express bus, and BRT facilities)

- 4-mile highway and bus shoulder project: \$57 million
- Express service facilities, vehicles, technology, and service expansion: \$34 million
- Red Line facilities, vehicles, and technology: \$21 million

Estimated Annual Operating Cost: \$3.2 million

Timeline: Construction will be complete in 2013, with service beginning June 22, 2013.

Project Partners: Dakota County Regional Rail Authority has led the construction of the roadway; the Metropolitan Council is leading the transit facility and technology components, with both agencies working closely with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA), the Counties Transit Improvement Board, and communities along the corridor. MVTA will operate the service.

Express Service: Current express buses with service to downtown Minneapolis, downtown St. Paul and the U of M will continue to operate. The Red Line station-to-station service will complement the express service.

Future phases: Plans for future stages (through 2030) of development in the corridor include additional extending the Red Line to Lakeville, with a total of 13 stations, including additional park-and-ride facilities.

