



December 15, 2023

Elaine Koutsoukos
TAB Coordinator
Transportation Advisory Board
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Ms. Koutsoukos:

Metro Transit is pleased to submit the METRO H Line in the Como Avenue / Maryland Avenue corridor as the Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Project for funding in the 2024 Regional Solicitation.

Metro Transit led a robust planning process across 2020-2021 to identify the region's next arterial BRT priorities. Staff conducted extensive technical analysis and engaged the public and regional stakeholders, including TAB. In March 2021, the Metropolitan Council named the METRO F Line (Central Avenue), G Line (Rice/Robert), and H Line (Como/Maryland) as the region's arterial BRT expansion priorities. Following TAB's award of 2022 Regional Solicitation funds to the G Line in April 2023, the H Line is the region's next priority for arterial BRT expansion.

The H Line corridor begins at Sun Ray Transit Center in St. Paul and travels approximately 17 miles to downtown Minneapolis via White Bear, Maryland, Como, and Washington avenues. Today, much of the corridor is served by Route 3 along Como Avenue and Maryland Avenue. The project would construct approximately 40 BRT stations, implement off-board fare collection, transit signal priority, and other bus priority treatments, and purchase approximately 22 BRT vehicles. The H Line would provide fast, frequent, and all-day bi-directional service, enhancing access to over 170,000 jobs and improving transit accessibility in this key corridor linking the region's core cities and the University of Minnesota. Notably, the H Line would provide the region with a new east-west crosstown connection, linking nearly every other existing and planned line in the METRO network and developing a grid of frequent, all-day transitways. A map of the corridor is attached.

The preliminary planning-level capital cost estimate for the H Line is \$118 million. Costs will be refined as the project is developed. Pending full funding and coordination with local partners on other planned and programmed improvements within the corridor, Metro Transit plans to begin construction on the H Line in 2028 and open the line for revenue service by 2030. A 2028 program year allocation is requested.

The TAB award would fund project components throughout the corridor, including vehicle purchases, construction of stations, bus priority treatments, and equipment and technology purchases. Metro Transit commits to providing the 20% local match of \$6.25 million for the TAB award amount and will continue to seek funding to advance the full project through available sources.

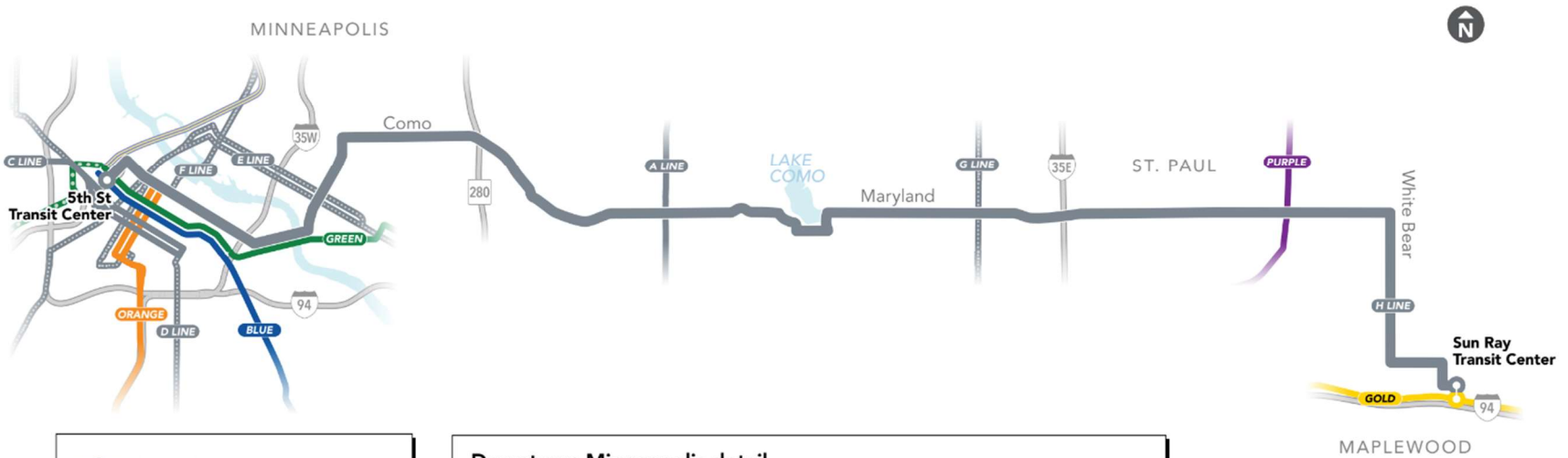
We thank TAB for the opportunity to submit the H Line project for funding in the 2024 Regional Solicitation and look forward to developing the project.

Sincerely,

Lesley Kandaras
Lesley Kandaras (Nov 30, 2023 18:44 CST)

Lesley Kandaras
General Manager

CC: Nick Thompson, METRO Projects for Metro Transit
Katie Roth, Director, Arterial Bus Rapid Transit



- Planned METRO H Line**
(Bus Rapid Transit)
- METRO Bus Rapid Transit**
(Bus Rapid Transit)
- METRO Orange Line**
(Bus Rapid Transit)
- Planned METRO Bus Rapid Transit**
- Planned METRO Gold Line**
(Bus Rapid Transit)
- Planned METRO Purple Line**
(Bus Rapid Transit)
- METRO Blue Line** (Light Rail)
- METRO Green Line** (Light Rail)
- Planned METRO Green Line Extension** (Light Rail)

