

# Business Advisory Committee

February 6, 2024



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



# Today's Topics

- Call to Order and Welcome
- Approval of December 5 BAC Meeting Minutes
- Metro Transit Safety and Security Initiatives
- Network Now Update
- 2024 Schedule Overview
- Anti-Displacement Update



The public can submit written comments to Nkongo Cigolo ([Nkongo.Cigolo@metrotransit.org](mailto:Nkongo.Cigolo@metrotransit.org))

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# Metro Transit Safety and Security Initiatives





# Metro Transit Police Department Update

- Chief Ernest Morales III

# Chief's Vision Plan: *Mission First, People Always*

- **Committed to Our Staff**  
by building a strong culture & prioritizing the overall well-being of each & every member of the MTPD.
- **Committed to Training & Education**  
by giving everyone the opportunity to grow with the department.
- **Committed to Our Community**  
by investing in innovative solutions & building & strengthening partnerships to address larger societal issues – *together*.
- **Committed to Trust & Integrity**  
through open communication & operating with transparency.
- **Committed to Technology**  
by continuously looking ahead to what's ahead, while using state of the art equipment & data *now* to guide our methods.



Chief Morales on the Listening Sessions Tour  
January 3, 2024

# Chief's Vision Plan: *Mission First, People Always cont.*

I am committed to leading the Metro Transit Police Department into its brightest chapter yet by building a culture that is well-respected throughout Minnesota & beyond.

That culture is one that encourages collaboration, promotes innovation, & proactively addresses emerging challenges with strategic solutions.


A culture where the professional & personal growth & well-being of each & every member of the MTPD is paramount to our overall success.

At the MTPD, we take pride in leading with integrity, empathy, & professionalism.



Swearing-in of Ernest Morales III  
March 22, 2023



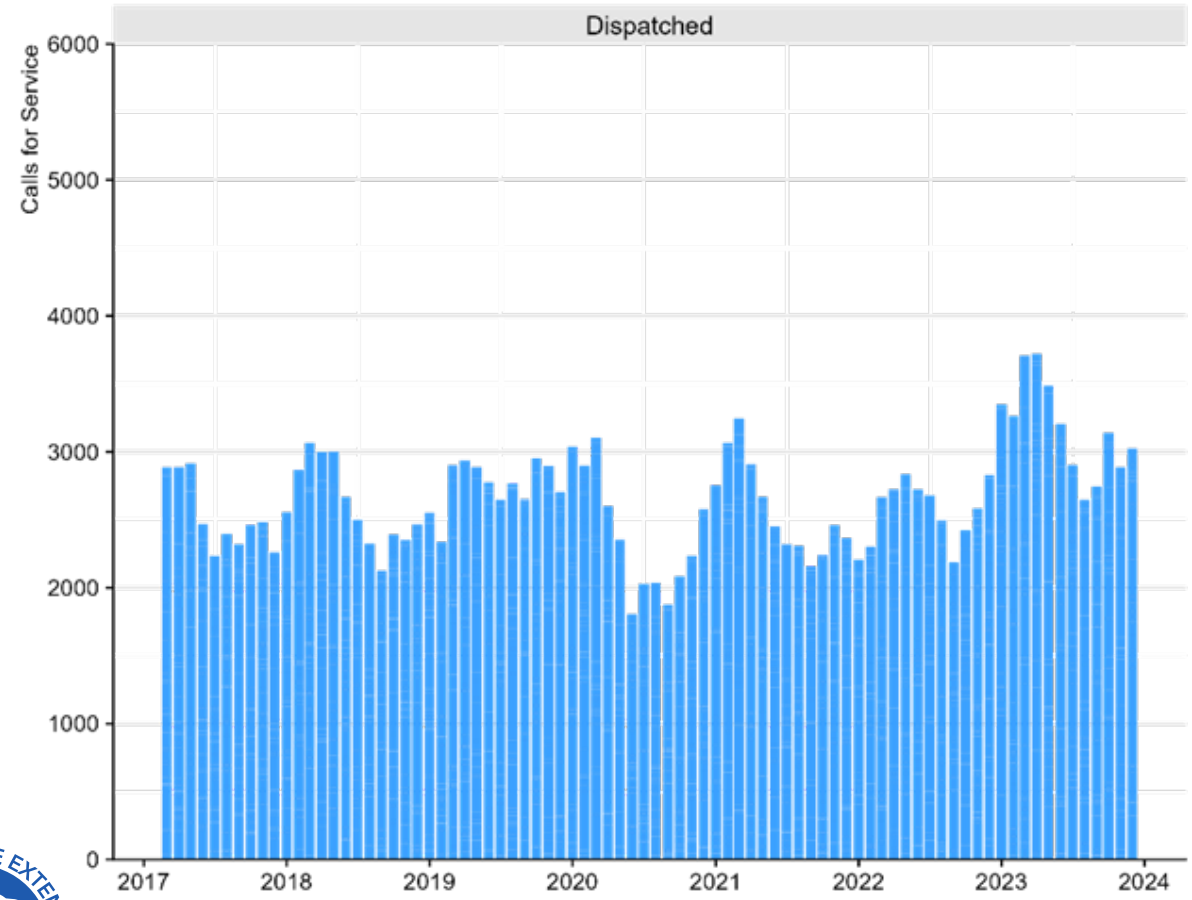
  
Chief Ernest Morales III

# Q1 to Q4 2023 Data: Key Takeaways

- ↓ Overall Crime Down 25%
- ↓ Top 7 Down 13%
- ↑ Officer-Initiated Calls Up 24%
- ↓ Customer LRT Complaints Down 44%



# Q1 to Q4 2023 Data: Dispatch Calls For Service



↑ Q1 to Q2: **+10%**

↑ Q2 to Q3: **+6%**

↓ Q3 to Q4: **-34%**

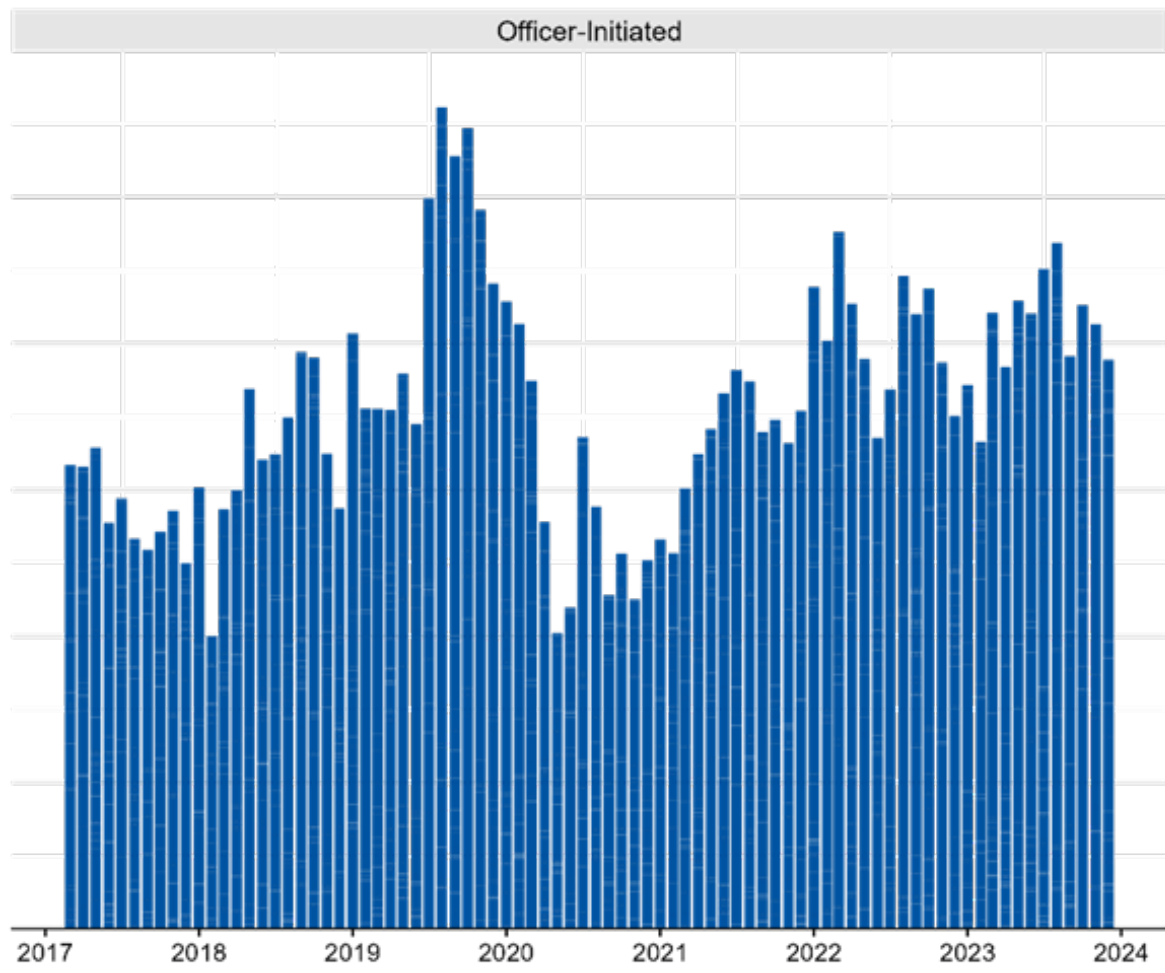
↓ Q1 to Q4: **-24%**



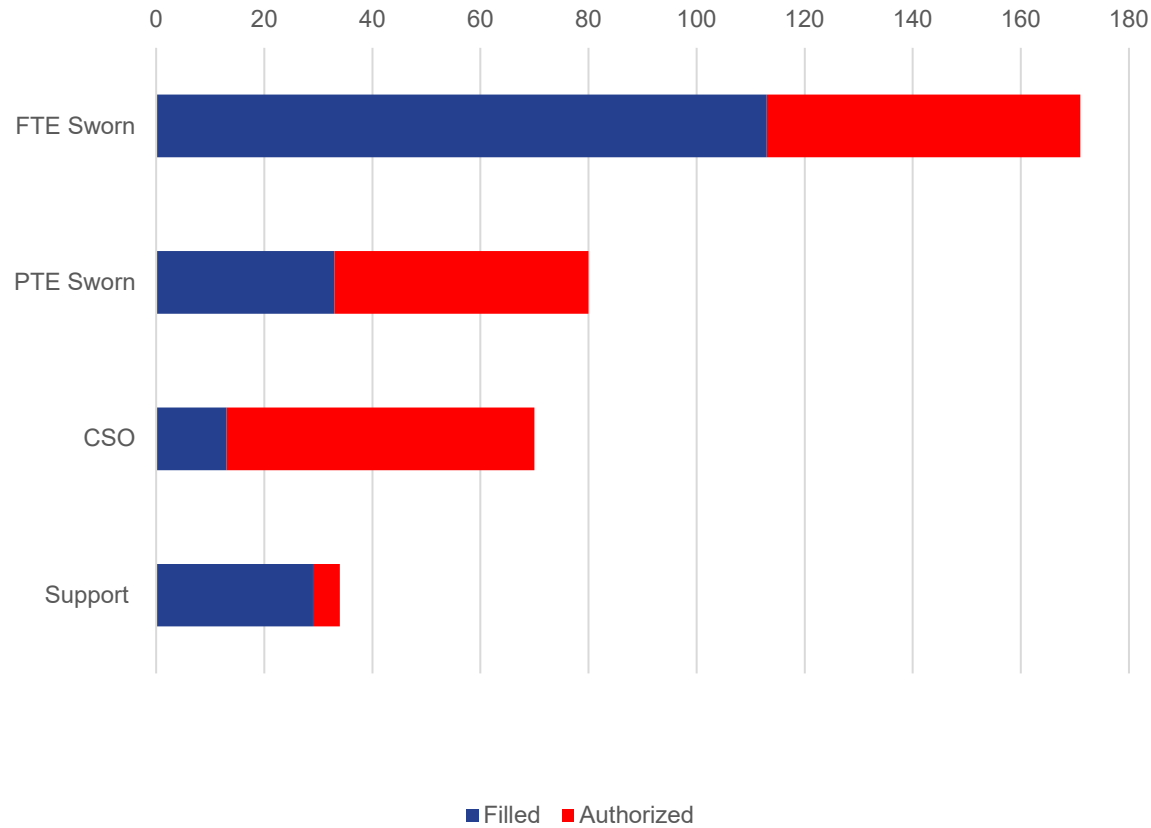


# Q1 to Q4 2023 Data: Officer-Initiated Calls For Service

- ↑ Q1 to Q2: +1%
- ↓ Q2 to Q3: -20%
- ↑ Q3 to Q4: +53%
- ↑ Q1 to Q4: +23%



# Q1 to Q4 2023 Data: Staffing



🛡️ Full-Time Officers: **113/171**

🛡️ Part-Time Officers: **33/80**

🛡️ CSOs: **13/70**

🛡️ Support Services: **29/34**



# CSO Pathways Program

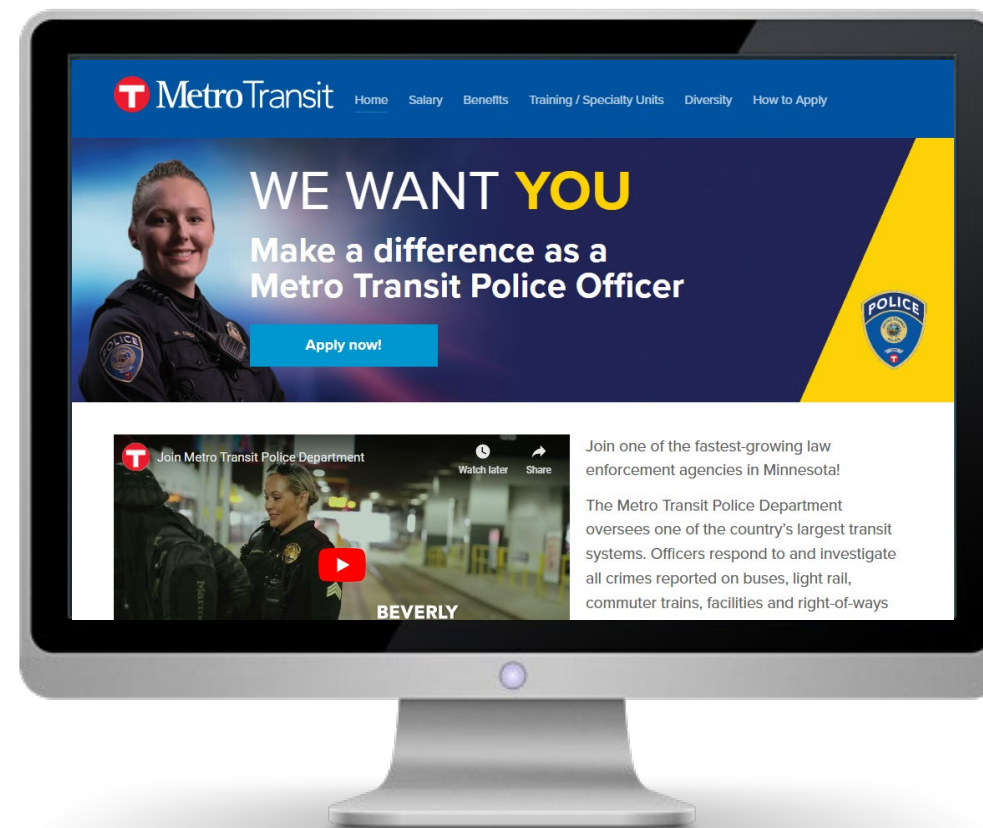
- No law enforcement experience or degree required
- Earn 12+ college credits at no cost
- New CSOs eligible for up to \$18,000 tuition reimbursement



19 candidates celebrate completing their preparatory work, January 25, 2024

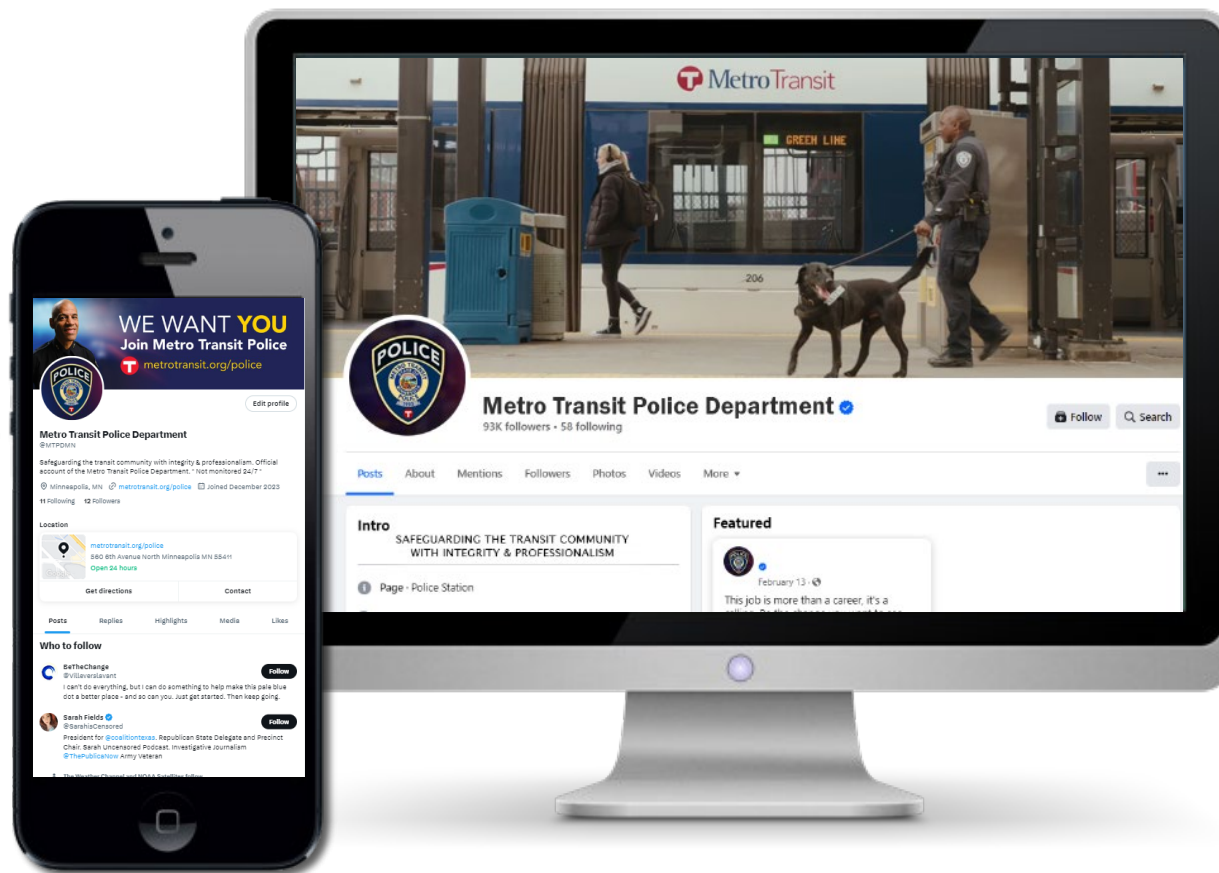
# Recruitment Campaign

- Recruitment website [metrotransit.org/joinMTPD](https://metrotransit.org/joinMTPD)
- On trains, buses, transit centers, bus shelters, kiosks, & digital signage
- Targeted in & out of state videos



# MTPD Social Media

- Hired new Principal Communications Specialist & Public Information Officer (PIO)
- **Feb. 5** launch on Facebook, Instagram, & X/Twitter
- **@MetroTransitPD** on Facebook & Instagram
- **@MTPDMN** on X/Twitter



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# Network Now Update





# Network Now

Sophia Ginis

## Network Now will:

- Provide a history of service adjustments since 2019
- Analyze changes
- Outline what should Metro Transit's network should look like now
  - Prioritize service improvements

### Including in the project:

- New or redesigned routes
- Frequency or span improvements
- Resolve discontinued service and facility closures
- METRO line implementation
- Micro Transit possibilities



# Where we've been: engagement to developed the foundation

- Over 5,000 points of contact with more than 6,000 unique comments
- Feedback received via:
  - Survey
  - Intercept conversations
  - Group and individual meetings
  - Customer Relations



Community meetings

KMOJ Legacy Projects B.I.N.

BET TO AIR 'THE BREAKFAST CLUB' STARTING APRIL 17  
March 30, 2023

SHA BE ALLAH  
MARCH 30, 2023

Today, BET announced a partnership with iHeartMedia that will bring the award-winning hit morning show *The Breakfast Club* starring DJ Envy and Charlamagne Tha God from iHeartMedia New York's Power 105.1 to BET's 2023 programming lineup.

BET will televise a one-hour special edition of "The Breakfast Club" daily, Monday through Friday. These specials will feature unrivaled interviews and

We're building a transit system for the next 5 years.  
YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED!  
NetworkNOW

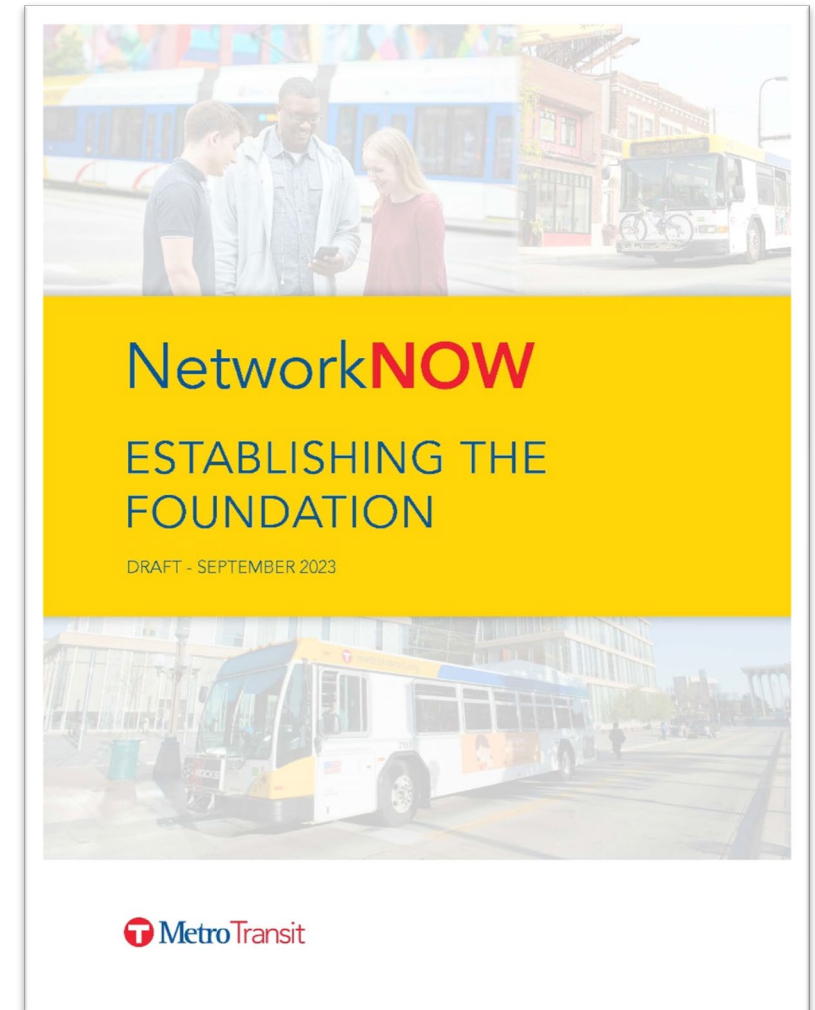
Earn your bachelor's degree at Metro State  
Explore 60+ options at

Ad on KMOJ's webpage

# Establishing the Foundation Report

- Outcome: created principles to evaluate service changes/improvements
- Outlines regional policy guidance
- Details network performance, changes since 2019, and opportunities
- Captures stakeholder feedback

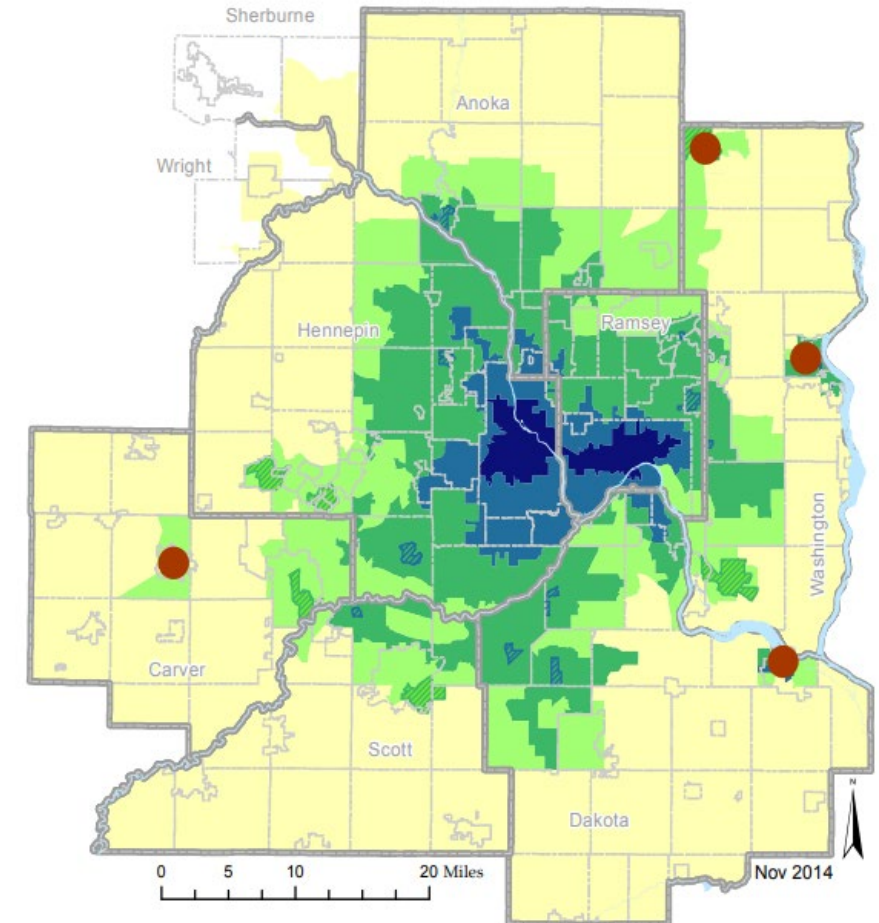
Available at:  
[metrotransit.org/network-now](https://metrotransit.org/network-now)



# Report highlight: policy for determining service

- Transit Market Areas
  - Used to guide level of service
  - Five demand levels, based on population density, employment density, intersection density, and auto availability
  - Currently being updated by the Met Council (staff coordination has occurred)

Transit Market Areas



# Land use helps make transit work

- Poor quality and lack of places to walk vs. **high quality sidewalks**
- High speed roads vs. **short crossing distances**
- Lots of driveways and far apart destinations vs. **mix of uses** (houses, stores, and workplaces)



Photo: UNH

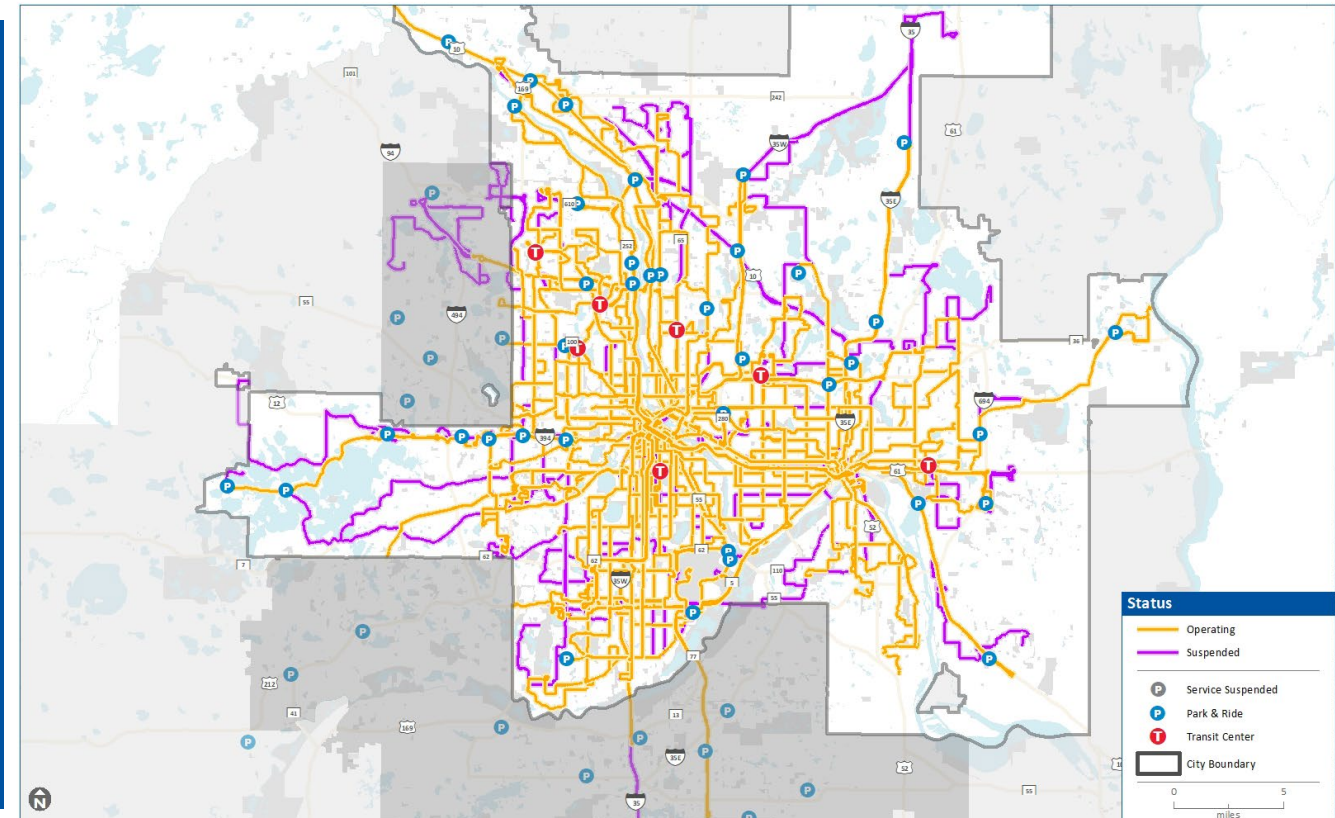
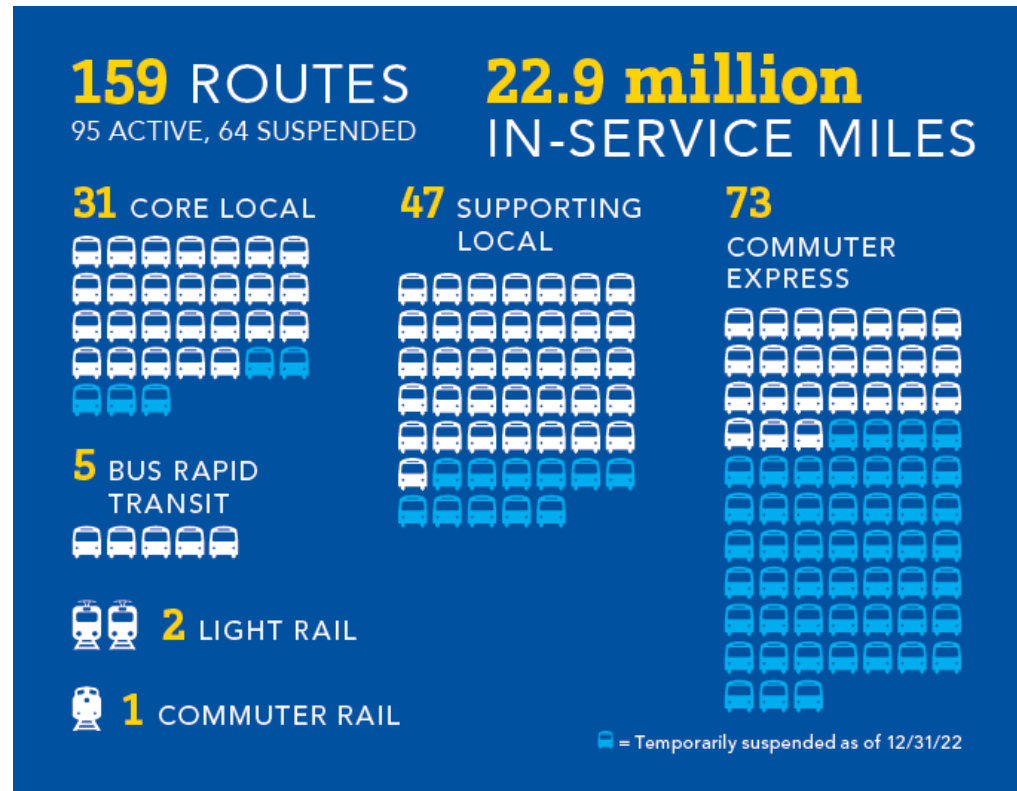


Photo: Strong Towns

## Opportunities! *Coordination/Monitoring*

- Large transitway projects
- Roadway projects
- Major developments & growth (Metro Transit wants to know)
- Unmet demand

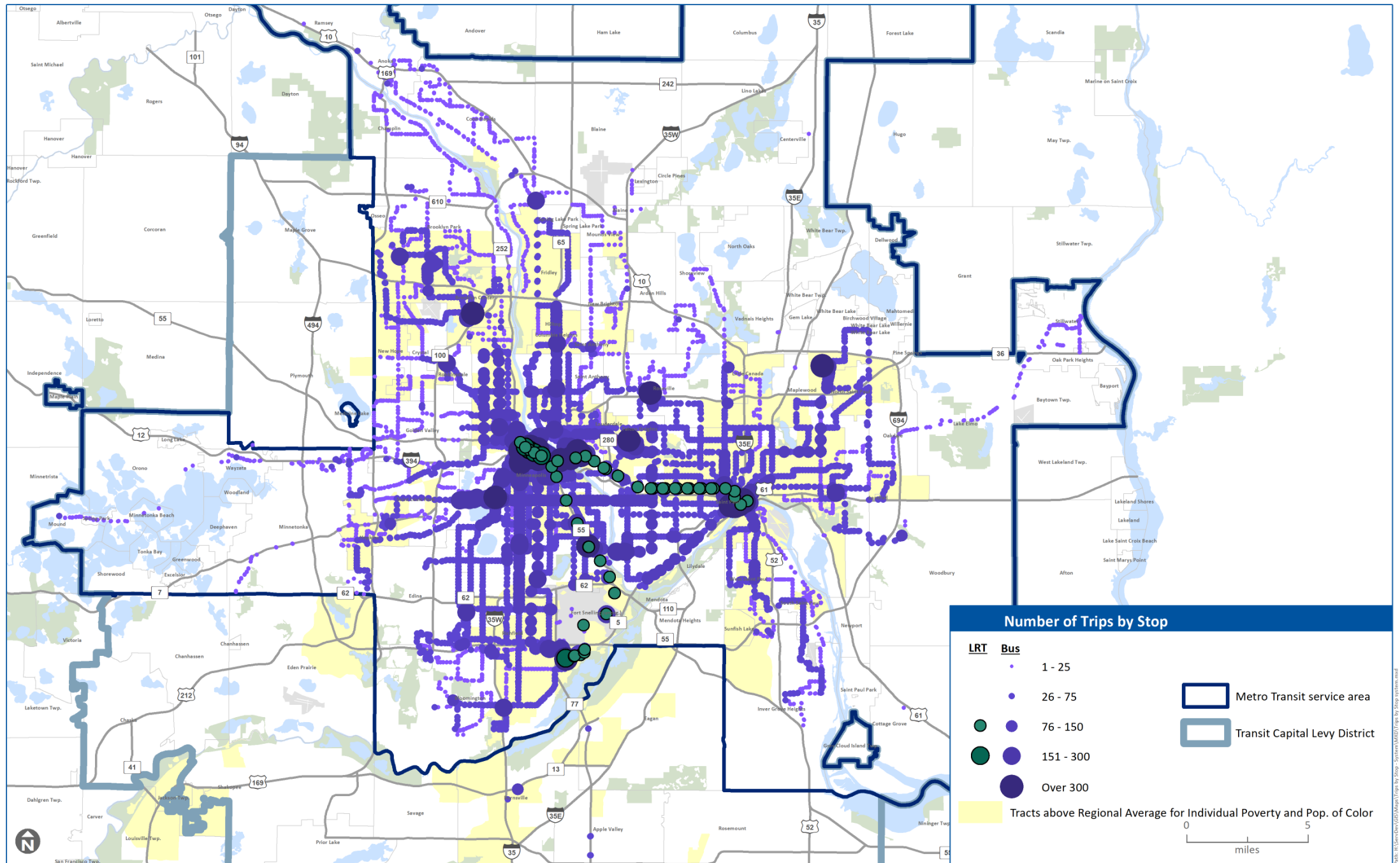
# Report highlight: service changes



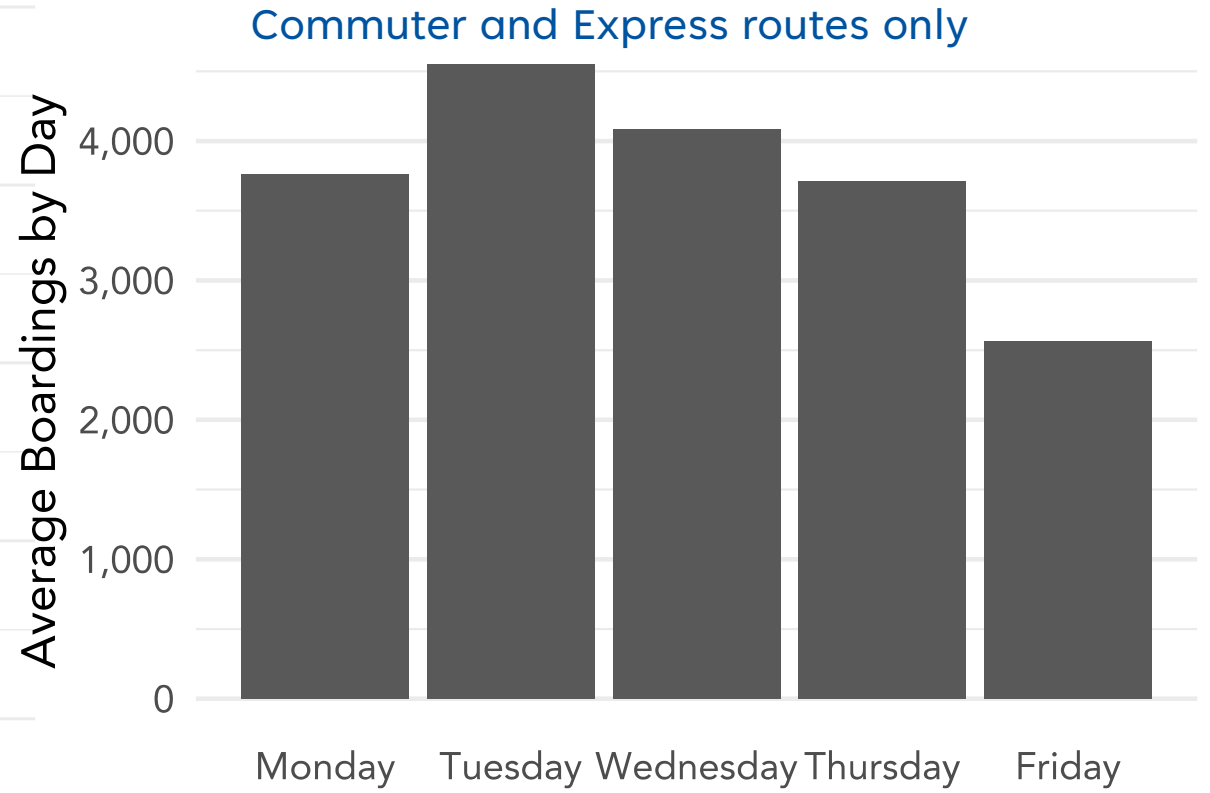
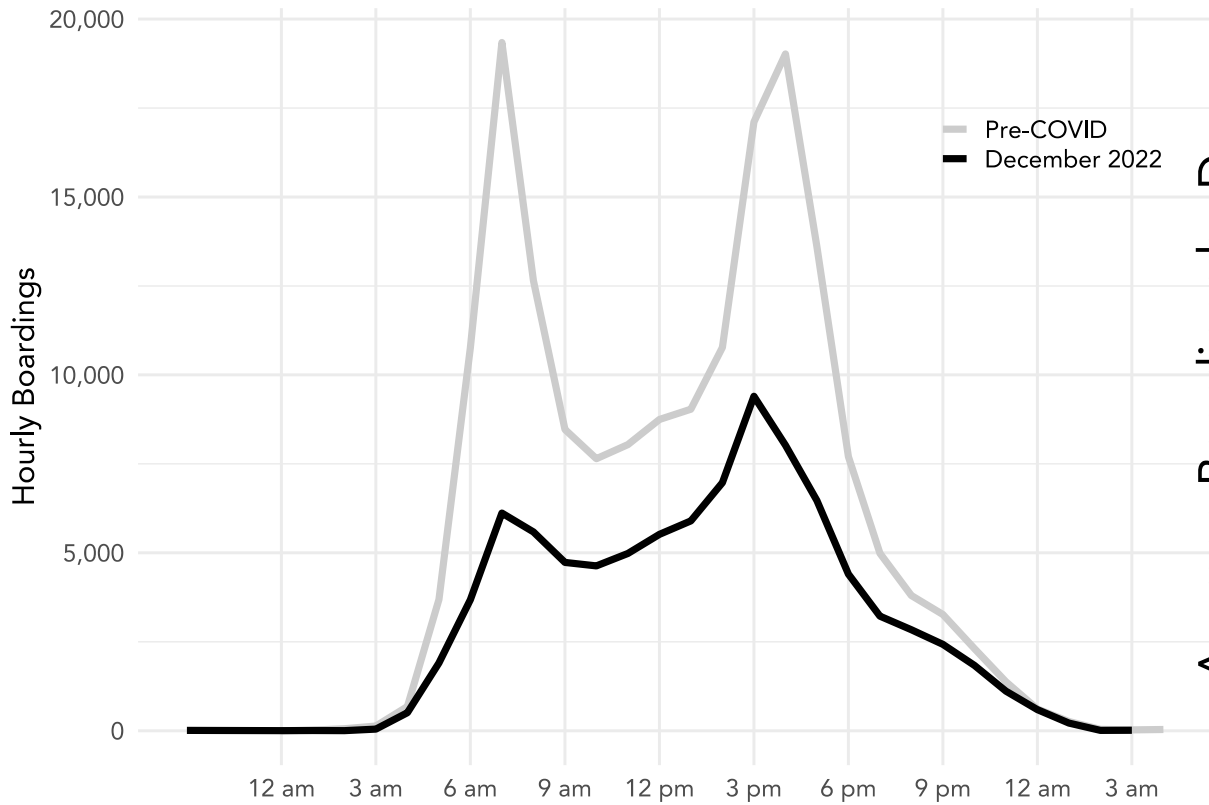
MetroTransit

Currently Operating and Suspended Bus Routes  
Date: 9/11/2023

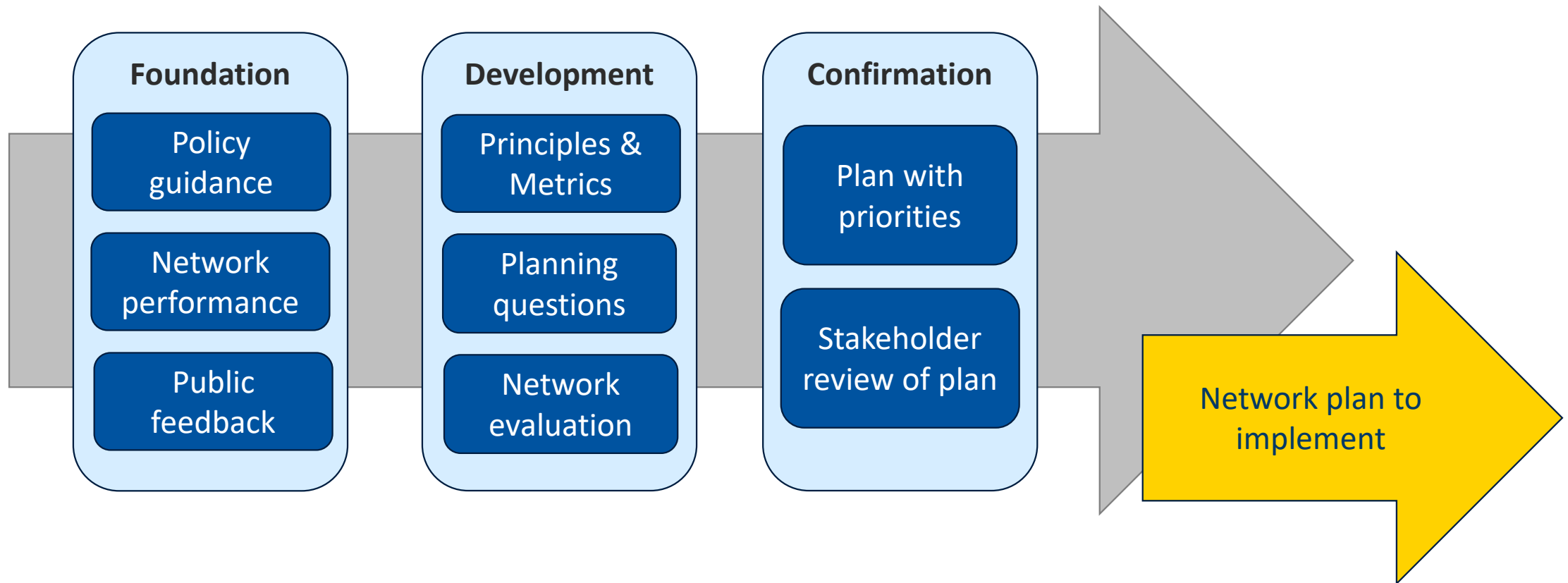
- 164 routes, including 39 contracted
- 67 suspended routes, including 12 contracted



# Report highlight: ridership trends



# How we will make decisions





# Principles

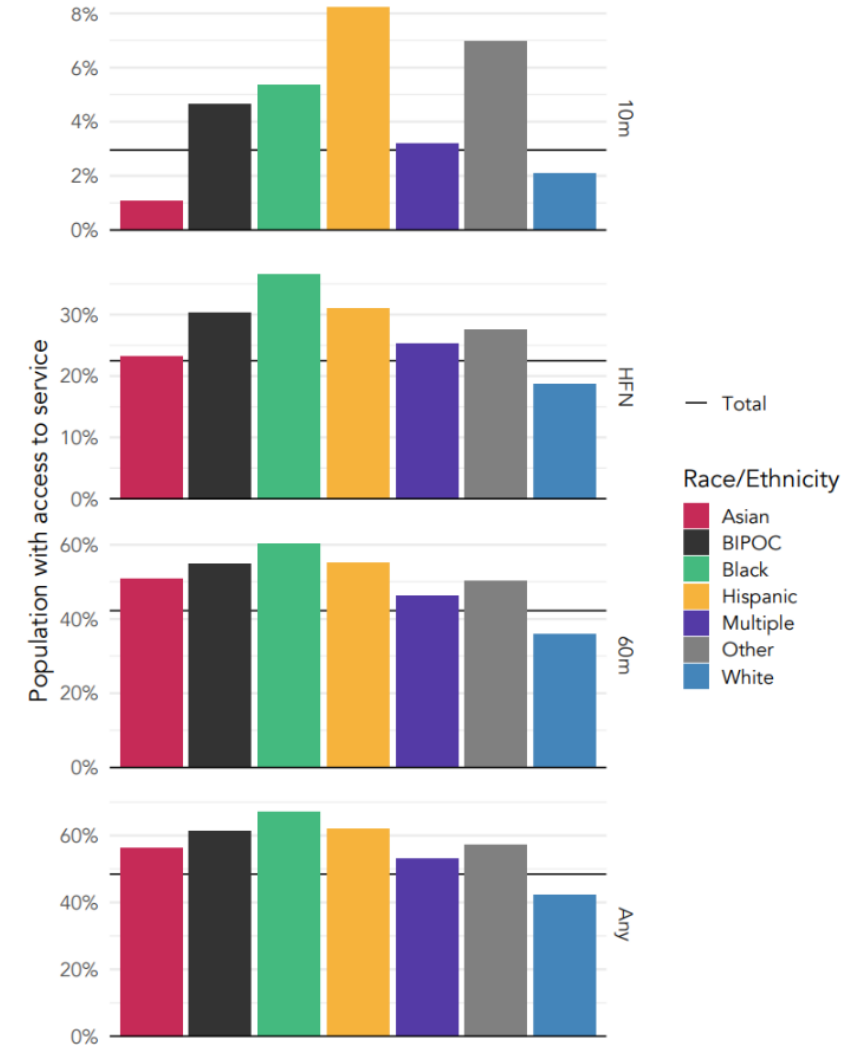
1. Adapt service to changes in transit markets and travel patterns.
2. Prepare for new METRO and high-frequency routes.
3. Maintain the reliability of our scheduled service consistently over time.
4. Build on success to grow ridership, adding service where people use transit the most.
5. Provide access to opportunities and services with a focus on advancing equity and reducing regional disparities.

# Example evaluation

**Principle:** Provide access to opportunities and services with a focus on advancing equity and reducing regional disparities.

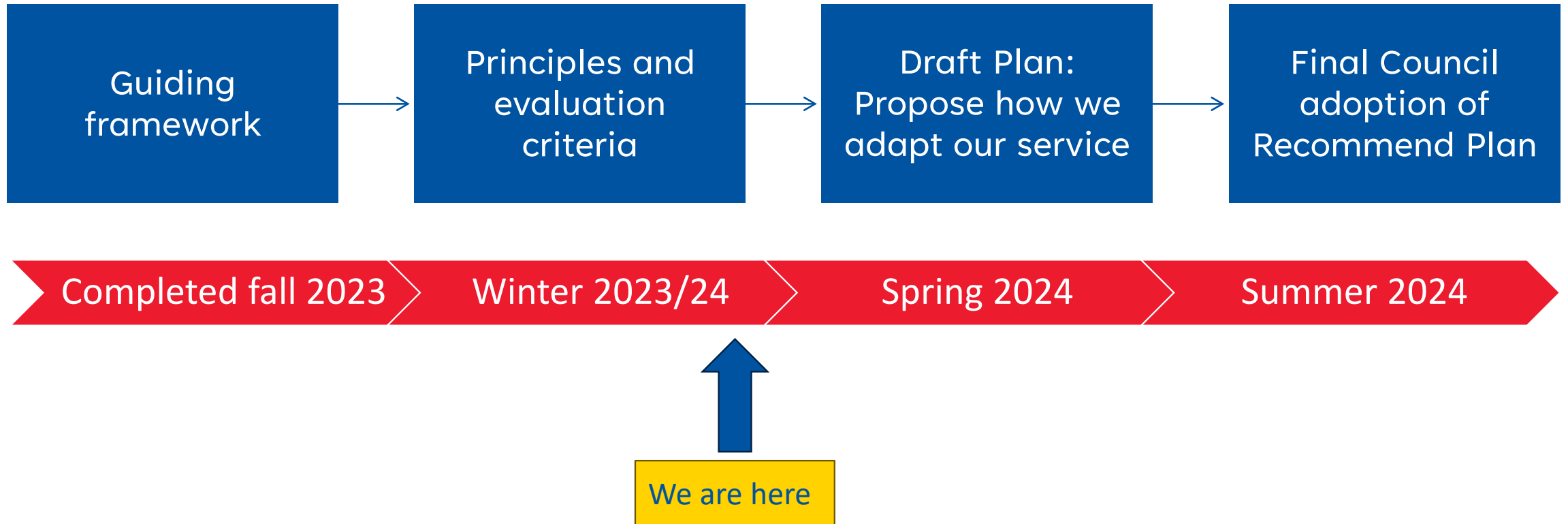
**Options:** New route options/ micro transit expansion/restructuring service to reach new development/ shifting demand for service

**Measure:** Equity: % BIPOC or low-income within X distance of frequent service/any service



Sample output from previous Service Equity Study

## Current external project steps & timeline





# Next steps

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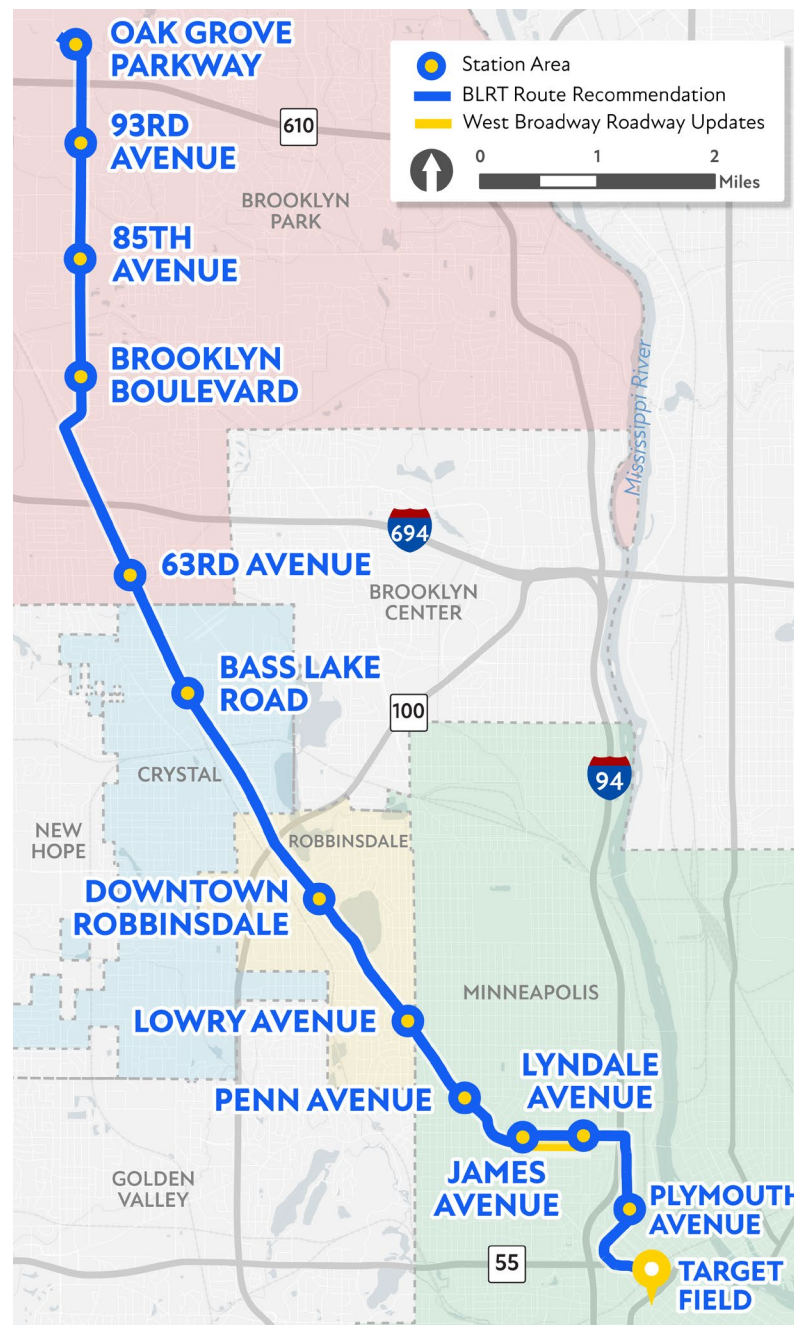
# 2024 Schedule Overview



## Blue Line

### EXTENSION

- 13.4 miles & 12 new stations
- Connecting Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities to fast, frequent, all-day service across the METRO system
- Single seat ride to existing Blue Line stops downtown, MSP Airport and Mall of America
- Focus on building community prosperity through anti-displacement strategies before, during, and after construction



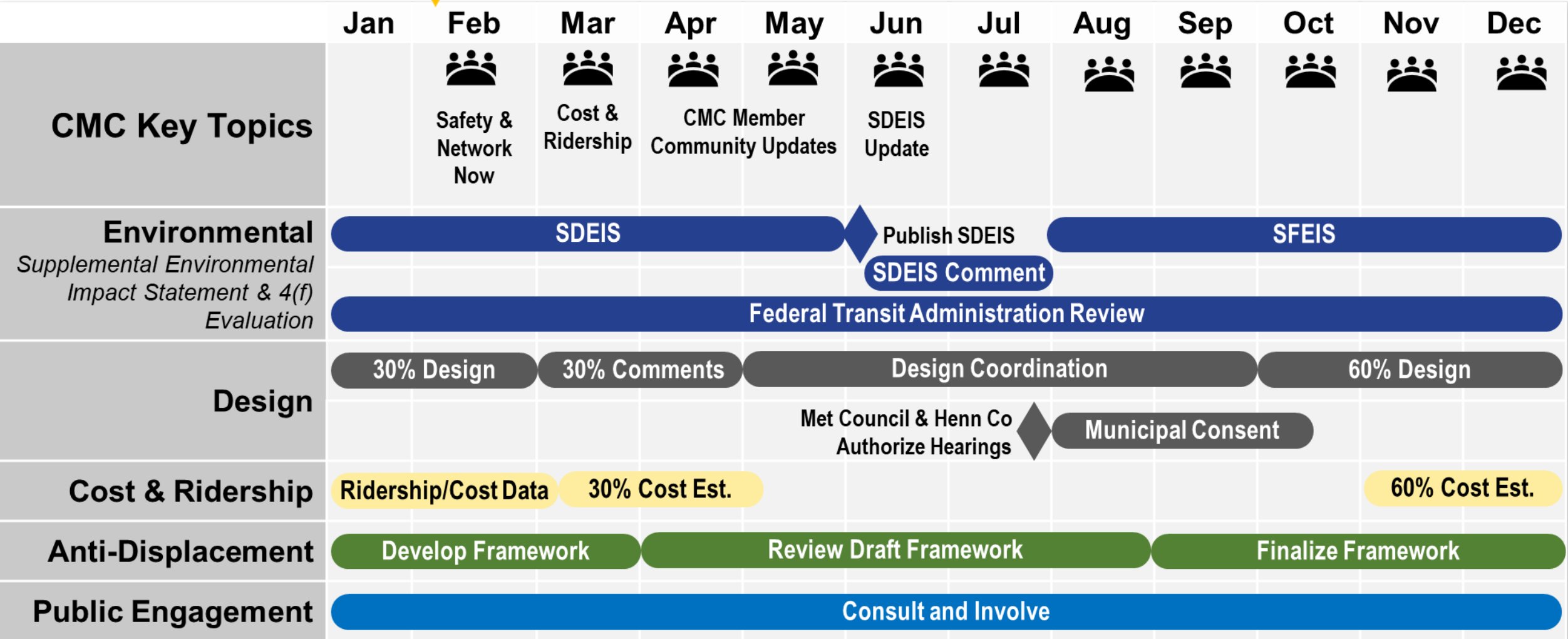
## Next steps

- Updated post-COVID ridership and initial cost information: March 2024
- Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2024
- Municipal Consent process to confirm final route: Summer 2024
- Updated 60% cost estimate: Fall 2024
- Final Design: 2024-2025
- Construction starts: 2026-2027
- Anticipated opening: 2030



# 2024 Schedule

**WE ARE HERE**



# Update on Funding Grant Applications

U.S. DOT Thriving Communities Regional Pilot Program  
**\$ 1,998,725 (pending)**

- Purpose: Technical assistance for corridor cities, capacity building, shared learning, and corridor studies
- Timeline: 2024 – 2026

Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood Community Planning Grant  
**\$ 750,000 (pending)**

- Purpose: Analysis for extending 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue over I-94 in North Minneapolis
- Timeline: 2024 – 2025

Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning  
**\$ 700,000 (Pending)**

- Purpose: Multimodal transportation plan, economic development strategy, housing and development strategy, visioning, climate change and resiliency strategy, community and stakeholder engagement
- Timeline: 2025 – 2026

Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program  
**Funding TBD**

- Purpose: Reconstruction of West Broadway between Lyndale and West River Parkway
- Timeline: 2028 – 2033



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# Anti-displacement Update



# Next steps progress



1

Create a regional group to continue conversations about corridor-wide implementation of anti-displacement strategies



2

Create local government groups to receive recommendations and begin policy making processes

3

Create dedicated regional anti-displacement fund

In progress

4

Align anti-displacement research and recommendations with Blue Line Extension federal processes like supplemental environmental impact statement



5

Develop corridor-wide anti-displacement policy agenda for 2024 state legislative session



Illustrations by  
Cori Nakamura Lin



# Corridor Partnership Collaboration update

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Most recent meeting:  
**January 25th**



- Legislative process and one-pager takeaway
- Thriving Communities Program Grant update
- Workplan [framework] - timeline
- Existing agency programs, policies, resources
- Corridor tour
- ADWG reconvening



# Workplan [framework] topics



Access to places



Accountability metrics



Architectural design



Architectural elements [cultural]



Business support



Community ownership – land subsidy



Cultural placemaking



Development and preservation



Infrastructure improvements



Relocation



Right of way acquisition



Safety



Workforce



Environmental justice



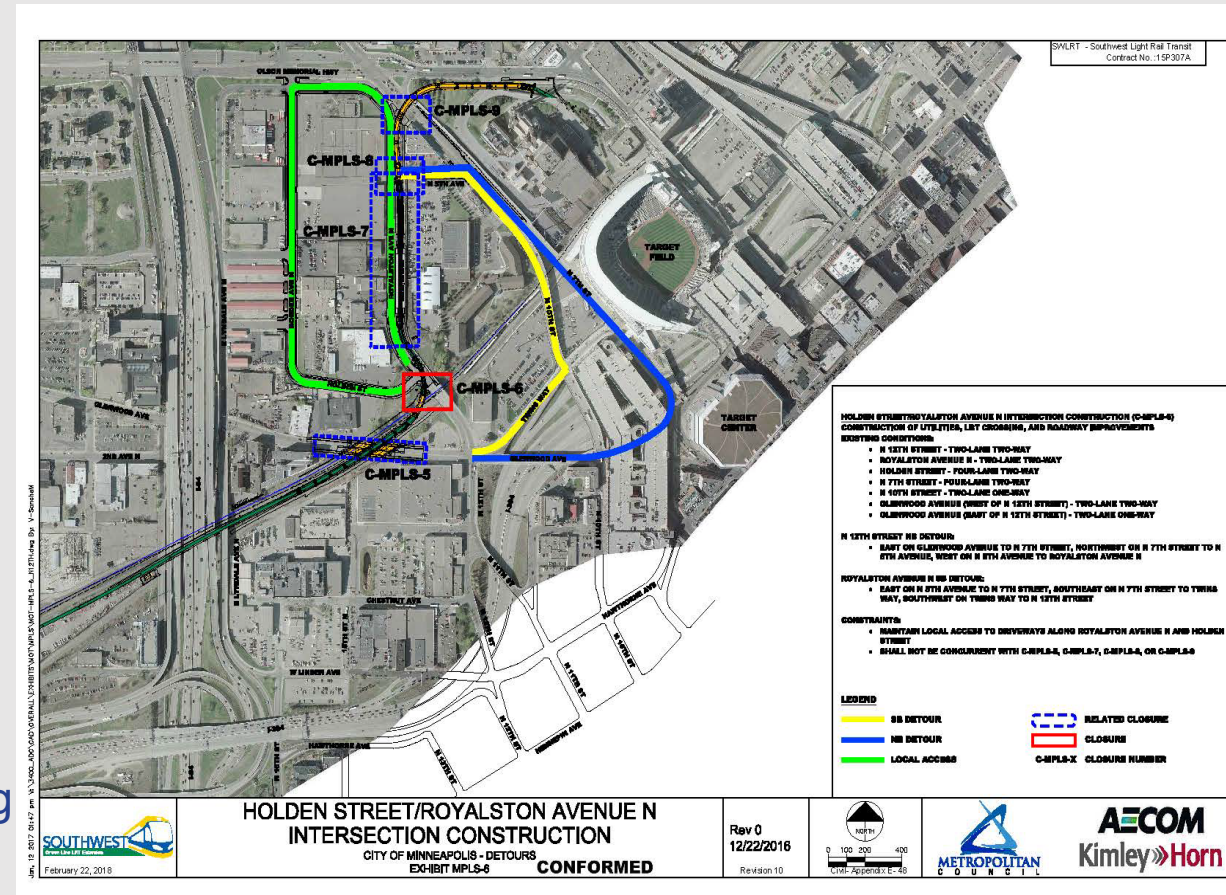
Engagement plan



# Access to places

## Maintenance of Access Planning:

- Engage with the Community
  - Understand business operation needs
  - Business and access point inventory
- Engineering & Design Planning Efforts
  - Develop maintenance of traffic/access plans
  - Ongoing consultation with municipal partners
  - Develop access specifications for construction bidding



Sample Maintenance of Traffic Exhibit

# Access to places Continued

## Maintenance of Access Implementation

- Construction access meetings with stakeholders
- Apply notification requirements per specifications
- Signage
- 24-hour construction hotline
- Maintenance of access inspections
- Weekly construction update notifications
- Emergency response



### 3.03 COMMUNITY IMPACT MITIGATION

- Participate with the CAR to maintain access (parking, deliveries, pedestrian, bus stops) and participate in meetings with affected property owners.
- Develop Access Plans for businesses and residents whose driveway or access is impacted by construction and provide maps showing existing and planned patron, delivery, and resident access during any construction period. The Access Plans shall include times of business operation and deliveries. The SPO Community Outreach Office or CAR will make the initial contacts with the property owners, tenants, and customers, set up the initial meetings with the CONTRACTOR, and will participate in the meetings between property owners, tenants, customers, and the CONTRACTOR. The Access Plans shall be completed at least 14 Days prior to construction where a business or residence is impacted. If the CONTRACTOR proposes a change in an Access Plan, submit a revised Access Plan to the CAR at least 14 Days in advance of the impact.
- Public notification requirements: Provide the following notification and requirements to CAR in writing via the Project Management System

Notice	Requirement
Construction Notification	Written notification of Construction beginning in an area shall be given to CAR 45 Days prior to work being done (or fencing going up) in order to give general public 30 Day notice. Construction notification to include general overview of construction activities.
Access Plans	Access Plans shall be submitted to CAR 14 Days prior to construction (or fence going up) in order to give impacted business or residence a 10 Day notice. Written notice and personal contact to private property at least 72-hours prior to actual roadway or driveway closure.
Public Utility Shut-off/Diversion	Utility work requiring shut-offs shall be submitted to CAR 21 Days prior to work or as defined in Section 01 14 00 Utility Coordination, whichever is greater, in order that written notice to impacted properties can be provided by the

01 31 20 - 4  
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

REVISION 2

JANUARY 29, 2018  
CIVIL

**CONFORMED**

*Sample Public Involvement Specifications*

# Stay connected

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- **BlueLineExt.org**
  - For the latest project updates and to sign up for our newsletter
  - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation
- Follow us:
  - Twitter: @BlueLineExt
  - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension



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COUNTY'S *Transit*  
Improvement  
BOARD