



March 30, 2009

Dear Transit Customer and Neighbor,

For the past three years, Metro Transit has worked with elected officials, residents and others in your area to develop a revised travel path for Route 19. Our goals were to meet the demand for continued bus service on 42nd Avenue west of Thomas Avenue while linking the route with Robbinsdale Transit Center and eliminating the bus layover on 42nd Avenue west of Victory Memorial Parkway.

To accomplish these goals, Metro Transit proposed a new branch of Route 19 that would connect 42nd Avenue, Lake Drive and downtown Robbinsdale by traveling on a portion of Victory Memorial Parkway. This proposal was the topic of a well-attended community meeting held in late January.

After carefully weighing the costs and advantages of the routing change – and the feedback we received from residents and officials – we are withdrawing our proposal to operate service on Victory Memorial Parkway and we are eliminating the extension of Route 19 service to Robbinsdale Transit Center. Given the concerns of residents about where transit service operates, we are unable to identify a feasible option that would retain service on 42nd Avenue and extend service to downtown Robbinsdale. Moreover, with a significant deficit for transit operations looming, we cannot invest additional resources in this route.

Beginning Saturday, May 30, Route 19 bus service will change as follows:

- Service to downtown Robbinsdale (Robbinsdale Transit Center) will end.
- Service that has been operating temporarily north of 42nd Avenue on Thomas, 44th Avenue, Upton and 45th Avenue will end.
- Service along 42nd Avenue will once again operate every 30-60 minutes during rush hours and hourly during midday, evening hours and on weekends.
- The bus layover on 42nd Avenue west of Victory Memorial Parkway will return.
- Service along Penn Avenue and to and from Brooklyn Center Transit Center will continue unchanged.

Please note that some alternate transit service is available in your area. Route 717 serves Robbinsdale Transit Center, traveling on France Avenue and Lake Drive. Route 764 offers express service between Robbinsdale and downtown Minneapolis. The route serves the Park & Ride lot at Faith Lilac Lutheran Church on 42nd Avenue and Welcome Avenue North.

Printed schedules reflecting these changes will be available in mid-May. Details about these changes are available now at metrotransit.org/Robbinsdale. For details by phone, call Metro Transit Customer Relations at 612-373-3333.

Numerous residents have invested time and effort in this process. We appreciate your involvement. We also thank staff and elected officials of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, the City of Robbinsdale and City of Minneapolis for their work.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian J. Lamb'.

Brian J. Lamb
General Manager

A service of the Metropolitan Council