

CHAPTER SIX: CAPITAL AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Each existing facility was designed to be functional for customers, and, in many cases, meet community aesthetic standards. A facility enhancement program builds on these successes and supports the Northwest Metro Transit Study Final Plan.

STARLITE TRANSIT CENTER

Starlite Transit Center is located in the parking lot of the Starlite Center shopping center at West Broadway and Brooklyn Boulevard in Brooklyn Park. Currently this facility can accommodate three buses. The Concept Plan calls for five bus routes to meet at Starlite for a timed transfer (Routes 705, 721, 723, 724 and 728) plus two express routes (Routes 761 and 764). Additional routes may use this facility under the Growth Scenario.

To accommodate the increase in service, the existing transit center needs to be expanded or relocated. Staff is working with the City of Brooklyn Park and the owner of Starlite Center to find an acceptable location that can accommodate the planned growth. The suburban local route changes will occur when the Starlite Transit Center expansion is complete. Staff is also pursuing temporary locations.

63RD AVENUE AND BOTTINEAU BOULEVARD PARK AND RIDE

A 550-space park-and-ride in the northwest quadrant of 63rd Avenue and County Road 81 is scheduled to open in March 2007. This facility is ideally located along the proposed Bottineau BRT line and is part of Phase I of the busway project. New Route 767 will serve this park-and-ride.

BUS RAPID TRANSIT STATION SHELTERS

The first phase of the Bottineau Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project includes plans to install busway station shelters along West Broadway in north Minneapolis in 2007.

These shelters will be built at locations with existing bus service, so customers can take advantage of the amenities before BRT service is implemented. Amenities featured in BRT stations include heat, improved lighting, security cameras, wiring for ticket vending machines and an electronic sign announcing the actual arrival time for the next bus. Shelters will be built on West Broadway at Lyndale, Emerson/Fremont and Penn Avenue. Shelters will be built along Lowry at Lyndale and Emerson/Fremont as Lowry Avenue is reconstructed, and also possibly at Hennepin Technical and North Hennepin Community Colleges.