METRO F Line – Draft Corridor Plan

Fridley City Council Conference Meeting | November 14, 2022
Jake Knight, Senior Planner, Arterial BRT
Nasser Mussa, Community Outreach Coordinator
METRO F Line Bus Rapid Transit

- Fast, frequent, all-day service
- 13-mile corridor from Northtown Transit Center to downtown Minneapolis
  - 5 miles in Fridley
- Substantial upgrade to Route 10, one of the region’s highest-ridership bus routes
- 32 stations with enhanced features
  - 9 new stations proposed in Fridley
- Targeted opening in 2026

metrotransit.org/f-line-project
Need for improved transit in the corridor

• Provide faster, more reliable, and more frequent bus service

• Improve the transit experience at stops and on vehicles

• Improve transit access in northern suburbs and NE Minneapolis
  – Connection to METRO network of light rail and BRT lines
A network of twelve BRT lines planned by 2030

- Red Line: 2013
- A Line (Snelling): 2016
- C Line (Penn): 2019
- Orange Line: 2021
- D Line (Chicago/Fremont – Route 5): 2022
- B Line (Lake/Selby – Route 21): 2024
- E Line (Hennepin/France – Route 6): 2025
- Gold Line: 2025
- F Line (Central Avenue – Route 10): 2026
- Purple Line: 2026
- H Line (Como/Maryland – Route 3): 2028
Arterial bus rapid transit (BRT)

- 2-3 stations per mile, designed for faster stops
- Pre-boarding fare payment for faster stops
- Bus priority signals & lanes
- High-tech, high-amenity, secure stations
- Higher-capacity buses & boarding through all doors
- Faster, frequent, all-day service

Learn more at metrotransit.org/brt
What will F Line stations look like?

A Pylon markers help riders identify stations from a distance.

B Real-time NexTrip signs provide bus information, and on-demand annunciators speak this information for people with low vision.

C Shelters provide weather protection and feature push-button, on-demand heaters and shelter lighting. Shelter sizes will vary based on customer demand (small shown here).

D Ticket machines and fare card readers collect all payment before customers board the bus.

E Emergency telephones provide a direct connection to Metro Transit police. Stations also feature security cameras.

F Stations feature trash and recycling containers.

G Platform edges are marked with a cast-iron textured warning strip to keep passengers safely away from the curb while the bus approaches. Many stations also feature raised curbs for easier boarding.

H Platform areas are distinguished by a dark gray concrete pattern.

I Benches at stations provide a place to sit.

J Most stations have bike parking.

At some stations, railings separate the platform from the sidewalk.

Some stations have pedestrian-scale light fixtures to provide a safe, well-lit environment.
Project schedule

- Network Next (2021): Central Avenue/Route 10 corridor named as the F Line
  - Performance history, corridor attributes, community input

- City of Fridley represented on Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- We are currently seeking **community input** to establish **station locations** prior to the Engineering phase

- Community engagement will continue through the Engineering and Construction phases

Service starts: 2026
Construction: 2025 – 2026
Engineering: 2023 – 2024
Final Corridor Plan: Summer 2023
Recommended Corridor Plan: Spring 2023
Draft Corridor Plan: Oct. 24 - Dec. 5, 2022
Early project coordination: 2021 – 2022
F Line identified: March 2021
Project partners
Coordination with other projects

- Coordinating design with several projects from MnDOT, county and city partners
- MnDOT: Hwy 47 and Hwy 65 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
  - Evaluating broader multimodal alternatives to improve safety and mobility
  - Higher-level concepts, narrowing options
  - Timing of project outcomes uncertain
  - Close collaboration to ensure compatibility

Learn more about MnDOT’s PEL Study
[link](talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-47-hwy-65-study)
Draft Corridor Plan – seeking input now

• Identifies proposed station locations
• Early, important opportunity for community input
• Addresses key station location questions:
  – What intersections will have BRT stations?
  – In which quadrants (corners) of the intersections will the platforms be located?
  – How was the location determined?
Draft Corridor Plan

• Proposed platform locations developed through site-specific review

• Concept designs will evolve and be refined through engineering and coordination

• Other planning issues (ongoing)
  – Opportunities and priorities for bus priority treatments to meet speed and reliability goals
  – Supporting local service
Public engagement

• Spring-fall 2022: Raised awareness about the project

• Public comment period: October 24 – December 5

• Available now on the project website:
  – Draft Corridor Plan (full document) and station concepts
  – Survey to provide feedback on specific stations and/or overall project

• Virtual open house Nov. 15, 6:30-8:00 (register on the project website)
Out in the community

• Meet Route 10 riders at stops and aboard buses
• Door knock and distribute flyers to all homes and businesses near proposed station locations
• Direct mailing to all homes, businesses, and property owners along the corridor
• Email newsletters and social media
• Partner with neighborhood, community, business, and advocacy groups
• Attend community events
• Documents available in Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Oromo, and Arabic
Station Locations

- 32 stations, 25 built by the project
  - 9 new stations proposed in Fridley

- Considerations
  - Spacing between stations
  - Existing ridership
  - Pedestrian access
  - Connecting transit service
  - Community input
  - Land use and access to destinations
  - Street design and available right-of-way
University & 81st Avenue

- Proposed platform locations are existing Route 10 bus stops
- Connection to Route 824
  - Weekday peak-only to downtown via University
- Recent sidewalk and ADA improvements (2021)
- Planned lighting improvements (2025)
University & Osborne Avenue

- Proposed platform locations are existing Route 10 bus stops
- Connection to Route 824
- Mercy Hospital 1/4 mile east
- Planned curb, ADA, lighting improvements (2025)
University & 73rd Avenue

- Proposed platform locations are existing Route 10 bus stops
- Connection to Route 824
- Planned curb, sidewalk, ADA, lighting improvements (2025)
- 73rd Ave road diet (2026)
University & 69th Avenue

- Proposed platform locations are existing Route 10 bus stops
- Connection to Route 824
- Civic Center, Community Park, Rice Creek West Regional Trail
- Planned trail on west side of University (2023)
- Planned lighting improvements (2025)
University & Mississippi

- Proposed platform locations are existing Route 10 bus stops
- Connection to Route 824
- Axle apartments, Benedictine
- Planned trail on west side of University (2023)
- Planned curb, sidewalk, ADA, lighting improvements (2023-2025)
- Mississippi Street reconstruction (2025)
University & 61st Ave

- Proposed platform locations are existing Route 10 bus stops
- Connection to Route 824, Northstar Fridley Station, Church of St. William Park & Ride
- Cielo Apartments, Fridley middle and high schools, Fridley Community Center
- Planned lighting improvements (2025)
University & 57th Ave

- Proposed platform locations are existing Route 10 bus stops
- Connection to Route 824
- Fridley Market (Cub Foods, etc.)
- Planned curb, ADA, lighting improvements (2025)
University & 53rd Ave

- Proposed platform locations are existing Route 10 bus stops
- Connection to Routes 801 and 824
  - 801: Brooklyn Center to Rosedale via University Service Rd
- 53rd Ave trail and walk improvements (2023)
- Planned curb, ADA, lighting improvements (2025)
- Southbound platform: Proposed closure of western business driveway on 53rd Ave
53rd Ave & Monroe-Central

• Proposed platform locations differ from existing Route 10 bus stops

• Target, Medtronic

• 53rd Ave trail and walk improvements (2023)

• 53rd Ave roundabout safety project (2023)

• Existing stops to be consolidated
Corridor Plan next steps

- **F Line identified:** March 2021
- **Early project coordination:** 2021 – 2022
- **Draft Corridor Plan: Comment period Oct. 24 - Dec. 5 2022**
- **Recommended Corridor Plan: Comment period Spring 2023**
- **Final Corridor Plan approved:** Summer 2023
- **Engineering:** 2023 – 2024
- **Construction:** 2025 – 2026

Seeking community input to establish station locations

Community engagement

We are here
Help us plan F Line station locations

• Public comment period: **October 24 – December 5**

• Review the Draft Corridor Plan and submit comments
  – **Survey** at metrotransit.org/f-line-project
  – Email **FLine@metrotransit.org**
  – Call Nasser Mussa, Community Outreach Coordinator at 651-829-5305

• Virtual open house **Nov. 15, 6:30-8:00** (register on the project website)

• F Line Update newsletter
Thank You!

Jake Knight
Senior Planner
jake.knight@metrotransit.org

Nasser Mussa
Community Outreach Coordinator
nasser.mussa@metrotransit.org