METRO F Line – Draft Corridor Plan

Virtual Open House | November 15, 2022
F Line project staff

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metrotransit.org/f-line-project
Meeting agenda

• Welcome + meeting logistics (6:30-6:35)
• Presentation (6:35 – 7:00)
• Questions and answers (7:00 – 8:00)

• This meeting is being recorded and will be available on the project website
Meeting logistics

• **Closed captioning** available

• Technical issues?
  – Check **device settings**
  – Email Fline@metrotransit.org

• Attendees’ microphones and video are disabled by default
Q&A instructions and process

• Please submit questions and comments using the chat
  – As needed, use the “Raise hand” feature to verbally ask a question
  – We will then enable your microphone so you can unmute

• Please keep questions relevant to this project

• We will address as many submitted questions as possible
  – Responses organized to prioritize hearing from as many people as possible
  – Written responses to questions will be provided after the meeting
METRO F Line Bus Rapid Transit

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

metrotransit.org/f-line-project
Project schedule

- Currently seeking **community input** to establish **station locations** prior to the Engineering phase
- Community engagement will continue through the Engineering and Construction phases

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>F Line identified</td>
<td>March 2021</td>
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<td>Early project coordination</td>
<td>2021 – 2022</td>
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<td>Draft Corridor Plan</td>
<td>Oct. 24 - Dec. 5, 2022</td>
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<td>Recommended Corridor Plan</td>
<td>Spring 2023</td>
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<td>Final Corridor Plan</td>
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<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2023 – 2024</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>2025 – 2026</td>
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<td>Service starts</td>
<td>2026</td>
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Need for improved transit in the corridor

- Provide faster, more reliable, more attractive bus service
- Improve the transit experience at stops and on vehicles
Need for improved transit in the corridor (cont.)

• Improve transit access in NE Minneapolis and northern suburbs
  – Connection to METRO network of LRT and BRT

• Who rides Route 10? (2021)
  – Half of riders are people of color
  – 80% report household income less than $60,000 (half report less than $35,000)
  – 20% identify as having a disability
  – 36% of trips for commuting to work (18% for “9 to 5”)

What is arterial bus rapid transit, or BRT?
Arterial bus rapid transit (BRT)

A package of transit enhancements that adds up to a faster trip and improved experience

Learn more at metrotransit.org/brt
Designed to be faster, more reliable, and easy to use

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

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.
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
How was the F Line selected?

• Identified through Network Next (2020-2021)

• Process based on Metropolitan Council policy, shaped by performance data and community input
  – Advance equity and reduce regional racial disparities
  – Build on success to grow ridership
  – Design a network that supports a transit-oriented lifestyle
  – Ensure the long-term sustainable growth of the bus network

• Prioritized for near-term implementation through community surveys
Metro Transit ridership during the pandemic

- Steady growth on all modes
  - Sept. 2022 highest monthly ridership since the pandemic

- Local bus: 67% of pre-COVID

- Light rail: 50%

- BRT: Almost even

- All-day, all-purpose trips
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
talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-47-hwy-65-study
Help us plan station locations

25 built by the project
7 previously selected (small upgrades)
32 stations total
Station location considerations

- Spacing between stations
- Existing ridership
- Connecting transit service
- Community input
- Land use and access to destinations
- Street design and available right-of-way
Station locations (north)

• 1 station proposed in Blaine
  – Northtown Transit Center
  Station previously selected

• 2 in Spring Lake Park*

• 9 in Fridley*

• 2 in Hilltop*

• 6 in Columbia Heights*

*in or on the border of
Station locations (south)

- 19 stations proposed in Minneapolis*
  - 6 stations on Nicollet Mall previously selected

*Downtown Minneapolis detail

*in or on the border of
Draft Corridor Plan – seeking input now!

• Identifies proposed station locations

• Early, important opportunity for community input

• Addresses key station location questions:
  – Which intersections will have BRT stations?
  – In which quadrants (corners) of the intersections will the platforms be located?
  – How were the locations determined?

Central Avenue & St. Anthony Parkway
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)
  – Project coordination with agency partners
  – Bus priority treatments
  – 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)
  – Station concepts
  – Survey to provide feedback on specific stations and/or overall project

metrotransit.org/f-line-project
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
• Postcards sent to all homes and businesses along the corridor
• Share information via 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
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

We are here

Seeking community input to establish station locations

Community engagement
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](http://metrotransit.org/f-line-project)
  – Email FLine@metrotransit.org
  – Call Nasser Mussa, Community Outreach Coordinator at 651-829-5305

• F Line Update newsletter sign-up
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• F Line Update newsletter