METRO B Line Update

Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee

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B Line (Lake/ Marshall/ Selby) Bus Rapid Transit Overview

- Planned 4th arterial bus rapid transit line
- Substantial replacement of Route 21, region’s second-highest ridership but slowest in-service speed
- Service every 10 minutes, approximately 20% faster than existing Route 21
- Project fully funded, targeted opening 2024
Completed planning work (2019 – 2020)

• Extension to Union Depot in downtown St. Paul, evaluated and recommended in response to stakeholder requests
• Route B Line along Marshall, Snelling, Selby Avenues
• 33 preliminary B Line station locations identified
• Preliminary bus service plan
Community engagement results

- Engagement goal: engagement and feedback on main planning questions
- Engagement activities:
  - open house meetings
  - bus stop pop-ups and ride-alongs
  - neighborhood/group meetings
  - office hours, business pop-ups, and doorknocking
  - community events
- Significant feedback relating to travel time, frequency, and reliability
- Large majority in favor of downtown St. Paul endpoint
- Mixed feedback regarding alignment
  - Majority of open house attendees favored alignment that remains south of I-94
  - Majority of feedback in Midway and Selby Avenue areas indicated preference for alignment directly serving Midway
Draft B Line Corridor Plan

- Planned station locations: station intersections and location of platforms within each intersection

- Corridor Context:
  - Refined bus service plan: local and limited-stop bus service within and along B Line corridor
  - Potential bus priority treatments to meet project speed and reliability goals
Core element of Corridor Plan: Station and platform locations

- Proposed platform locations developed through site-specific review
- Excludes locations finalized as part of other projects
- Concept designs will continue to evolve through coordination and engineering
- Lake & 36th Avenue example (existing and proposed concept):
Additional information: Concept bus service plan

- B Line service would run every 10 minutes, seven days a week during the day and most of the evening
- Local service on Route 21 would run every 30 minutes between Hennepin Avenue and Minnehaha Avenue
- Local service on new route (Route 60) would run every 30 minutes along Selby Avenue connecting to Midway area of St. Paul
- Concept service plans will be refined and further developed closer to B Line opening
- Route 53 service will be evaluated as the B Line approaches implementation
How will people participate?

- Engagement will be primarily digital due to COVID-19

- People will be directed to the project website, where they can choose which elements of the plan to engage on

- Results will be collected, evaluated for Recommended corridor plan
Where will outreach efforts be focused?

• Media communications:
  - Council communications: Social, Connect, Insights, Wire, Riders Club, Project Newsletter, Rider Alerts
  - Local media
  - Communications from neighborhood and community groups, project partners like Minneapolis, St. Paul, Hennepin/Ramsey county

• At-stop communications:
  - Flyers on non-transit items like light poles near all 21 stops
  - Limited in-person surveying
Next Steps and project schedule

• Distribute Draft Corridor Plan and seek feedback
• Recommended Corridor Plan: May 2021
• Final Corridor Plan: September 2021
• Engineering: Mid-2021 – Late 2022
• Construction: 2023 – 2024
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www.metrotransit.org/b-line-project