METRO B Line Update

Midtown Business Association

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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
B Line Buses
B Line Stations

B Line station features include:

- Real-time NexTrip signs with on-demand audible announcements
- Shelter lighting
- Push-button heating
- Containers for garbage and recycling
- Security cameras
- Emergency telephones
- Benches
- Bike parking
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 and Bloomington

Next Station 0.5 mi

Street design subject to change based on other potential projects

Next Station 0.2 mi

Station Features Preliminary Siting
Platform Area
Edge of Platform
Front of Stop
Shelter

Scale in Feet
0 50
Lake and Cedar

Station Features Preliminary Siting
- Platform Area
- Edge of Platform
- Front of Stop
- Shelter

Potential removal of 2-3 parking spaces

Street design subject to change based on other potential projects

Potential removal of 2-3 parking spaces

Next Station 0.2 mi

Next Station 0.4 mi
**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