METRO E Line
Draft Corridor Plan

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E Line Bus Rapid Transit Overview

- Substantial replacement of Route 6, fifth-highest ridership route
- Route 6 ridership remains high, despite nation-wide ridership impact during pandemic
- E Line is fully funded, targeted opening in 2025
- $60 million preliminary budget, to be refined as project advances
Why arterial BRT?

• Provide faster, more reliable, more attractive bus service
• Improve current slow and unreliable transit service
• Address passenger facilities inadequate for the volume of people using them
• Improve the transit experience at stops and on vehicles

Bus mode share during peak hours

- 49% of corridor users
  - 8 a.m.: northbound Hennepin at 26th St
  - 3% of corridor vehicles

- 45% of corridor users
  - 4 p.m.: southbound Hennepin at 25th St
  - 2% of corridor vehicles

What will METRO BRT stations look like?

- **Pylon markers** help riders identify stations from a distance.
- **Real-time NextTrip signs** provide bus information, and on-demand **annunciators** speak this information for people with low vision.
- **Utility boxes** near station areas house necessary communications and electrical equipment (not pictured).
- **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).
- **Ticket machines** and **fare card validators** collect all payment before customers board the bus.
- **Emergency telephones** provide a direct connection to Metro-Transit police. Stations also feature **security cameras**.
- **Trash and recycling containers**
- **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.
- **Platform areas** are distinguished by a dark gray concrete pattern.
- Some stations have **pedestrian-scale light fixtures** to provide a safe, well-lit environment. Fixtures will match existing lights in the surrounding area (not pictured).
- **Benches** at stations provide a place to sit.
- Stations have **bike parking**.
Early planning: E Line Corridor Study (2018-2019)

- Evaluated potential terminal and alignment alternatives
- Identified concept station locations and service plan
  - E Line service would run every 10 minutes
  - Local service on Route 6 would run every 20 minutes from Minnesota Drive to downtown via Southdale and Xerxes Avenue
- E Line alignment adopted by Metropolitan Council January 2020
Project schedule

• E Line Corridor Study: 2018 – 2019
• Corridor Plan
  - September 2021: Release Draft Corridor Plan
  - January 2022: Recommended Corridor Plan (Council action to release for public comment)
  - March 2022: Final Corridor Plan (Council action to approve)
• Engineering: Mid-2022 – Late 2023
• Construction: 2024 – 2025
• Start of service: 2025
E Line Draft Corridor Plan

• Planned station locations:
  Station intersections and location of platforms within each intersection
Core element of Corridor Plan: Station and Platform Locations

• Proposed platform locations developed through site-specific review
• Excludes locations that have been or will be developed in coordination with other projects
• Concept designs will evolve through coordination and engineering
E Line coordination with other projects

- Planning for stations located within other roadway projects has advanced in coordination with those projects.
- Station plans not developed for Corridor Plan for these stations.
- Metro Transit is coordinating with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County through other projects on potential bus-only lanes.
Outreach and engagement strategies

• Public comment period: September 20 – October 31
• Project website (metrotransit.org/e-line-project)
  - Key information and station concepts
  - Draft Corridor Plan
  - Corridor overview video
  - Survey form for feedback on specific stations
• Direct mailing (postcard)
• Email to subscribers and Rider Alerts
• In-person feedback at key bus stops
• Partner with community organizations and neighborhood groups along corridor
• Flyers to post along corridor
• Social media
Next steps and project schedule

• Release Draft Corridor Plan and seek feedback through October 31
• Recommended Corridor Plan (Council action to release for public comment): January 2022
• Final Corridor Plan (Council action to approve): March 2022
• Engineering: Mid-2022 – Late 2023
• Construction: 2024 – 2025
• Open for service: 2025
Review the corridor plan and provide comment

- Review the draft corridor plan and provide comments at metrotransit.org/e-line-corridor-plan