METRO E Line
Draft Corridor Plan

Kyle O’Donnell Burrows, Sr. Planner,
BRT Projects
Juan Rangel, Community Outreach and
Engagement Coordinator

Lowry Hill East Neighborhood
Association, 10/13/2021
E Line Bus Rapid Transit Overview

- Substantial replacement of Route 6, fifth-highest ridership route (remains high during pandemic)
- E Line is fully funded with $60 million preliminary budget, to be refined as project advances
- Construction targeted to begin in 2024 with targeted opening in 2025
- E Line planned service every 10 minutes for most of the day
Why arterial BRT?

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

Bus mode share during peak hours

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

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

Improving the existing transit experience

France Avenue & Sunnyside

Hennepin Avenue & Franklin
What will METRO BRT stations look like?

1. Pylon markers help riders identify stations from a distance.
2. Real-time NextTrip signs provide bus information, and on-demand annunciators speak this information for people with low vision.
3. Utility boxes near station areas house necessary communications and electrical equipment (not pictured).
4. 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).
5. Ticket machines and fare card validators collect all payment before customers board the bus.
6. Emergency telephones provide a direct connection to Metro-Transit police. Stations also feature security cameras.
7. Stations feature trash and recycling containers.
8. 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.
9. Platform areas are distinguished by a dark gray concrete pattern.
10. 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).
11. Benches at stations provide a place to sit.
12. Stations have bike parking.
Early planning: E Line Corridor Study (2018-2019)

- Evaluated potential terminal and alignment alternatives
- Rider and community engagement
  - Community Advisory Committee
  - Open houses
  - Online survey with interactive map
  - Door knocking and meeting riders at stops
  - Meetings with neighborhoods
  - Communications to riders and community through established channels
- E Line alignment adopted by Metropolitan Council January 2020
E Line Draft 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

Existing University & 27th Avenue Station Area

Proposed University & 27th Avenue Station Plan
Draft Plan 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 bus stops and on buses
- Partner with community organizations and neighborhood groups along corridor
- Flyers to post along corridor
- Social media
Corridor Plan next steps

• Draft Corridor Plan:
  - Seeking public comment September 20 – October 31

• Recommended Corridor Plan:
  - Targeting public comment period in February 2022

• Final Corridor Plan:
  - Metropolitan Council action to approve in March 2022
Review the corridor plan and provide comment

• Review the draft corridor plan and provide comments at metrotransit.org/e-line-corridor-plan
• Email: Eline@metrotransit.org