METRO E Line
Draft Corridor Plan

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50th & France Business Association, 10/27/2021
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

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

Improving the existing transit experience

France Avenue & Sunnyside

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

- Pylon markers help riders identify stations from a distance.
- Real-time NexTrip 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.
- Stations feature 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
- 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
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