METRO E Line Recommended Corridor Plan
University of Minnesota, Minnesota Student Association
March 29, 2022

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E Line BRT 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 at 8 a.m.: northbound Hennepin at 26th St
- 3% of corridor vehicles at 8 a.m.: northbound Hennepin at 26th St

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

*Sources: Metro Transit, Oct. 2017; City of Minneapolis, Jan. 2018.*
Improving the existing transit experience

France Avenue & Sunnyside

Hennepin Avenue & Franklin
What will METRO E Line stations look like?

- Pylon markers help riders identify stations from a distance.
- Real-time NextTrip signs provide bus information, and on-demand announcements 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 (not 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 caution 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, walkable environment. Fixtures will match existing lights in the surrounding area (not pictured).
- Benches at stations provide a place to sit.
- Stations have bike parking.
E Line Planning Process

• Corridor Study to define alignment: 2018-2019
  – Metropolitan Council approved alignment in January 2020

• Corridor Plan to define station locations: 2020-2022
  – Release Draft Corridor Plan: September 2021
  – Public comment period: Sept 20 – Oct 31
  – Release Recommended Corridor Plan (March 2022)
  – Public comment period: March 9 – April 8
  – Metropolitan Council action to approve final corridor plan in May 2022

• Engineering: Fall 2022 – Late 2023
  – Details about exact shelter placement, street furnishings, tree impacts and new plantings, and construction plans

• Construction: 2024-2025
Corridor Plan Contents

• Locations: station intersections and locations of platforms within each intersection

• Corridor context:
  – Concept bus service plan
  – Priorities for bus priority treatments and bus only lanes to meet speed and reliability goals
Planned METRO E Line Stations Near Campus

- University/4th & 11th/10th Avenue
  - Also served by Routes 2, 122, and 123

- University/4th & 15th Avenue
  - Also served by Routes 2, 121, 122, and 123

- University/4th & Ridder Arena/Rec Ctr
  - Also served by Routes 2, 121, 122, and 123

- University & 23rd Avenue
  - Green Line Connection, also served by Route 33

- University & 27th Avenue
  - Also served by Route 33
Next steps

• Seeking feedback on Recommended Corridor Plan
  – Metropolitan Council to consider authorizing release of recommended corridor plan on March 9 for public review and comment
  – Pending Council action, 30-day public comment period open from March 9 to April 8
  – Review recommended corridor plan and provide comment at:
    • metrotransit.org/e-line-corridor-plan
    • eline@metrotransit.org

• Final Corridor Plan – Metropolitan Council action to approve in May 2022