

# Transit Talk

Focusing on the ever-expanding Twin Cities transit network

## Orange Line BRT secures funding for next two years of development

By: Cali Owings    October 30, 2014 1:46 pm    0

The Orange Line bus rapid transit project linking downtown Minneapolis to Burnsville along Interstate 35W is moving into the next phase of development with \$18 million secured for the project.

Funding from the state, Metropolitan Council and Counties Transit Improvement Board combined with \$7 million in federal dollars will cover the next two years of project development and engineering as well as a portion of construction on the \$150 million line.

The Met Council contributed \$2 million in council-controlled funds at its meeting last week.

Metro Transit applied to the Federal Transit Administration for the Orange Line to enter the project development and engineering phase through the Small Starts funding program. The FTA requires the project to have local funding lined up before entering the project development and engineering phase.

After the project receives the go-ahead from the FTA, the next phase of development will include preliminary engineering, environmental assessments and final engineering. Construction is scheduled to start in 2017 in coordination with other improvements on the I-35W corridor.

The 16-mile line would also have stops in Richfield and Bloomington.



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