

Transit Talk

Focusing on the ever-expanding Twin Cities transit network

Orange Line BRT wins federal approval

By: Cali Owings November 21, 2014 12:01 pm 0

The Federal Transit Administration has given approval for the [Orange Line](#) bus rapid transit project on Interstate 34W to enter project development, according to [Metro Transit](#).

The federal agency is expected to cover half of the \$150 million BRT line from downtown Minneapolis to Burnsville, set to open in 2019.

With the addition of the Orange Line, three Twin Cities projects are in the federal project development pipeline including the [Southwest Light Rail Transit line](#) from Minneapolis to Eden Prairie and the [Bottineau LRT line](#) between Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park. Unlike the LRT projects which are funded through the federal [New Starts](#) program for larger projects, the Orange Line would be funded through the Small Starts process for projects that cost less than \$250 million.

Five new stations will be built on the 17-mile line at Lake Street, 66th Street, 76th Street, American Boulevard and 98th Street. The Lake Street station is set to be a signature, two-level station. The line will also serve the updated median station at 46th Street and 35W and the Burnsville Transit Station.

The Orange Line would be the region's second highway BRT line after the [Red Line](#), which provides service between Apple Valley and the Mall of America in Bloomington.



The 17-mile Orange Line project was approved by the Federal Transit Administration to enter project development. (Map via Metro Transit)

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