

NetworkNEXT

Building tomorrow's bus network, starting today.

Metro Transit is preparing a plan that will guide the expansion of Metro Transit's bus network for the next 20 years. The first step in that process is to determine the values and goals that should direct decisions about future transit service and quality improvements. Key to determining those values, are the voices of communities that rely on transit.

Network Next community engagement is focused on these goals:

- Reach individuals that may not be connected to Metro Transit processes but still value or use our services.
- Use a variety of methods to expand outreach and leverage the expertise of community partners.
- Broaden the conversation around transit priorities.
- Deepen the capacity of community to influence early planning, when questions and decisions can be more abstract but have greater impact to future service.

How will the community be engaged in Network Next?

Community engagement will focus on re-evaluating and summarizing existing feedback from past engagement and outreach, as well as surveying customers and community members to learn current needs and attitudes regarding transit.

Additionally, Metro Transit will partner with 10 organizations to further the reach of the agency into communities that rely on and value transit. Other organizations have different networks that can be leveraged for more in-depth engagement with stakeholders.

How can you be involved?

Organizations, community groups, leaders, and artists are invited to host and facilitate a community conversation around transit values. Each conversation should aim to deepen the communities understanding of transit tradeoffs, constraints and opportunities, and solicit direct input of values and priorities to aid Metro Transit's work.

The format of the meeting, time, duration, and methods to engage are up to the discretion of the organization. The meeting can be in person, via electronic medium or a combination of the two.

Following the community conversation, each group will provide Metro Transit with photos or videos from the event and a written summary of the feedback received.

To ensure that organizations, groups and artists have greater capacity to participate, **Metro Transit will offer a grant of \$2,500 to support this work.**

Organizations or individuals who do not have the capacity to host a conversation but still want to be involved in Network Next community engagement should contact network for other ways to be involved.

What will be expected of me as a community conversation host?

If selected, community conversations hosts must be willing to commit to the following agreements:

- Provide a document outlining the plan for your community conversation, including format, date, meeting location or electronic medium and promotion. (Example document attached)
- Promote
- Host community conversation
- Provide summary report and documentation (audio or video and transcription) from community conversation

How do I apply to host a community conversation?

To be considered, please submit:

1. Short bio(s) of the primary staff who will be planning and facilitating community conversations, including relevant experience
2. Describe the geographic and demographic (race, ethnicities, incomes, and other cultural groupings) that you will reach as part of your work.
3. A budget including summary total hours and rate, and indirect expenses (see example on next page)
 - a. Budget should include at least two hours of staff time to learn about transit trade-offs and one hour to coordinate on methods and needed materials
4. A proposed format for a community conversation and possible methods to engage your target audience
5. A completed W-9 form
6. Availability to participate in a 1.5 hour planning meeting with Metro Transit staff on the week of August 19 - 23

Proposals will be accepted until August 9.

If selected, Metro Transit staff will coordinate with you on your proposed format for your community conversation and ensure your timing aligns with other engagement efforts.

An informational session will be held on July 24 from 4:30 - 5:30 at the Minneapolis Central Library, Meeting Room N-202.

Example Time Breakdown/Material Budget

Task	Staff	Individual Hours	Total Hours
Attend a meeting with all participating organizations to learn more about the Network Next and engage in a transit planning exercise	1-2 staff members	2 hours each	4 hours
Plan the format of your community conversation	1-2 staff members	1 hour each	2 hours
Coordinate with Metro Transit on method and any needed materials	1 staff member	1 hour each	1 hours
Solicit participating and prep for meeting	1-2 staff	4 hours each	8 hours
Host Community Conversation	2 staff	2 hours each	4 hours
Summarize feedback and submit to Metro Transit	1 staff	3 hours	3 hours

23 total hours, plus materials

What are the selection criteria for identifying community conversation hosts?

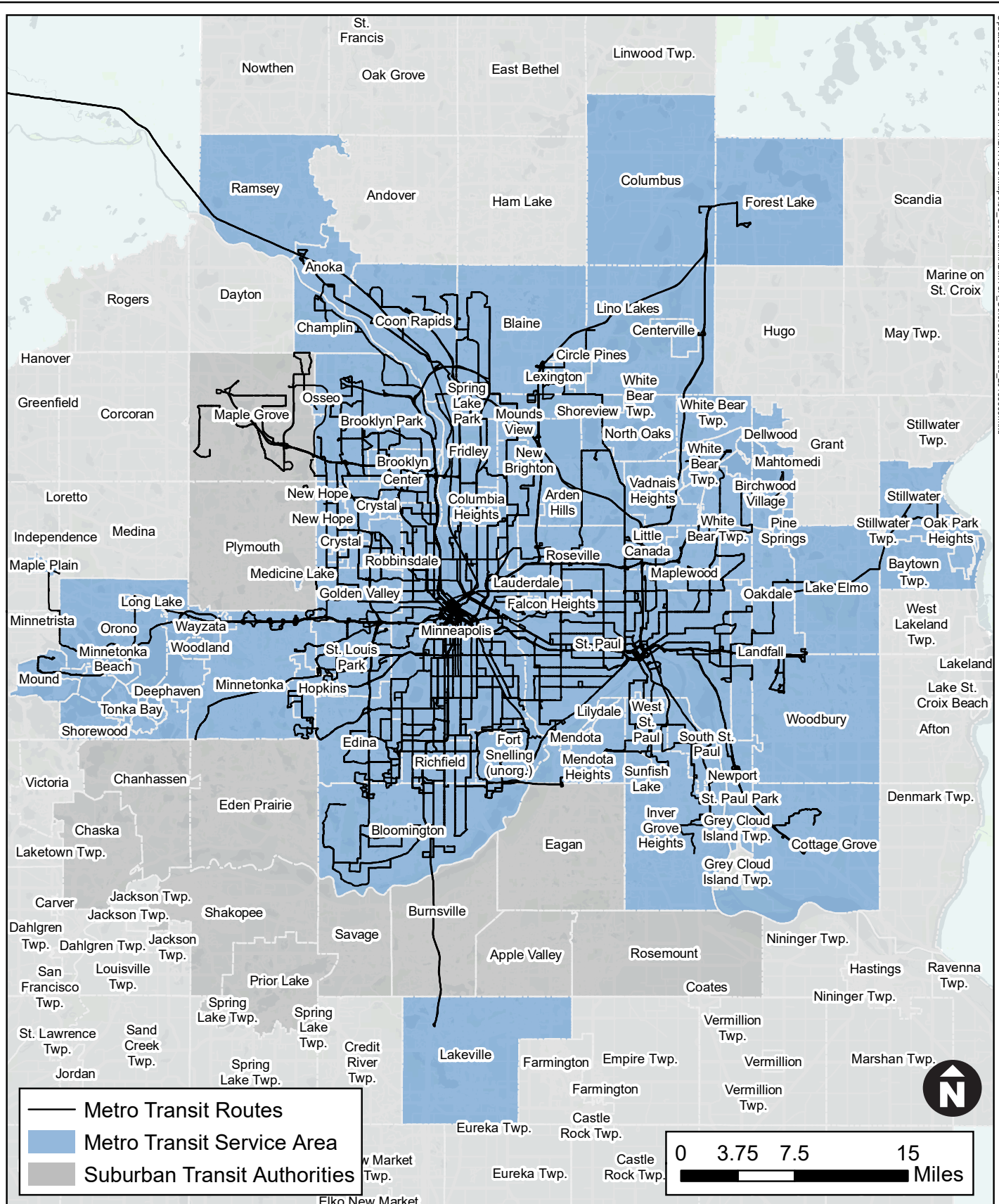
Organizations and Groups

Eligible organizations include community-based organizations such as neighborhood organizations, cultural organizations, small business associations, district councils, and other community-based entities that are geographically or demographically representative of our region and the current bus service network area. The proposing organization must be a registered 501c3 or have a pre-identified fiscal agent. (e.g. neighborhood groups, district councils, cultural organizations, small business associations, etc.).

Artists and Community Leaders

Eligible individuals must be able provide evidence of experience facilitating similar engagement processes or conversations. Must be able to demonstrate a strong connection to local communities that are geographically or demographically representative of our region and the current bus service network area through previous organizing, advocacy or art engagement efforts.

See Metro Transit Area Map on following page.



— Metro Transit Routes
 Metro Transit Service Area
 Suburban Transit Authorities

0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles

Metro Transit Service Area

