

# Network**NOW**

## Planning for an adaptable and resilient transit network

### *What should Metro Transit's network look like now?*

Network Now is a five-year plan to design transit service to best meet the needs of our region. We want your input in shaping how we continue to invest in improving our service as more resources, such as additional drivers, are available.

### *As part of our Network Now project, we will:*

- Ask about our framework for making decisions, what our region needs and values, and work together to develop our network vision.
- Review the service changes that have been made since 2020 and how those changes will be addressed.
- Establish what our transit network should be today, given changes to travel patterns since 2020.
- Confirm any facilities changes needed in our transit network.
- Prioritize services to be added as resources allow and as new transitways begin service.

### *Background:*

In 2020 our Network Next efforts were modified to focus on future bus rapid transit lines. Through 2021 and 2022, we reacted to the effects of remote work, social challenges, and workforce shortages.

Now that we are more aware of the longer-term effects of the pandemic, we can reposition our planning efforts to address how we manage ongoing operator shortages, ridership changes, and other challenges in our community, along with building the transit system of tomorrow.

### *How we have been making decisions:*

When the state response to the COVID-19 pandemic began, Metro Transit had to adjust quickly meet the ongoing needs of our community while keeping the safety of riders and staff at the forefront. When Metro Transit was ready to restore and improve service, we were faced with an unprecedented driver shortage that has resulted in additional changes on short notice to preserve the reliability of existing service.

Even with a rapidly changing environment, we brought feedback forward from early Network Next engagement, as well as Listening and Learning through Crises in helping shape how we made decisions. Over the past few years, we have evaluated changes using this guidance:

- Maintain the reliability of our scheduled service
- Identify service where customers have an alternative
- Minimize ridership impact/capacity
- Balance network frequency and coverage
- Evaluate service changes with an eye towards reducing impact on low-income communities and communities of color

We will be asking about these principles, as well as your preferences and values to help guide our decision making going forward. With that framework we set our network of today and propose future service.



Visit: [metrotransit.org/Network-Now](https://metrotransit.org/Network-Now) to learn more and sign up for email updates.

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