

INTRODUCTION: STUDY PURPOSE AND PROCESS

The Central Corridor light-rail transit (LRT) project will open in 2014 and operate between downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul, serving the University of Minnesota and University Avenue corridor. The new line – known as the METRO Green Line – is expected to provide an estimated 13.2 million annual rides by 2030 and models project that about 40 percent of the Green Line customers will ride bus service to stations.

Prior to implementation of Green Line LRT service, Metro Transit is conducting a study of bus service in the Central Corridor. The study will recommend changes to existing transit service in the Central Corridor to be implemented at the same time as the start of rail service. These recommended service changes will include expansion and integration of the current bus service network with Green Line LRT service to maximize the overall effectiveness and efficiency of transit service in the area and ensure that overall transit service is maintained or improved for neighborhoods along the line.

This report provides a concept plan for the Central Corridor Transit Service Study. The concept plan has been developed based on review of existing and future demographics, development and overall transit demand in the Central Corridor. Planners solicited public comments through multiple channels and incorporated that input into the concept plan. This concept plan will now be presented to the public and public reaction will be sought through a formal public hearing process. This input will be reviewed and considered as planners develop the final recommended service changes. Those changes will be adopted by the Metropolitan Council and will be implemented by the start of Green Line operations in 2014.