

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 METRO Green Line customers will ride bus service to stations.

In anticipation of the opening of METRO Green Line service, Metro Transit conducted a study of bus service in the Central Corridor. The study recommends 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 METRO Green Line 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 the recommended plan for the Central Corridor Transit Service Study. It 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 was presented to the public. Public reaction was sought and received through a formal public hearing process. This input was reviewed and considered as planners further developed the plan. The Recommended Plan will be presented to the Metropolitan Council for their approval in November 2012. The final plan will be implemented by the start of METRO Green Line operations in 2014.