



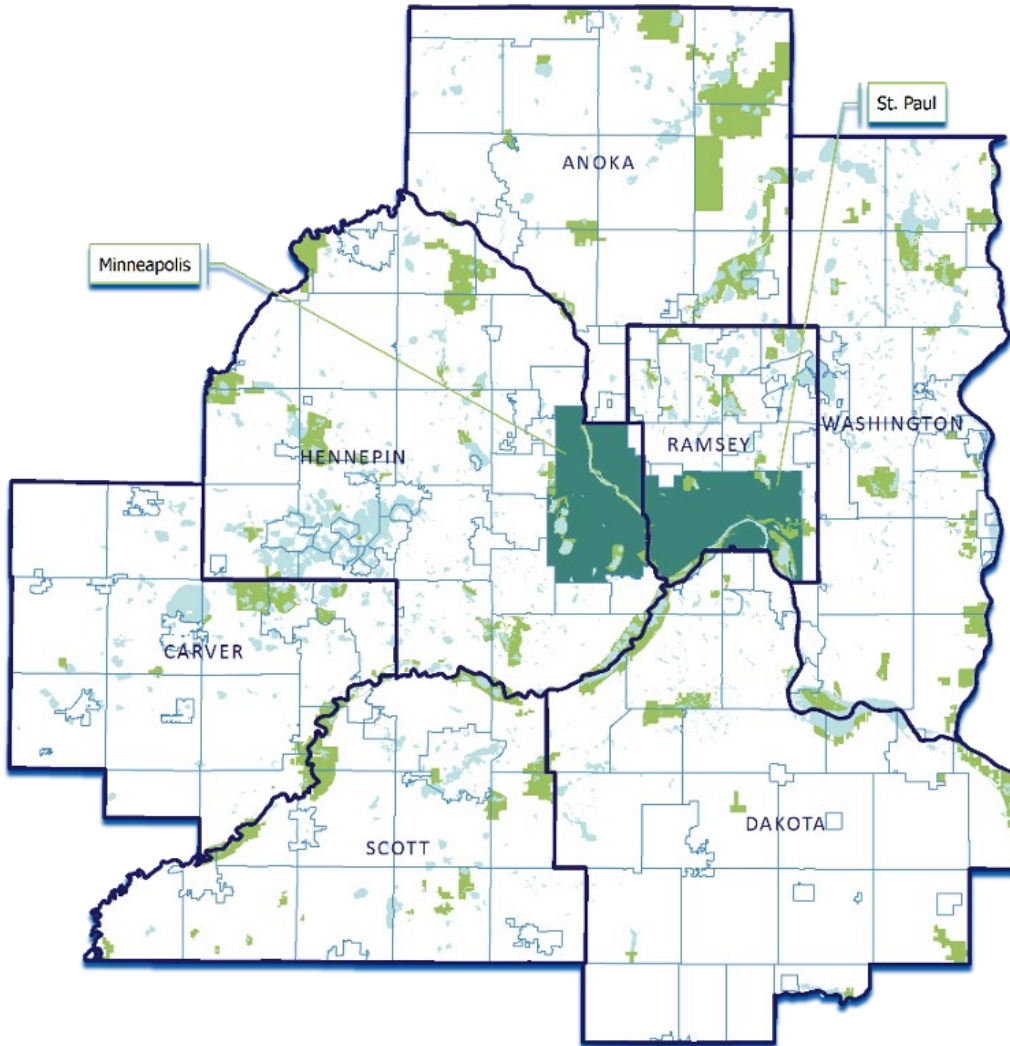
Metropolitan Council Update

Charles Carlson
Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services
Metropolitan Council

Minnesota Public Transit Conference
October 16, 2024



Twin Cities Metropolitan Region



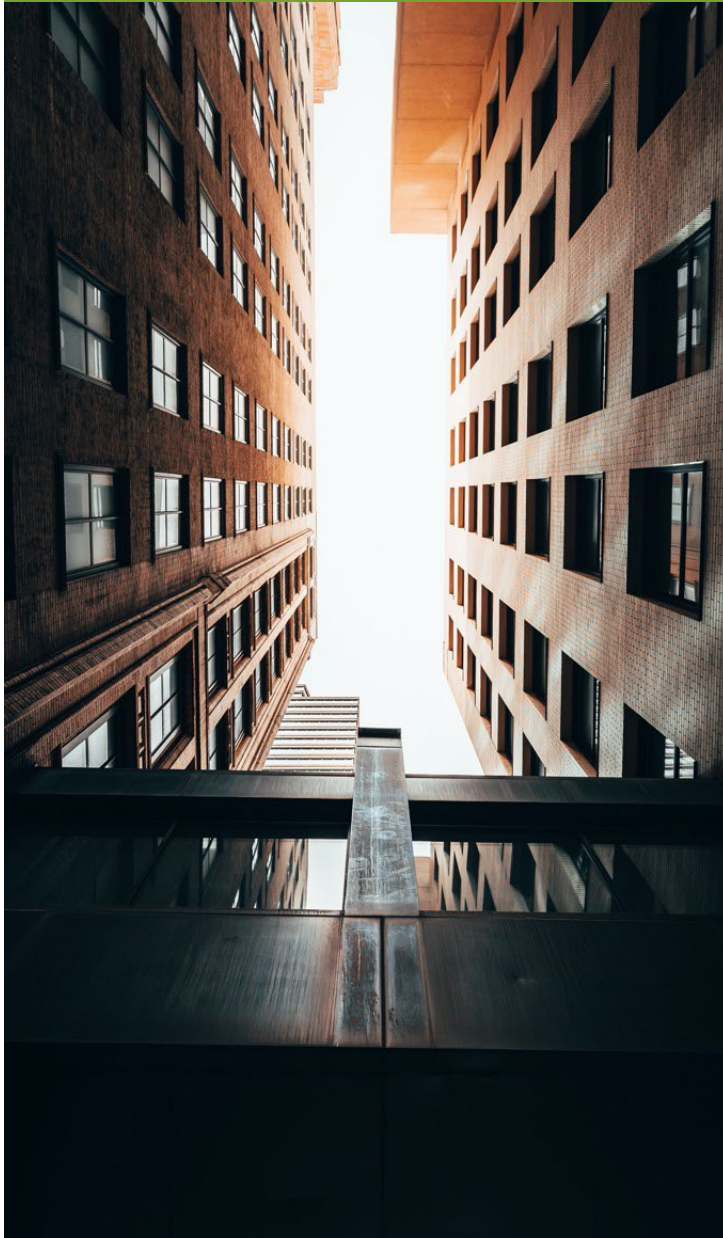
Fast Facts

- 7 Counties
- 182 Cities and Townships
- People from 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations and many other Native communities
- Nearly 3.2 million people today
- Projected growth of +630,000 people by 2050

Long-range planning

Environmental protection

Transportation services



Regional Development Guide: Imagine 2050



By statute, Met Council guides long-term regional growth. Guide updated every 10 years; forms regional basis for local plan updates

Regional vision: A prosperous, equitable, and resilient region with **abundant opportunities for all to live, work, play, and thrive.**

Regional Goals



Equitable and inclusive communities



Healthy and safe communities



Dynamic and resilient region



Leadership in addressing climate change



Protection and restoration of natural systems

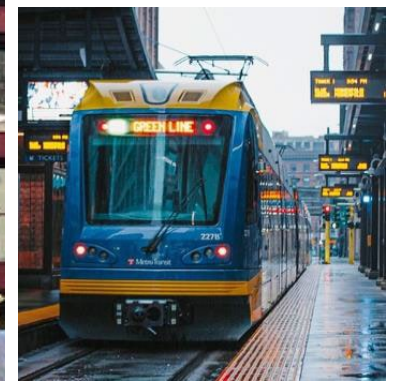
Transportation Responsibilities

Transportation Planning

- Serves as the region's federally required **Metropolitan Planning Organization**
- Performs long-range **transportation system planning** for all modes
- Shorter term federal transportation funds programming with the Metropolitan Council's **Transportation Advisory Board**
 - **New: Active Transportation Sales Tax grants**

Transit Operations

- Provide, contract for, and coordinate **metropolitan transit operations**
- Provide financial assistance to other **regional transit providers**

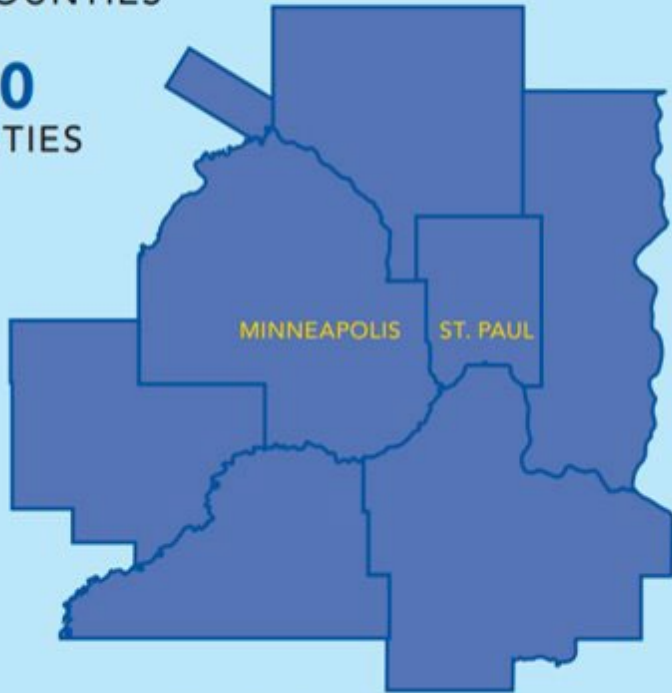


Metropolitan Council- Transit Operations

AREA SERVED

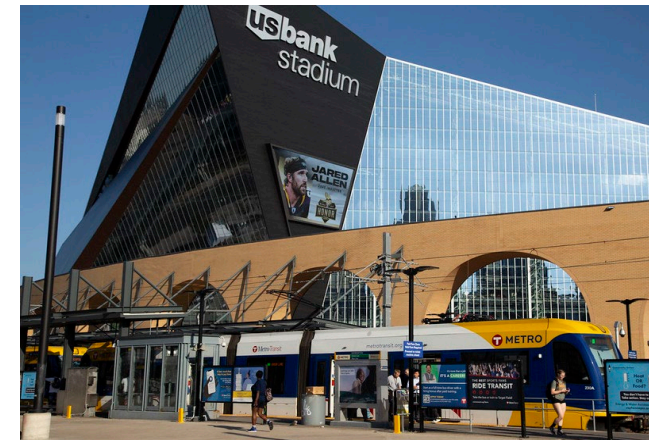
7+
COUNTIES

90
CITIES



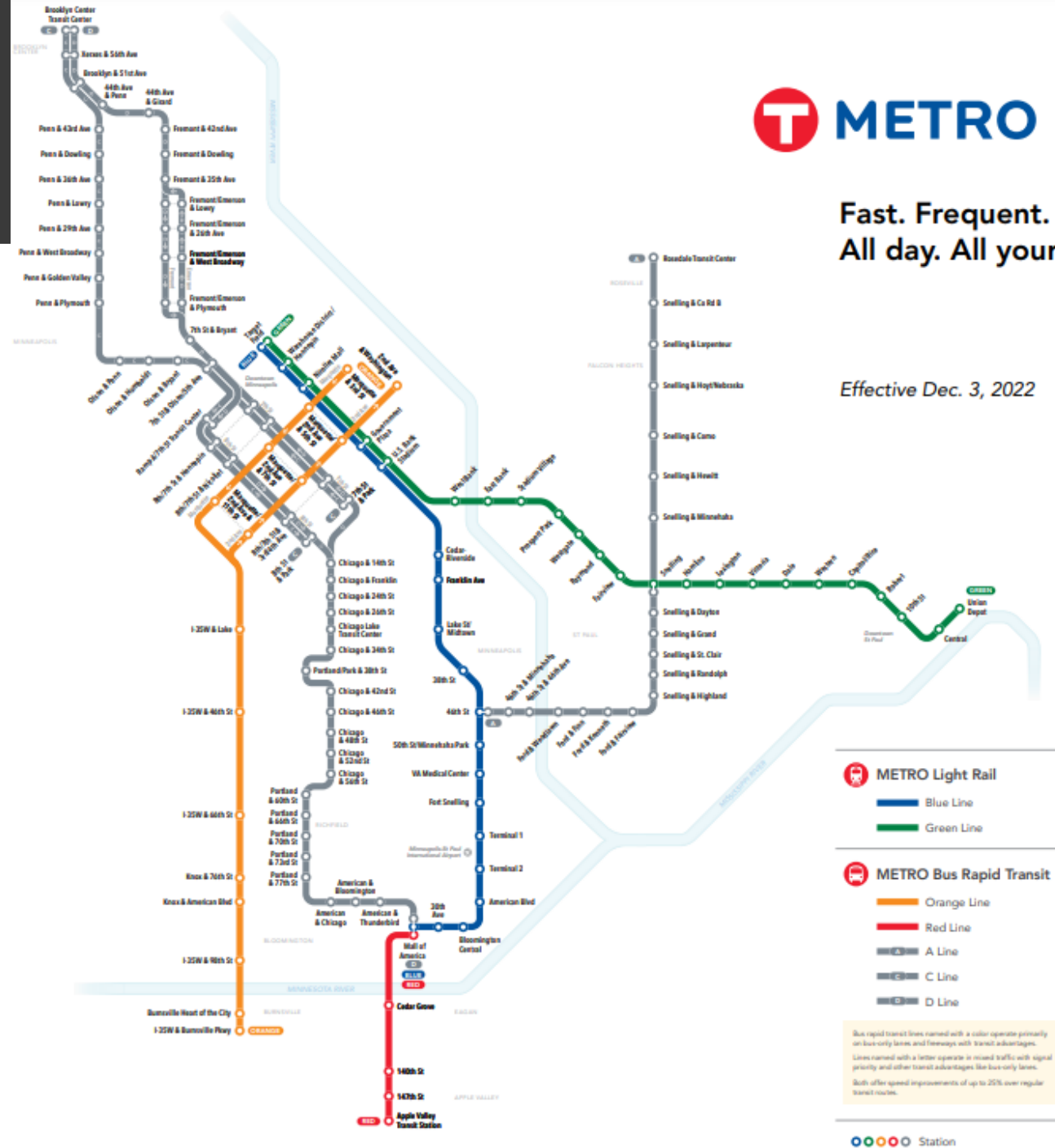
900 SQ. MILES

- Two transportation divisions within the Met Council
- Metro Transit- directly operated regional bus, BRT, light rail, Northstar commuter rail
- Metropolitan Transportation Services- contracted services
 - Metro Mobility/Metro Move
 - Contracted fixed route bus service including bus rapid transit
 - Micro transit on-demand service
 - Transit Link dial-a-ride service
 - Regional vanpool and TDM functions



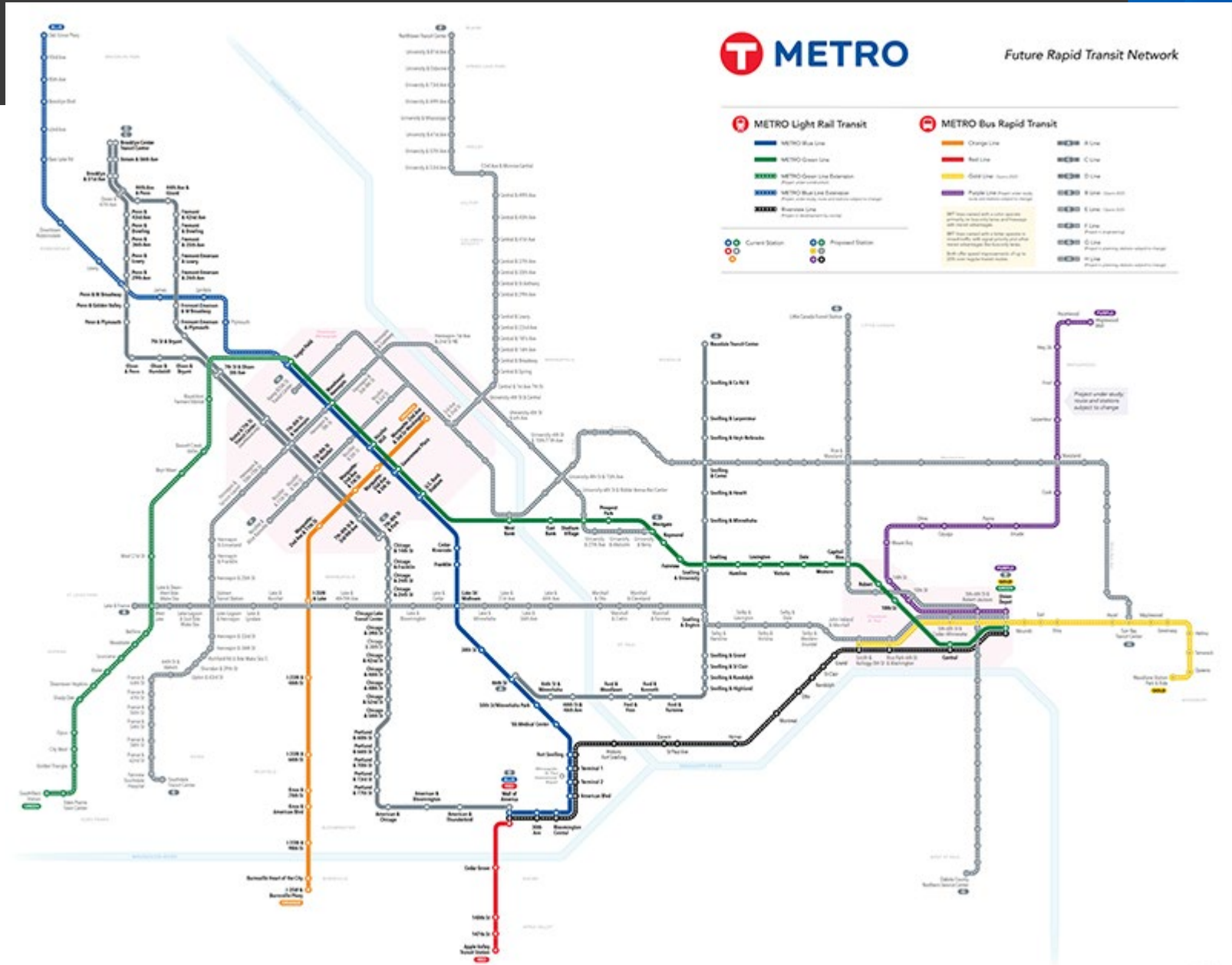
Current METRO Transitway Network

- 2004: Blue Line LRT
- 2009: NorthStar Commuter Rail
- 2013: Red Line BRT
- 2014: Green Line LRT
- 2016: A Line BRT
- 2019: C Line BRT
- 2021: Orange Line BRT
- 2022: D Line BRT



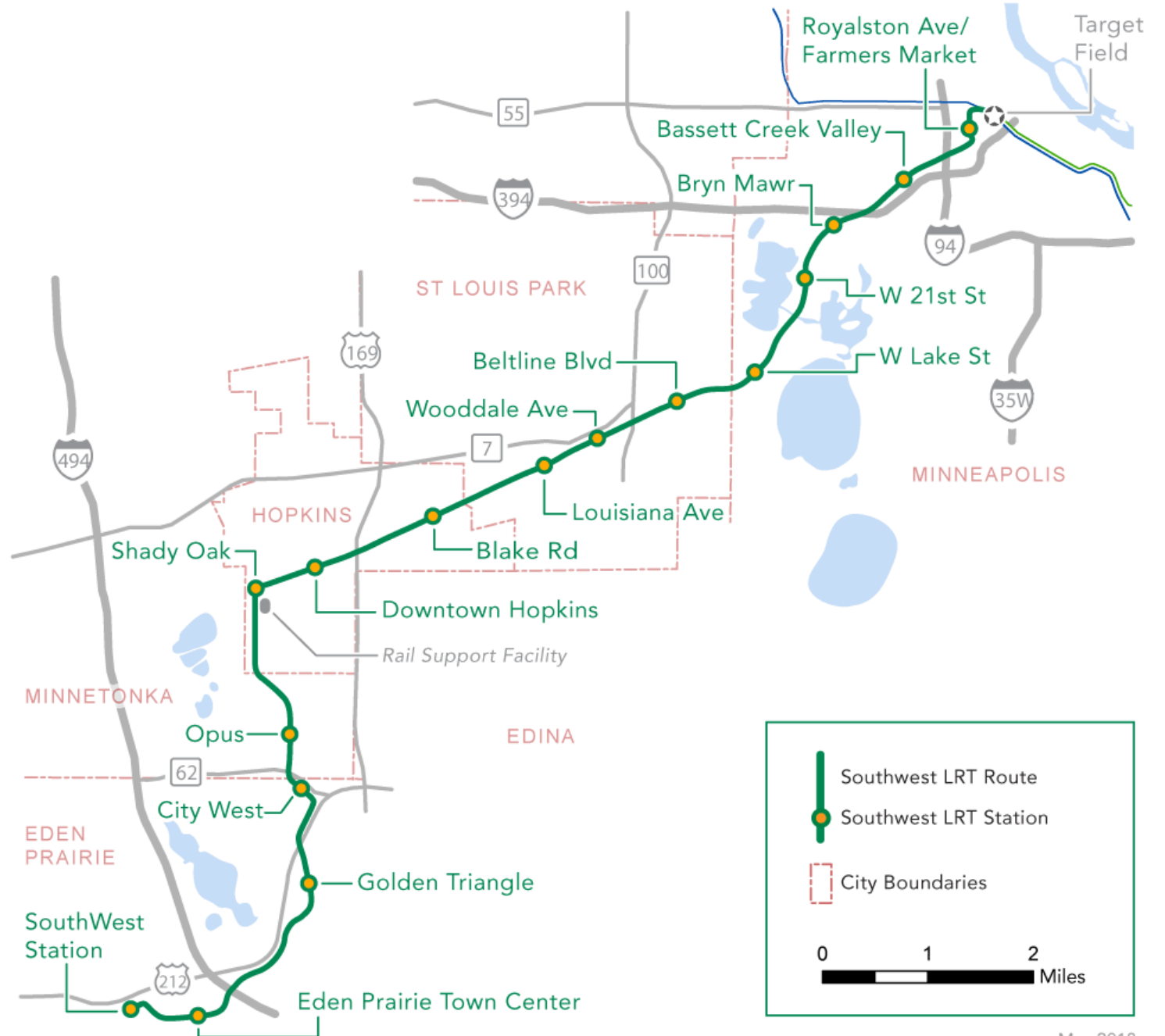
METRO System Plan

| METRO line | Opening/Status |
|----------------|----------------|
| Gold Line | 2025 |
| B Line | 2025 |
| E Line | 2025 |
| Green Line Ext | 2027 |
| F Line | Engineering |
| G Line | Planning |
| H Line | Planning |
| Blue Line Ext | Engineering |
| Purple Line | Planning |



METRO Green Line Extension

- Serving Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minneapolis
- 14.5 miles
- 16 stations
- Single seat trips to downtown Minneapolis, U of M, St. Paul
- Connections to Airport and Mall of America via Blue Line



Green Line Extension: 80% Civil Construction Completed



Shady Oak Station and the Minnesota River Bluffs Trail in Hopkins



Kenilworth LRT tunnel: waterproofing installation

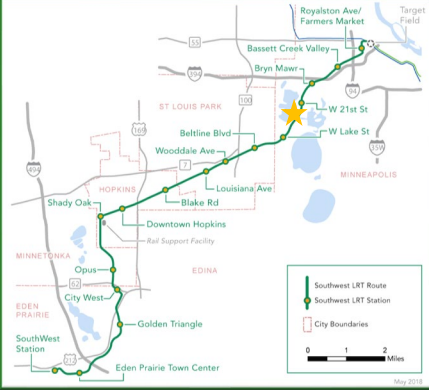
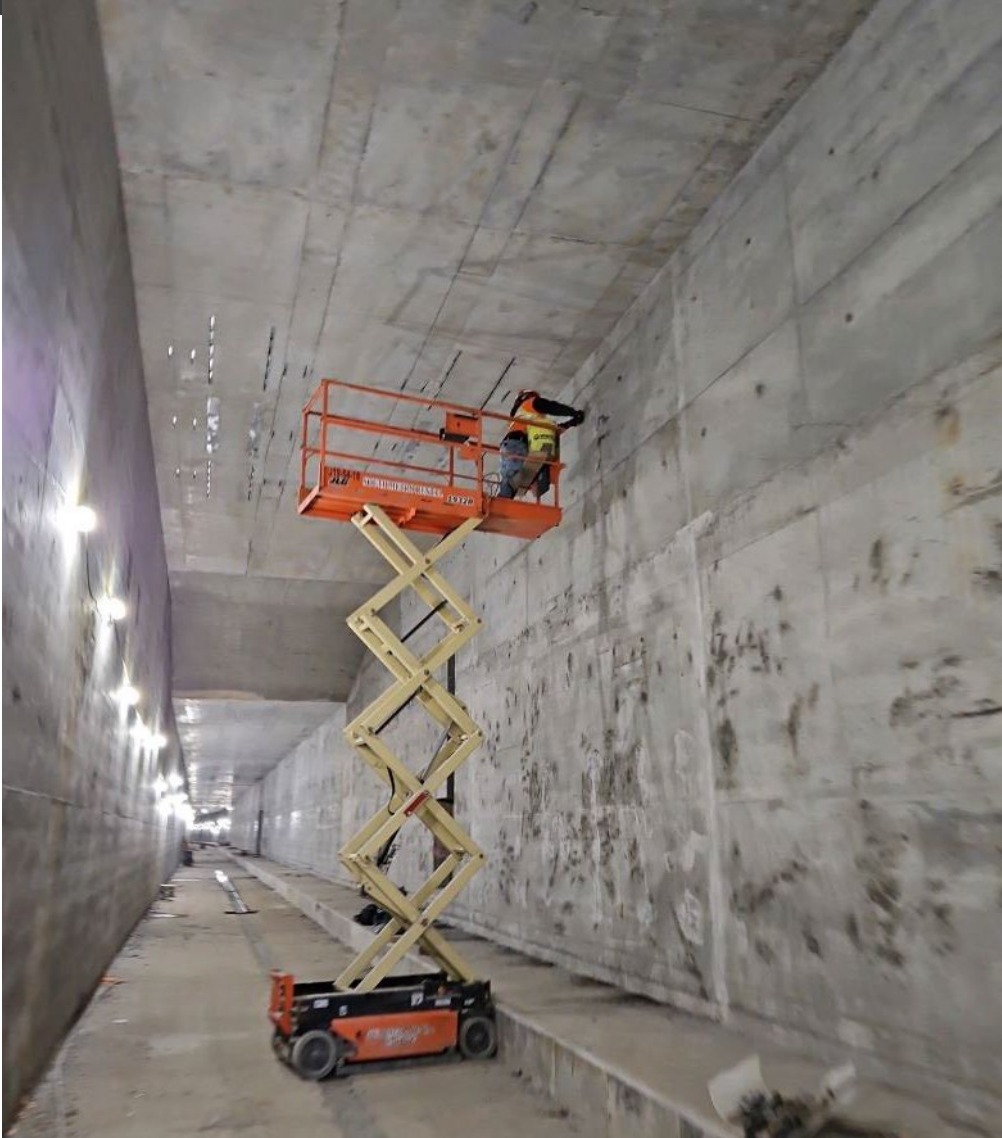
LRT Construction



Bus loop bridge at SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie



Kenilworth LRT Tunnel in Minneapolis

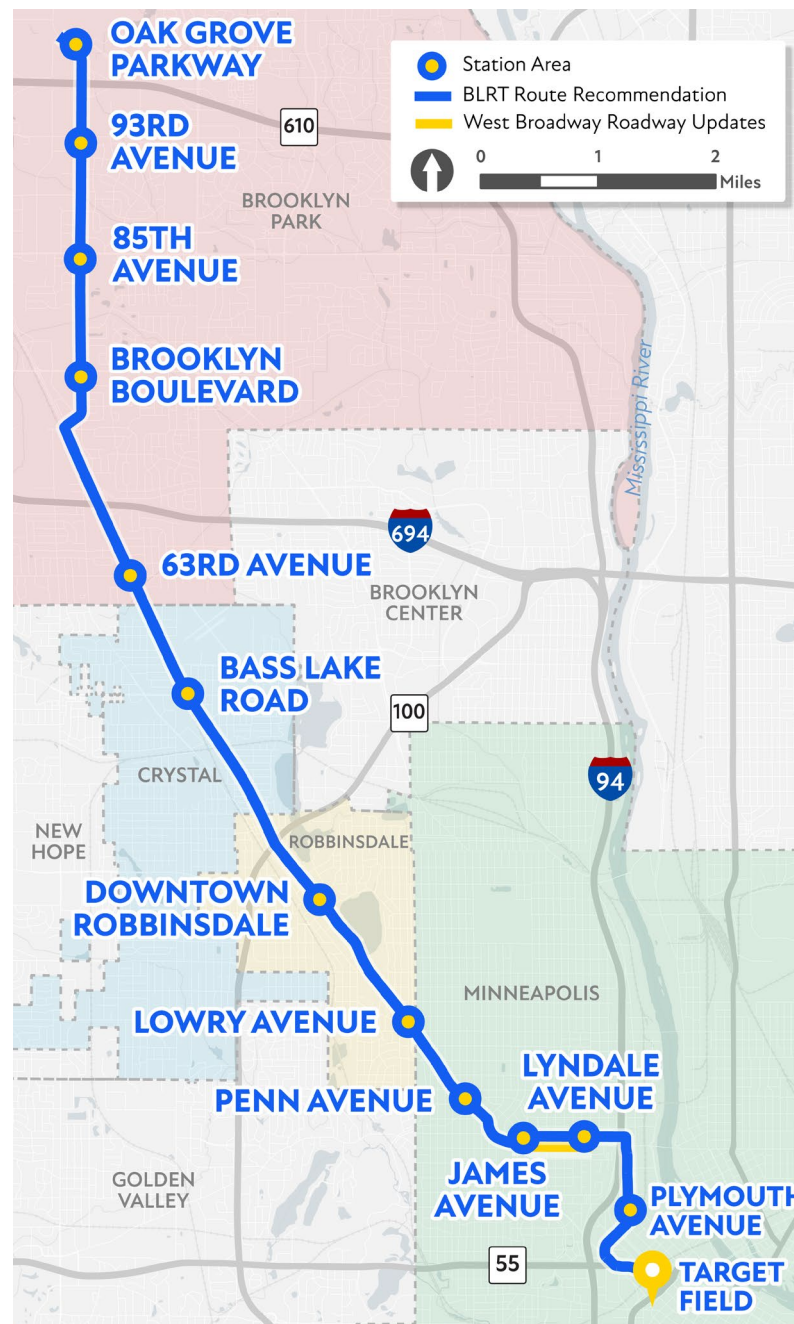




Blue Line

EXTENSION

- 13.4 miles & 12 new stations
- Connecting Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities to fast, frequent, all-day service across the METRO system
- Single seat ride to existing Blue Line stops downtown, MSP Airport, and Mall of America
- Focus on building community prosperity through anti-displacement strategies before, during, and after construction



Next steps

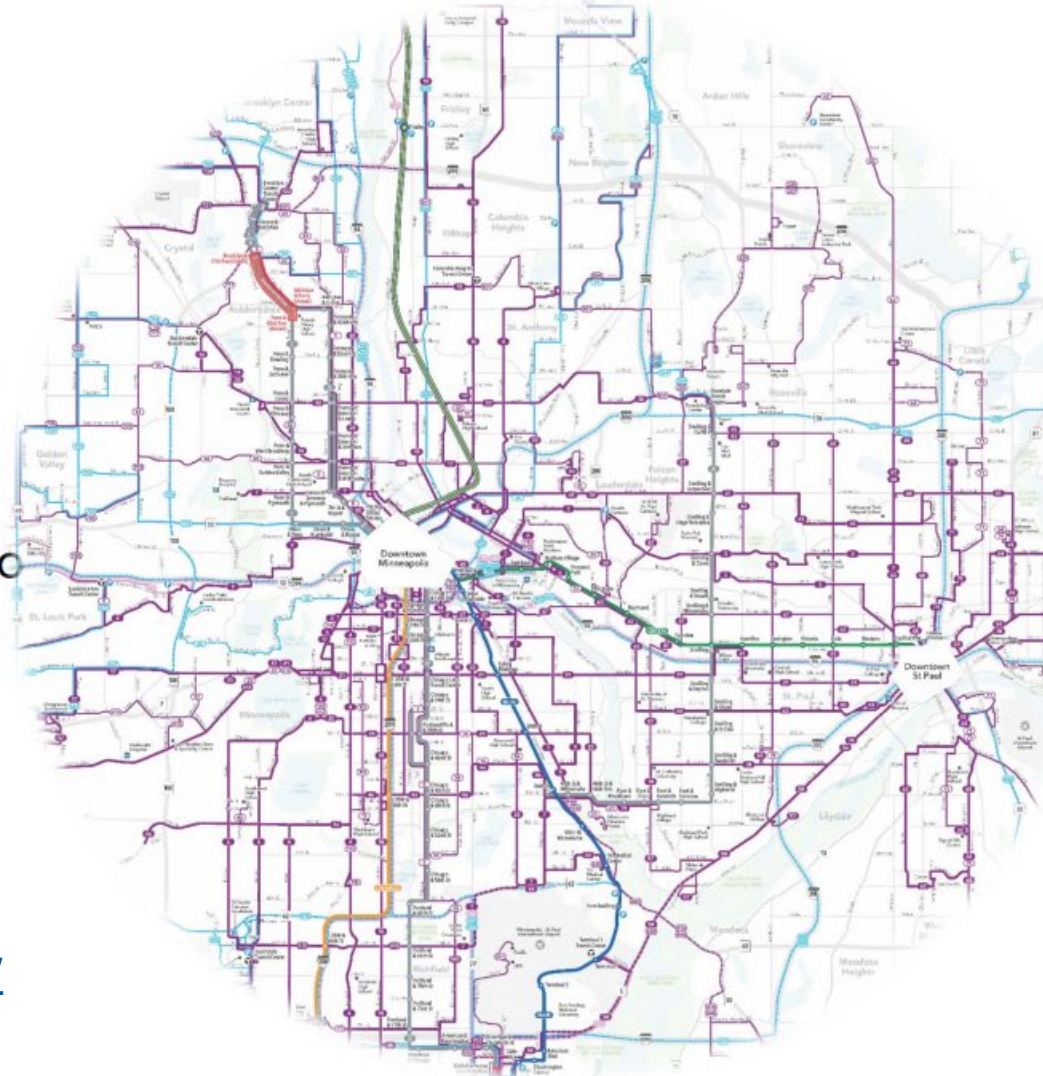
- ✓ Updated post-COVID ridership and initial cost information: March 2024
- ✓ Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2024
- ✓ Municipal Consent complete
- Updated 60% cost estimate: Fall 2024
- Finalize Design: 2024-2026
- Construction starts: 2026-2027
- Anticipated opening: 2030

Network Now: 35% Service Expansion

Network Now

- Metro Transit's vision through 2027
- 35% service expansion grow ridership
- Improve coverage and mobility by expanding bus routes and Metro micro service
- Redesign commuter services to meet the travel needs of our region now

<https://www.metrotransit.org/network-now>



Rebuilding Service: Network Now

- 5-year plan to design transit service to best meet the needs of our region
- 65 routes with improved service frequency or span
- 8 new micro transit zones; 2 new zones open late 2024 (Woodbury, Roseville)
- Public engagement and comment across October 2024; adopt in 2025, implementation 2025-2027+



Regional Transportation Funding



2023 State Transportation Bill



Base appropriations and levy bond authorized State investment in transit capital projects

- >\$130M Capital investment continues METRO capital project progress (Blue Line, BRT lines),
- Helps leverage federal funding including IIJA
- Capital investment cash/bonds, general fund

New, sustainable revenue source

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cent sales tax for metropolitan transportation, started October 1, 2023; est. \$450M/year
 - 17% to metropolitan area counties
 - 83% to Metropolitan Council
 - 5% to active transportation (by TAB)
 - 95% to transit operations, maintenance, capital preservation

Transit Funding



How will the new sales tax revenue be spent?

Eliminate the Council's **structural transit operations deficit**

- Long-term solution to long history of temporary fixes
- Previous structural deficit and budget shortfall was projected to be \$1.8 billion over the next 10 years

Ongoing operations and capital maintenance of METRO system

- Directed by law after fares, federal, state
- Replaces operating share previously paid by counties
- Resolves unfunded long-term capital replacement and repair

Fund **other 2023 legislative directives**, including Midtown Greenway Extension Planning, Transit Signal Priority System Planning, Transit Fare Elimination Pilot Project, micro transit capital grants to replacement service municipalities, etc.

Transit system operations, capital preservation, expansion

Sales Tax Policy Development



Near-term uses immediately leverage sales tax funding

Immediate uses for system operations- \$95M 2024, \$145M 2025 (prelim.)

2024 transit operating costs include legislatively required programs, suburban transit pass-through funds, replaced former county funding

Over \$220 million currently authorized in transit capital program for existing system preservation and enhancements, including suburban transit systems

Active Transportation Uses

TAB authorized \$19M for 17 active transportation projects in 2024

Additional active transportation projects allowed by statute

Policy Development underway to guide long-term program

Structural sustainable long-term transit operations funding

METRO system operations and capital preservation

Bus system capital preservation and expanded operations

Regional funding, across transit systems and providers

Thank you!

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