



# Orange Line Construction Update

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September 10, 2020

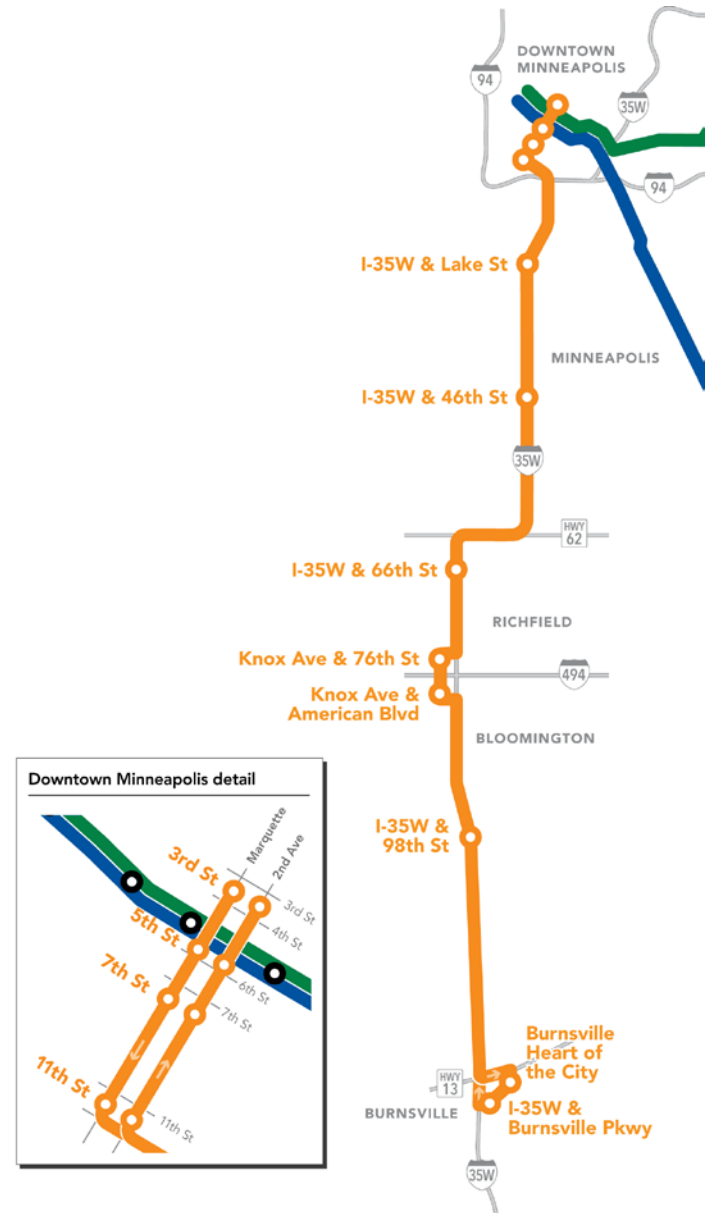
# Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

## Background

- 12 stations, 17 miles
- All-day, frequent station-to-station BRT and express bus service along I-35W
- Builds on precursor Route 535
- Provides access to 56,000 jobs and 81,000 residents outside of downtown Minneapolis

## Project Status

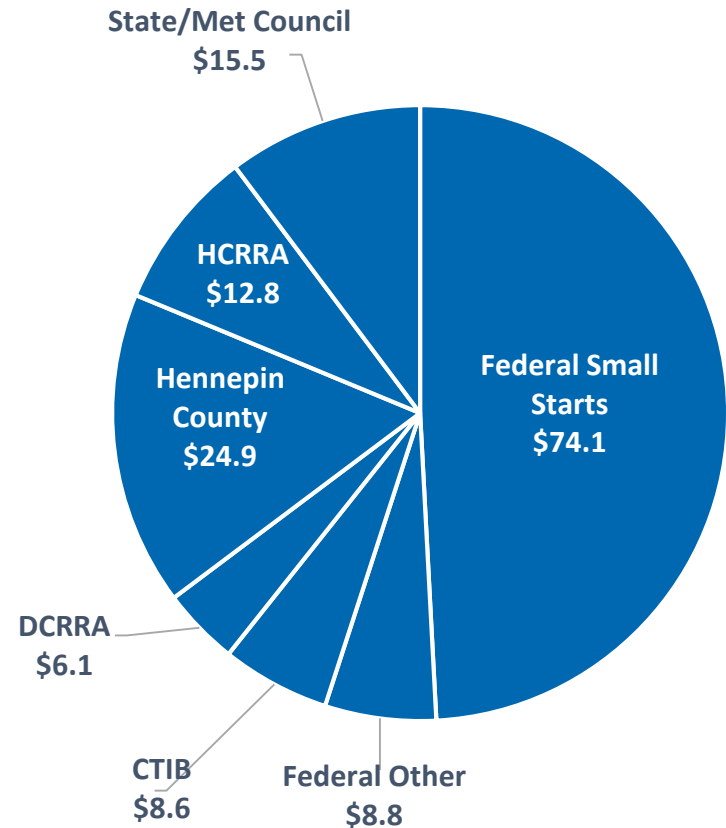
- Fully funded
- Under construction
- Opening next winter



# Project Budget & Schedule

- \$150.7M Project Budget
- Funded by federal, state, and local sources
- Major local partners include Hennepin and Dakota Counties
- Early local investment enabled critical highway projects to advance in 2017
- Federal Small Starts grant executed July 2019, enabled full construction to begin
- \$70 million expended to date, including 47% of project construction budget
- Careful ongoing management of contingency and change orders

Capital Sources, in Millions



# Fleet

- Orange Line will procure 14 vehicles from a new agency-wide 60-foot bus contract
- Anticipating RFP release late September
- Bus delivery Q3 2021



*METRO C Line 60-foot diesel bus*



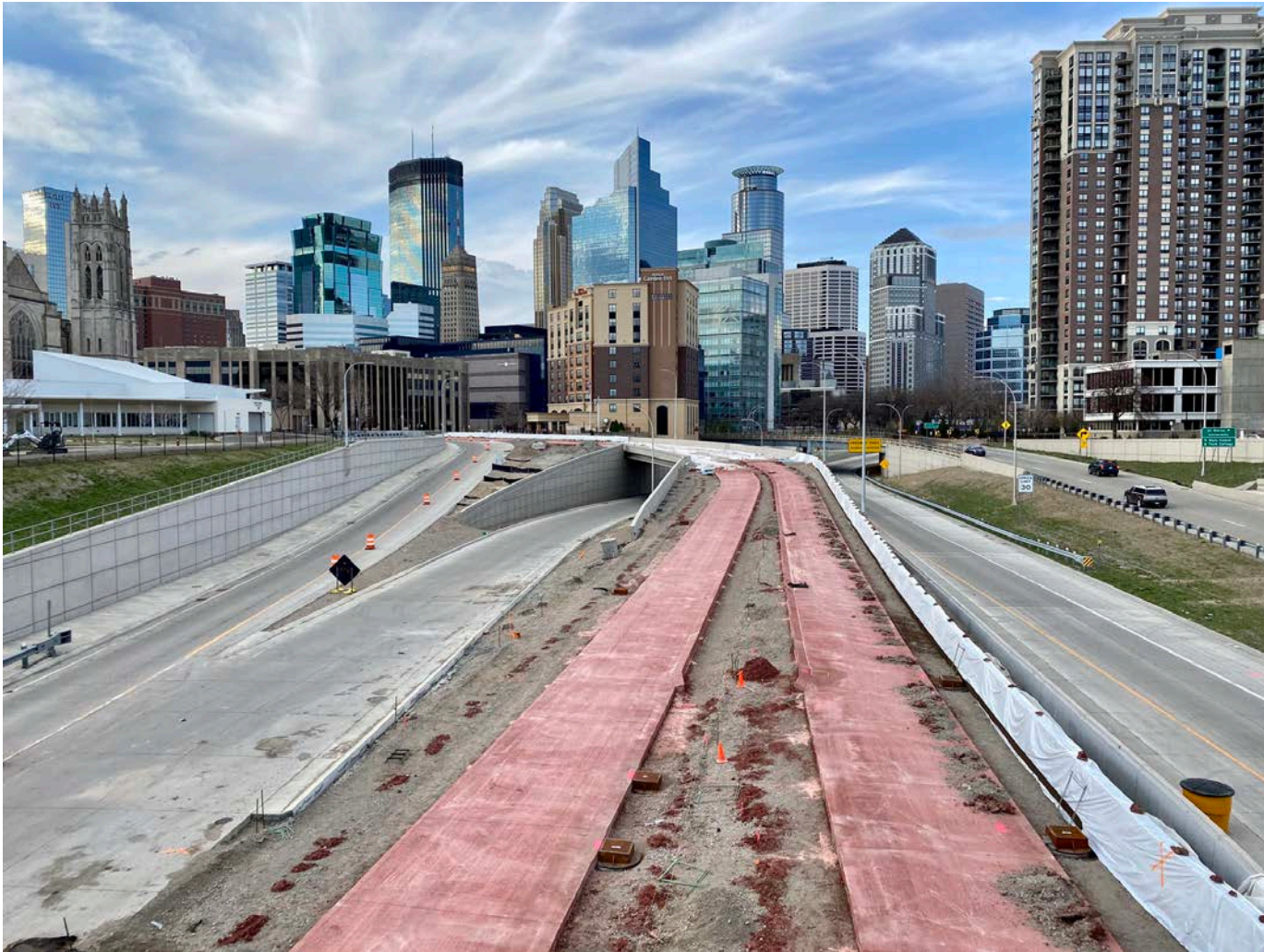
# Fare Collection Procurement

- July 2020- Selected “Light” ticket vending machine
  - Already used on arterial BRT system
  - Smaller footprint- like an on-street parking meter pay station
  - Adds redundancy- using two light TVMs instead of one “full” TVM per station
  - Comfortable with operations and maintenance in this region
  - Recent technology improvements make this an increasingly attractive option
- Cost per unit- \$13,350 vs. \$115,000 “full” TVM
- Project-level cost savings estimated at \$1.8M

*Validator and 2 light TVMs shown at existing A Line Station*



# Construction Update: 12<sup>th</sup> Street Ramp



*Red concrete poured for 12<sup>th</sup> Street Ramp, April 2020*



# Construction Update: Lake Street

- Freeway level
  - Transit bridge structure complete
  - Structural steel placed; bolting and welding work continues
- Lake Street level
  - No major damage weekend of May 29
  - Finalizing concrete footings at north station side, elevator steel complete
  - South station close behind
- Completing building envelope for winter interior work



*Future station interior, September 2020*

# Rendering of I-35W & Lake Street Station





# Construction Update: Lake Street Station



*Looking north, September 2, 2020*



*Team Photo, September 2, 2020*

# Construction Update: Lake Street Station



June 15, 2020



Sept 4, 2020

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/35w94/webcam.html>



# Construction Update: Lake Street Station



*Station street level and elevator, September 2020*



*Plaza and hidewall footing, September 2020*



# Construction Update: Knox Avenue Underpass

- Utilities relocated 2019-early 2020
- North half construction 2020
  - Footings and walls complete
  - Two roof sections complete
- South half construction 2021
  - Minor utility work underway
  - Piling, footings late 2020
  - Walls, roof, paving 2021
- SB 35W to WB 494 Ramp Closed-reopening targeted by Thanksgiving 2020 (began 4/25/2020)
- Overnight Work Sept 9-11, 2020-Westbound I-494 reduced to 1 lane during overnight hours

*Knox tunnel construction, looking southeast, September 4, 2020*



# Construction Update: Knox Avenue



*May 14, 2020 Looking southeast*



*Sept 1, 2020 Looking southeast*



# Construction Update: Knox Avenue



*Sept 4, 2020 Looking southwest*





# Construction Update: Stations

- Construction began June 2020
- Early focus at Knox/American Blvd and 98th Street Stations
- Work to continue through 2021

*Rendering of I-35W & 66<sup>th</sup> Street northbound station*



# Construction Update: 66th St Station



*Aug 7, 2020 Looking north*



# Construction Update: American Blvd Station



*Sept 4, 2020 Looking west*



*Sept 4, 2020 Looking south*



# Construction Update: 98th St Station



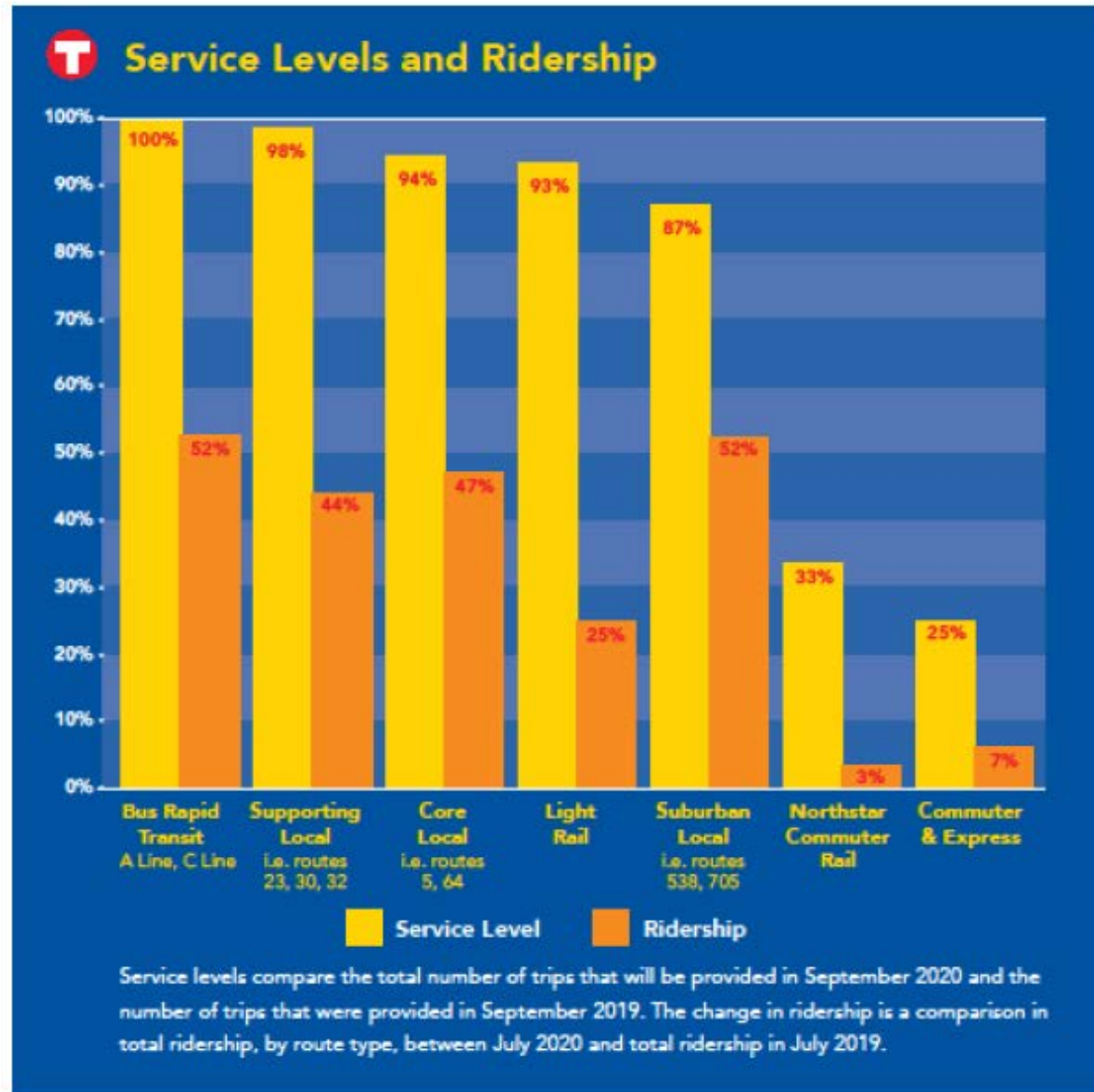
*Sept 4, 2020 Looking southwest*



*Sept 4, 2020 Looking southwest*

# COVID-19 Impacts

- No COVID-related construction impacts to date
- Safe practices by all
- September service changes
  - Route 535 increased to 15-minute peak frequency
  - Several 35W express routes reduced or suspended



# Six Month Look Ahead

- Continue community engagement using online platforms, in-person as needed
- Complete 2020 major construction and prepare for winter conditions
- Prepare for 2021 construction activities
  - Burnsville stations
  - Shelters, technology, commissioning
- Procure buses and ticket machines
- Prepare for revenue service next winter!



*METRO Orange Line Team, September 2020*