



Network Now & Orange Line Updates

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I-35W Solutions Alliance

Network Now Framework 2025-2027 Service Improvements

Improves:

- New or redesigned routes
- Frequency or span improvements
- METRO line investments
- Microtransit

Resolves:


- Status of routes that are were suspended (some since 2020)
- Facility closure needs

Builds upon data:

- **Performance:** details network performance, changes since 2019, and opportunities
- **Policy:** regional policy guidance from the Metropolitan Council applied
- **Engagement:** multiple rounds of engagement from values to specifics with nearly 8,000 comments

How we connected in 2024

- 25 community events
 - Includes events held primarily in other languages
- 35 municipal and county public briefings
- 15 committee and other presentations
- 420 hours of onboard and transit center intercept work with material handed to over 4,000 customers
- Rider alerts, interior cards, newsletters, social media, partner collaboration and more
- Nearly 1,600 comments were received



Comment Form Draft Concept Plan

NetworkNOW T

Over the past two years, Metro Transit has used public input to shape this draft plan. Based on the comments we receive, we will update the plan and share it this winter. Please share your comments below, or, to learn more, visit metrotransit.org/NetworkNow.

1. The use of service proposed in Network Now meets my travel needs.

☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ Disagree
☒ Agree
☐ Strongly Agree

2. Metro Transit is proposing service in Network Now that meets where I need to travel.

☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ Disagree
☒ Agree
☐ Strongly Agree

If not, at what time would you like to see service improvements?

Sometimes I need to wait 30 min between 2 buses

3. Metro Transit is proposing service in Network Now that meets where I need to travel.

☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ Disagree
☒ Agree
☐ Strongly Agree

If not, where would you like to see service improvements?

4. Compared to today, do these service improvements make you (check one)




☒ More likely to use transit
☐ Less likely to use transit
☐ The same as today (no change)

5. Please let us know what you most like about the plan.





Bus - timing - no delay

6. Please let us know what you most like to see changed or added.

What we heard and what we're changing (1 of 2)

Comments	Network Now Change	Specifics	Included
Support for investments in the METRO network	10-minute service throughout the week for longer periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B, E, G, Line implementation and Green Line extension Gold Line Extension 10-minute frequency, replaces Route 94 (2027) 	
More frequency or hours of service	Added frequency and service related to themes requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More hours of high-frequency service on 26 routes 18 routes will start earlier in the morning/end later in the evening. Saturday and/or Sunday frequency improvements on over 60 routes 	
Express routes with all day service	Improved mid-day frequency on express routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-minute service during rush hours and hourly midday service for five key commuter express routes 	

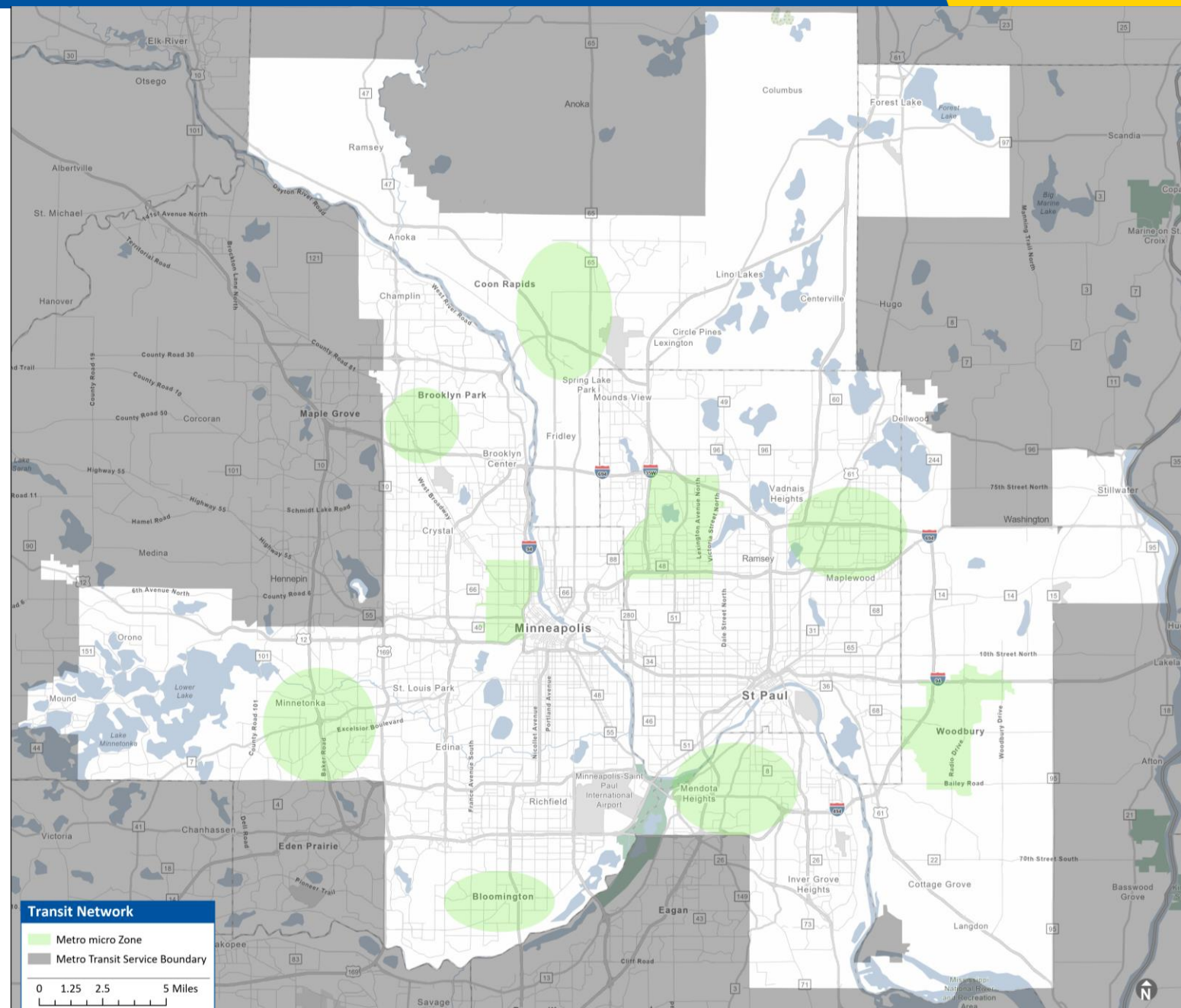
What we heard and what we're changing (2 of 2)

Comments	Network Now Change	Specifics	Included
More service later at night	Added service and increased frequency later in the evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service after 1 a.m. on Routes 10, 18, C and D Lines 30-minute service until last trip on high frequency routes 	
Suburban to suburban connections	Added frequency and restored service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most suburban local routes operate every 30 minutes or better All suburban local routes operate routes every 60 minutes or better 	
Desired connections	Route restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restored routes 27, 115, 134, 156, 223, 579, 587, 652, 672, 758, 765, and 766 	
Route simplification	Removed branches / patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simpler structure of several routes 	
More micro service	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to work with stakeholder in defining micro zones 	

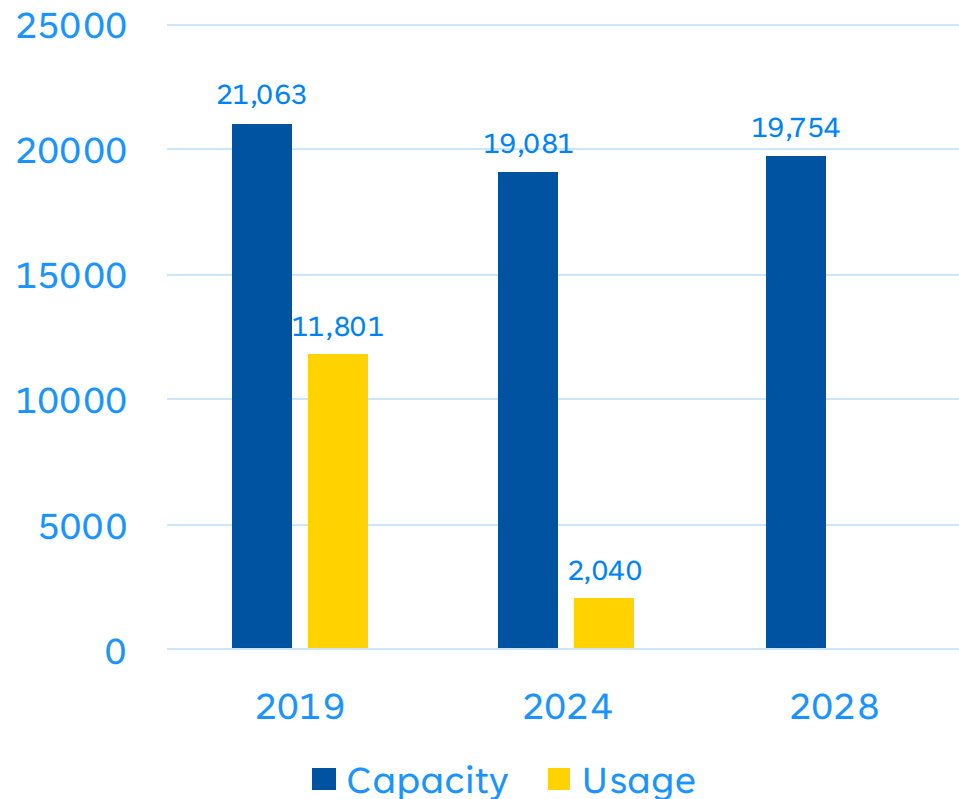
Metro micro project expansion

Objectives:

- Areas difficult to effectively serve with fixed route
- Connect to greater network at Transit Centers and Transitway Stations
- Mobile App enabled

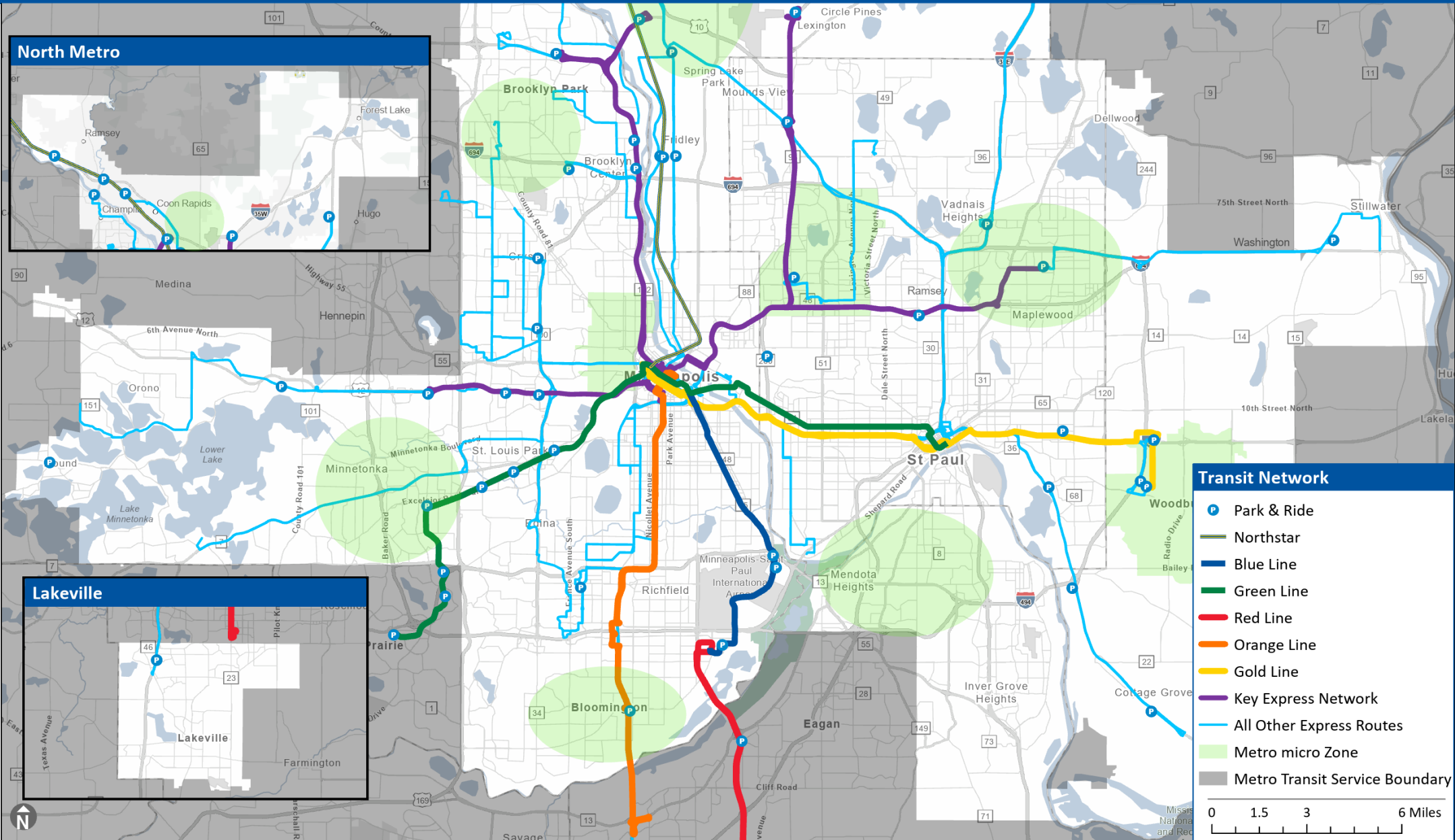


Metro Transit Park & Ride System



Timeframe	Locations	Capacity
2019 System	72	21,063
<i>2019-2024 closures</i>	<i>-15</i>	<i>-1,982</i>
2024 System	57	19,081
<i>2025-2027 closures</i>	<i>-16</i>	<i>-1,710</i>
<i>2025-2027 openings</i>	<i>+10</i>	<i>+2,383</i>
2028 System	51	19,754

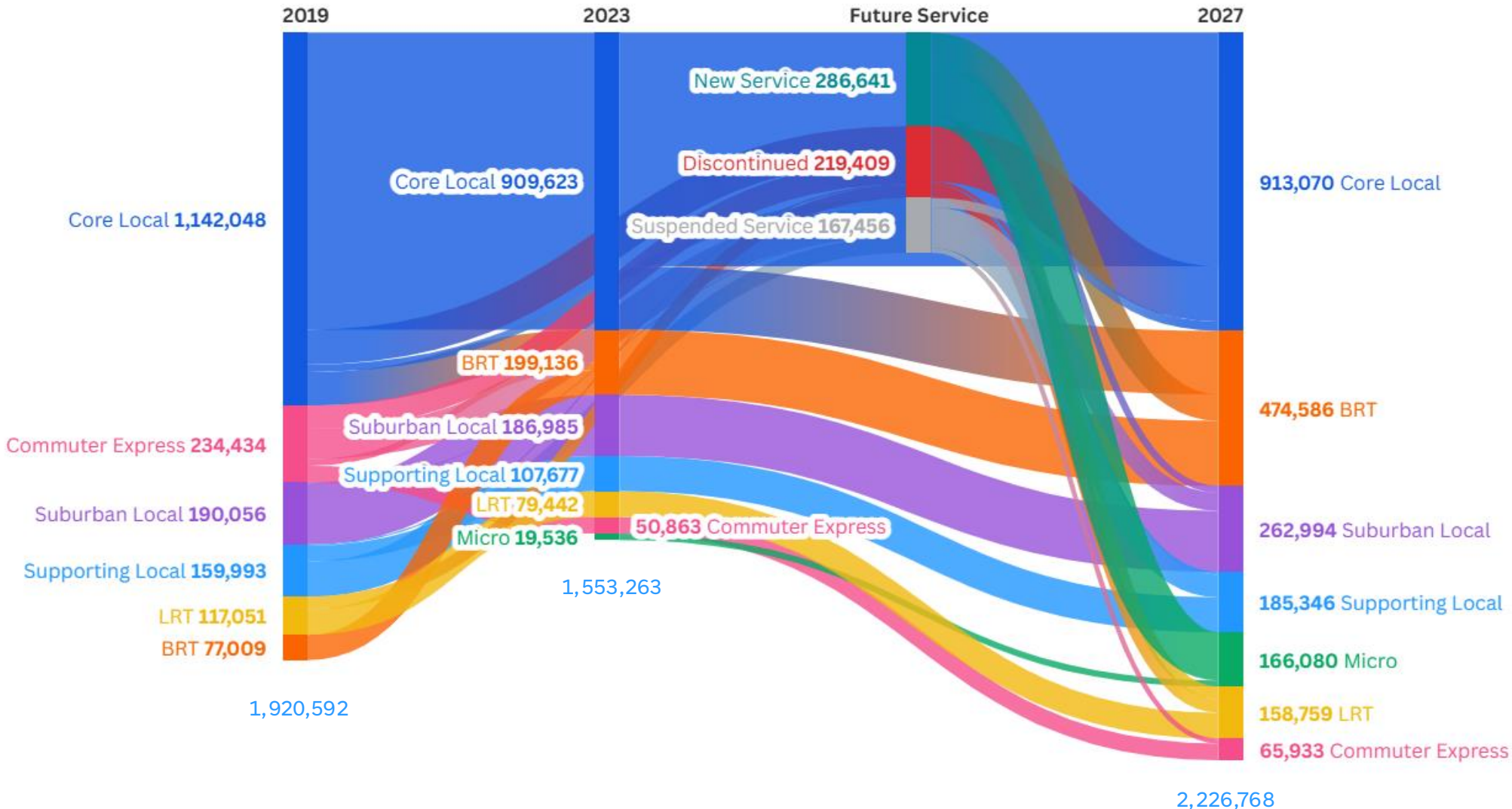
Commuter Oriented Service Network



Key Express Network

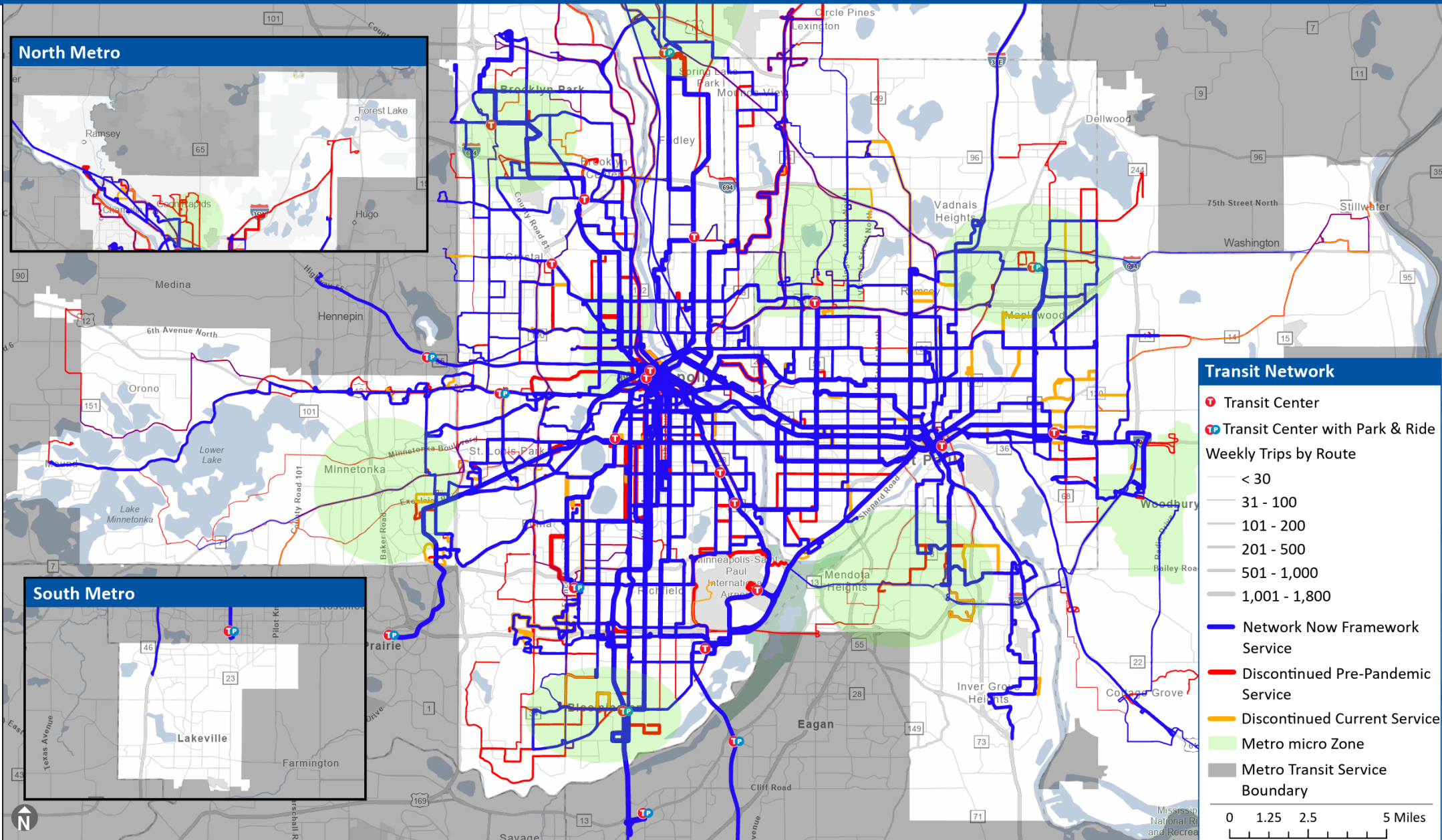
- 15" service during highest ridership of rush hours
- Hourly midday bi-directional service
- Serves all major highway corridors
- Rt 250, 270, 673, 768, and 850

In-Service Hour Changes: increase ~5% over Concept



- **Framework**
40% increase from 2023
- **March 2025 Pick** 7% increase from 2023

Network Now Framework by Number of Weekly Trips

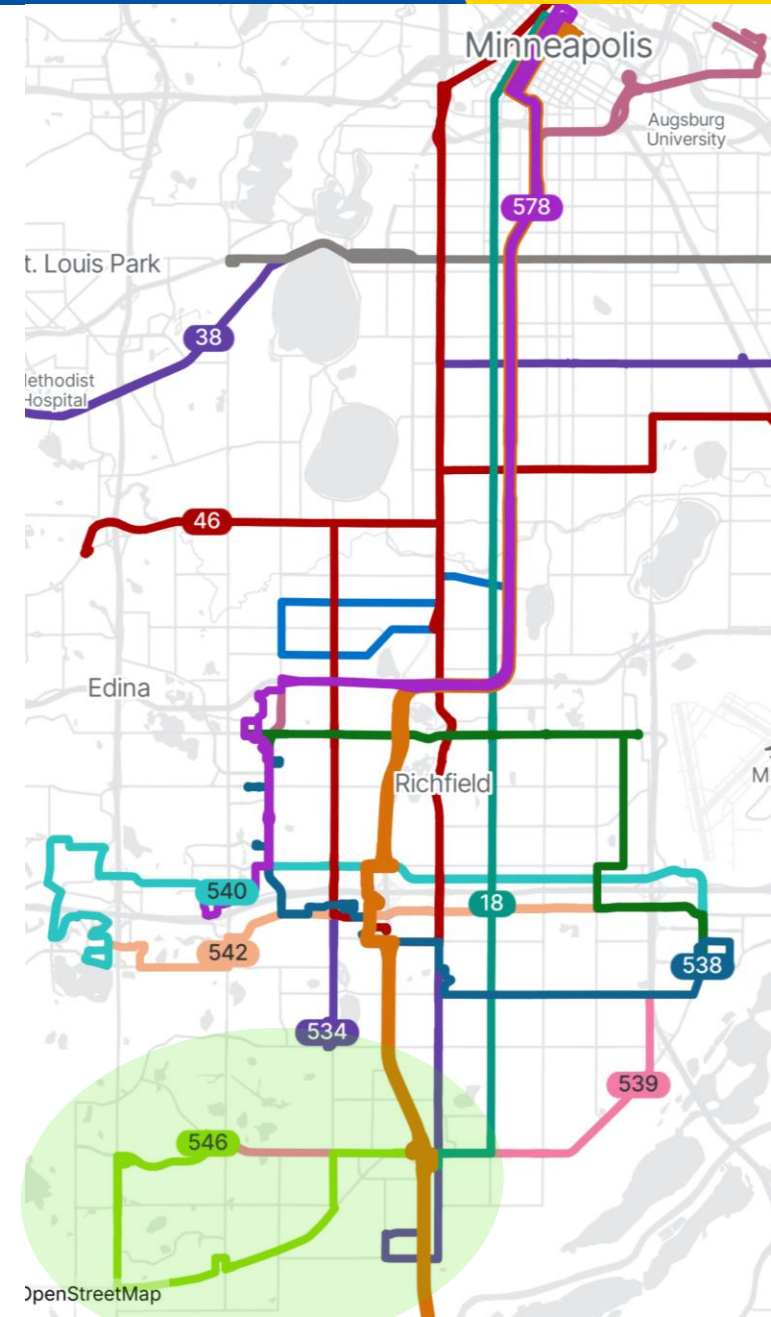


Network Now framework invests in frequent service

- 70+ routes improved frequency or span
- 26 routes with service 15"
- LRT 10-minute frequency
- 8 new micro zones
- 12 routes restored

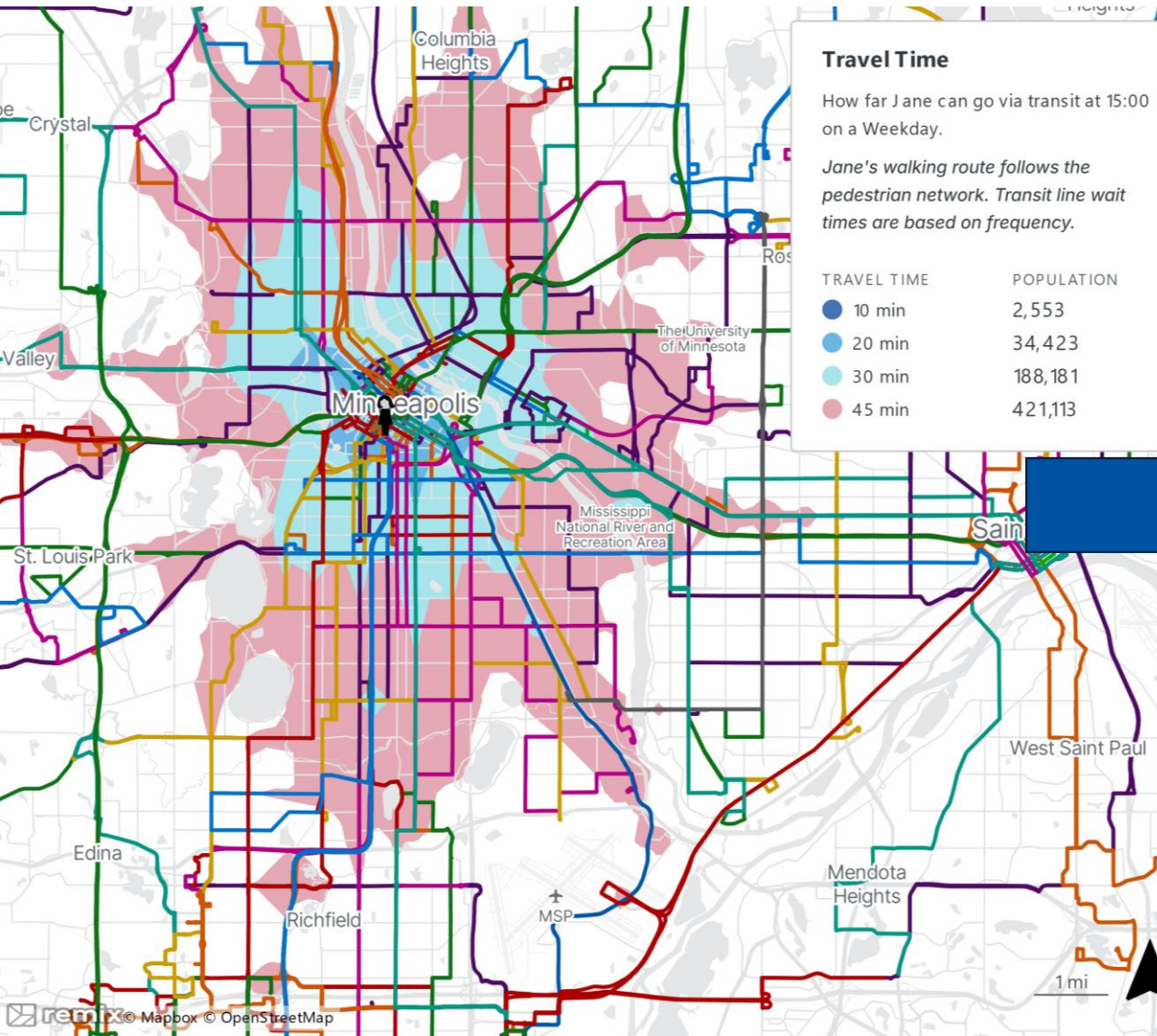
Network Now Changes Impacting I-35W

- METRO Service
 - Orange Line: Frequency increased to 15 min during weekends and weekday midday. Frequency increased to 10 min during rush hour
 - B Line: Connecting route on Lake St starting in June 2025
- Express Service
 - Route 156: Will be restored
 - Route 578: Two trips added each rush hour
 - Route 579: Will be restored
- Connecting Local Service
 - Routes 38 & 46 every 15 min during rush hour, 30 min all day
 - Route 4, 18, 515 every 15 min or better all day
 - Routes 534, 538, 539, 540, 542, & 546 every 30 min all-day weekdays
- Micro Zone
 - Anchored at 98th St. Station

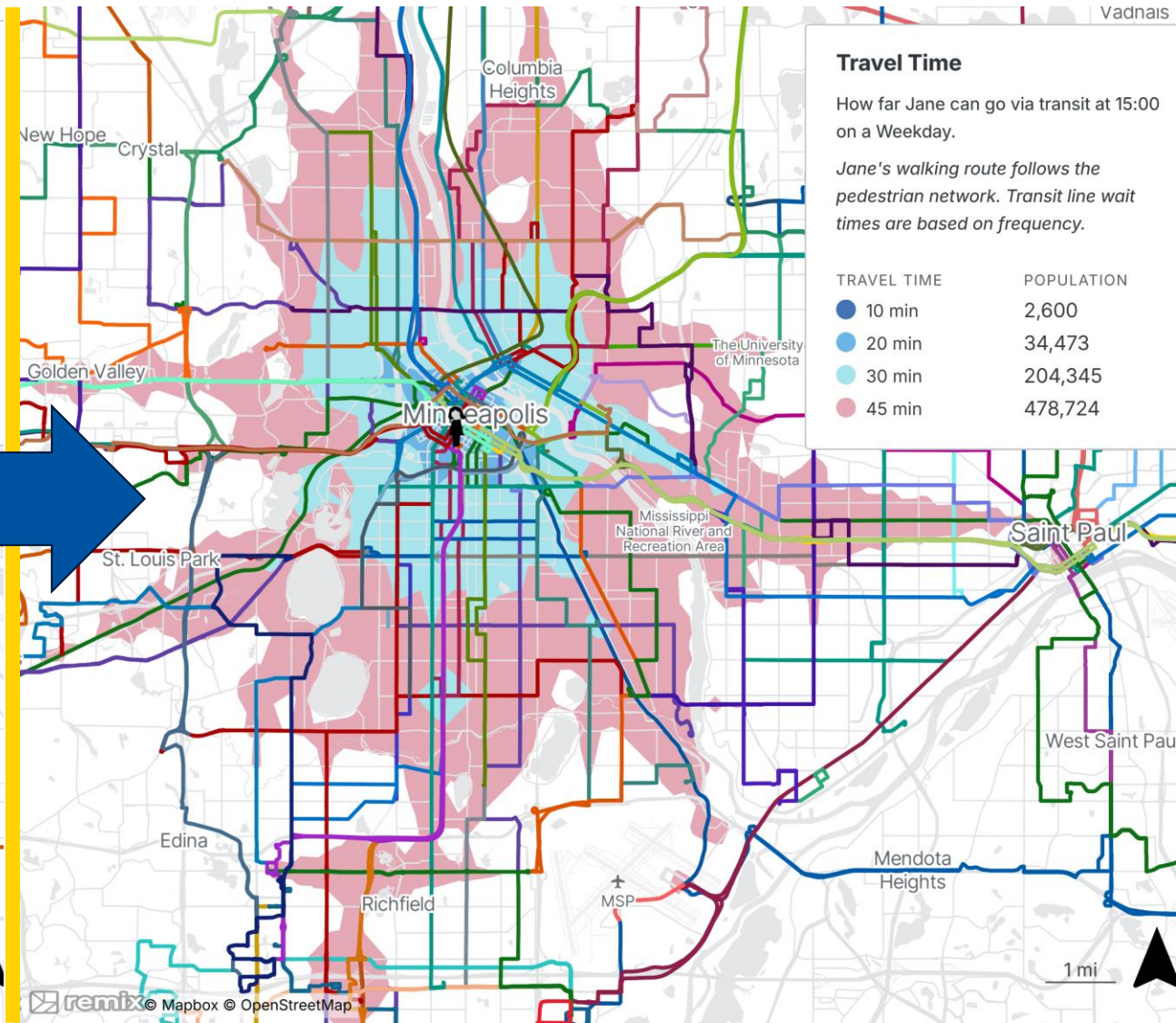


Expanding Access with Network Now

2019

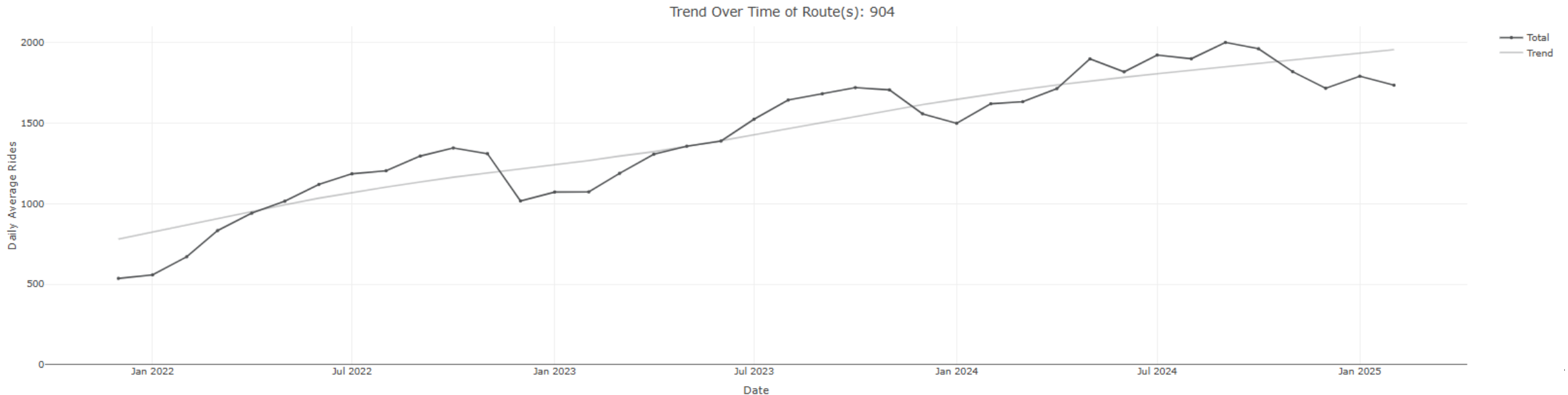


2027



Existing METRO Orange Line Service

- Orange Line has seen significant ridership growth, 27% increase in ridership since 2023, 228% since opening day
 - 1,800 average weekday riders, over 1,000 on weekends
- Implemented increases in frequency to 15 min during weekends and weekday midday, 10 minute during weekday rush hour



Next Steps

- Specific changes will be implemented as part of quarterly regular service changes in 2025 – 2027.
- Improvements sequenced on METRO line implementation, bus fleet and operator availability, ridership growth
- For discontinued service, remove signs, close park-and-rides, and update system maps
- 2026 progress report

Full project report available at metrotransit.org/network-now



Route 3

Network**NOW**

Planned Schedule

	Rush Hour	Midday	Evening	Night
Weekday	10 - 15	10-15	15	15-60
Saturday	15-30	15	15	15-60
Sunday	15-30	15	15	15-60

Note: frequencies (shown in minutes) are for the main portion of the route and intended as guidelines.

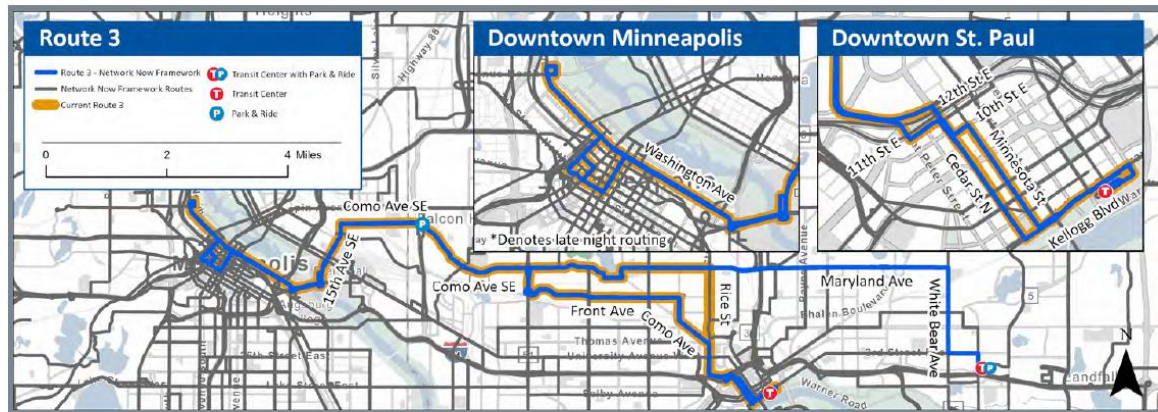
Route Information

Service changes:

- Weekdays: Frequency will be adjusted to every 30 minutes during late nights from downtown Minneapolis to Como Ave. & Eustis St.
- Sundays: Frequency will be improved from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes between downtown Minneapolis and Como Ave./Snelling Ave. Frequency will be improved from every 60 minutes to every 30 minutes between downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul.
- Route 3A will no longer serve downtown St. Paul. Instead, it will continue Maryland Ave. to White Bear Ave. and Sun Ray Transit Center.
- Route 3A riders will need to transfer at Rice St. & Maryland Ave. to Route 62 or G Line that will run every 15 minutes to get to downtown St. Paul.

Areas the route serves:

- Route 3 serves portions of Washington Ave. in downtown Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota, Como Ave., Front Ave., downtown St. Paul, Union Depot Transit Center, and will include Maryland Ave., White Bear Ave., and Sun Ray Transit Center.
- Transfers can be made at Marquette Ave. to Orange Line, Cedar St. to Green Line, Snelling Ave. to A Line, and will be possible at Sun Ray Transit Center to Gold Line, University Ave. to E Line, Rice St. to G Line, and 5th St./6th St. to B Line and Gold Line.



APPENDIX A: INDIVIDUAL ROUTE CHANGES

Route 2	Route 46	Route 118	Route 288	Route 540	Route 672	Route 801
Route 3	Route 53	Route 129	Route 291	Route 542	Route 673	Route 802
Route 4	Route 54	Route 134	Route 294	Route 546	Route 677	Route 804
Route 5	Route 58	Route 135	Route 301	Route 547	Route 679	Route 805
Route 6	Route 59	Route 141	Route 323	Route 552	Route 705	Route 817
Route 7	Route 61	Route 146	Route 350	Route 553	Route 716	Route 824
Route 8	Route 62	Route 156	Route 351	Route 554	Route 717	Route 825
Route 9	Route 63	Route 204	Route 352	Route 558	Route 721	Route 831
Route 10	Route 64	Route 215	Route 354	Route 578	Route 722	Route 850
Route 11	Route 65	Route 219	Route 355	Route 579	Route 723	Route 852
Route 12	Route 67	Route 221	Route 361	Route 587	Route 724	Route 854
Route 14	Route 68	Route 223	Route 363	Route 588	Route 725	Route 860
Route 16	Route 70	Route 225	Route 364	Route 589	Route 755	Route 865
Route 17	Route 71	Route 227	Route 365	Route 604	Route 756	Northstar
Route 18	Route 74	Route 229	Route 375	Route 612	Route 757	Blue Line
Route 19	Route 75	Route 250	Route 415	Route 615	Route 758	Green Line
Route 21	Route 80	Route 252	Route 417	Route 643	Route 760	Red Line
Route 22	Route 83	Route 261	Route 452	Route 645	Route 761	Orange Line
Route 23	Route 84	Route 262	Route 467	Route 652	Route 762	Gold Line
Route 25	Route 87	Route 263	Route 501	Route 663	Route 763	A Line
Route 27	Route 94	Route 264	Route 515	Route 664	Route 764	B Line
Route 30	Route 111	Route 265	Route 534	Route 667	Route 765	C Line
Route 32	Route 113	Route 270	Route 537	Route 668	Route 766	D Line
Route 33	Route 114	Route 272	Route 538	Route 670	Route 767	E Line
Route 38	Route 115	Route 275	Route 539	Route 671	Route 768	G Line

Network**NOW**

Thank You

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