



Network Now Implementation

2025 Year-in-Review & 2026 Look-Ahead

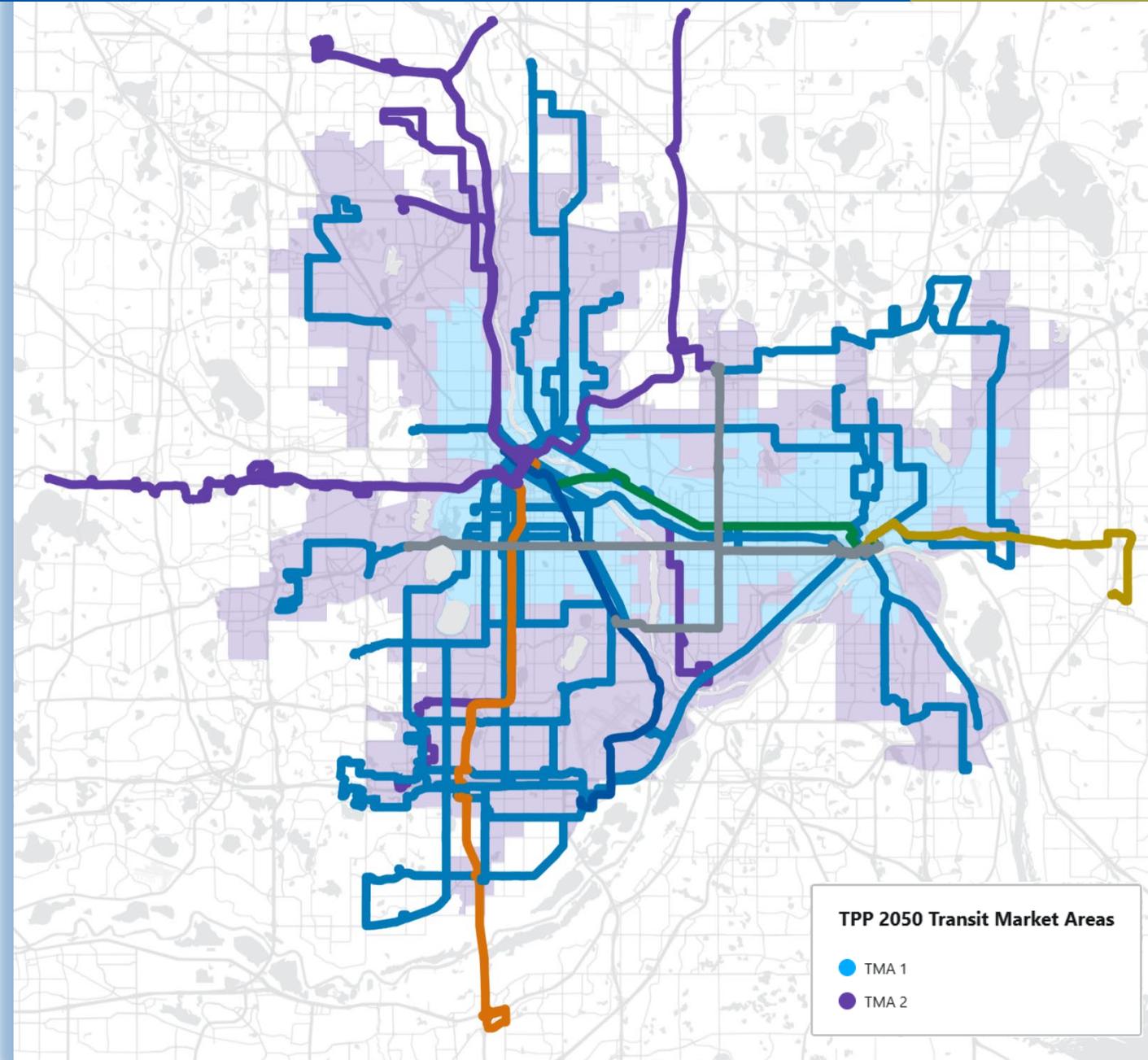
Jonathan Ahn, Assistant Director, Route and System Planning
I-35W Solutions Alliance | January 8, 2026



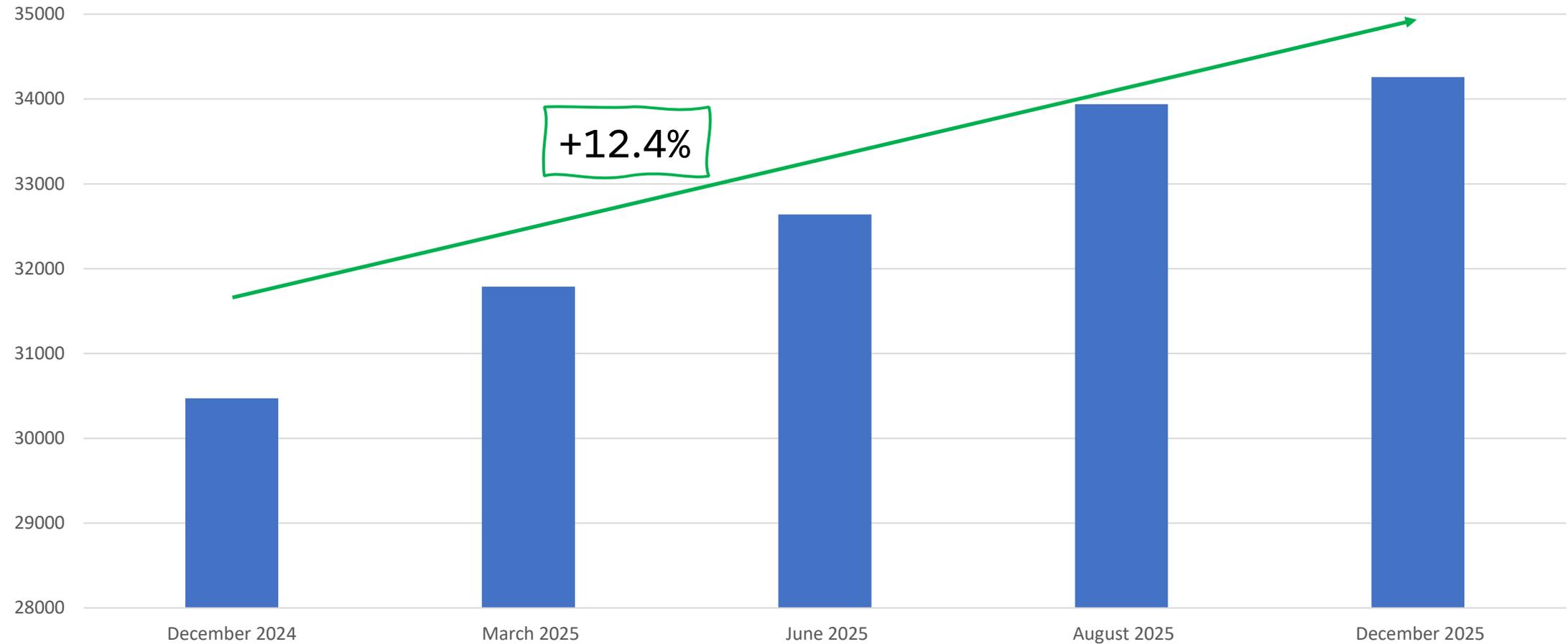
What we did

Routes with Service Improvements

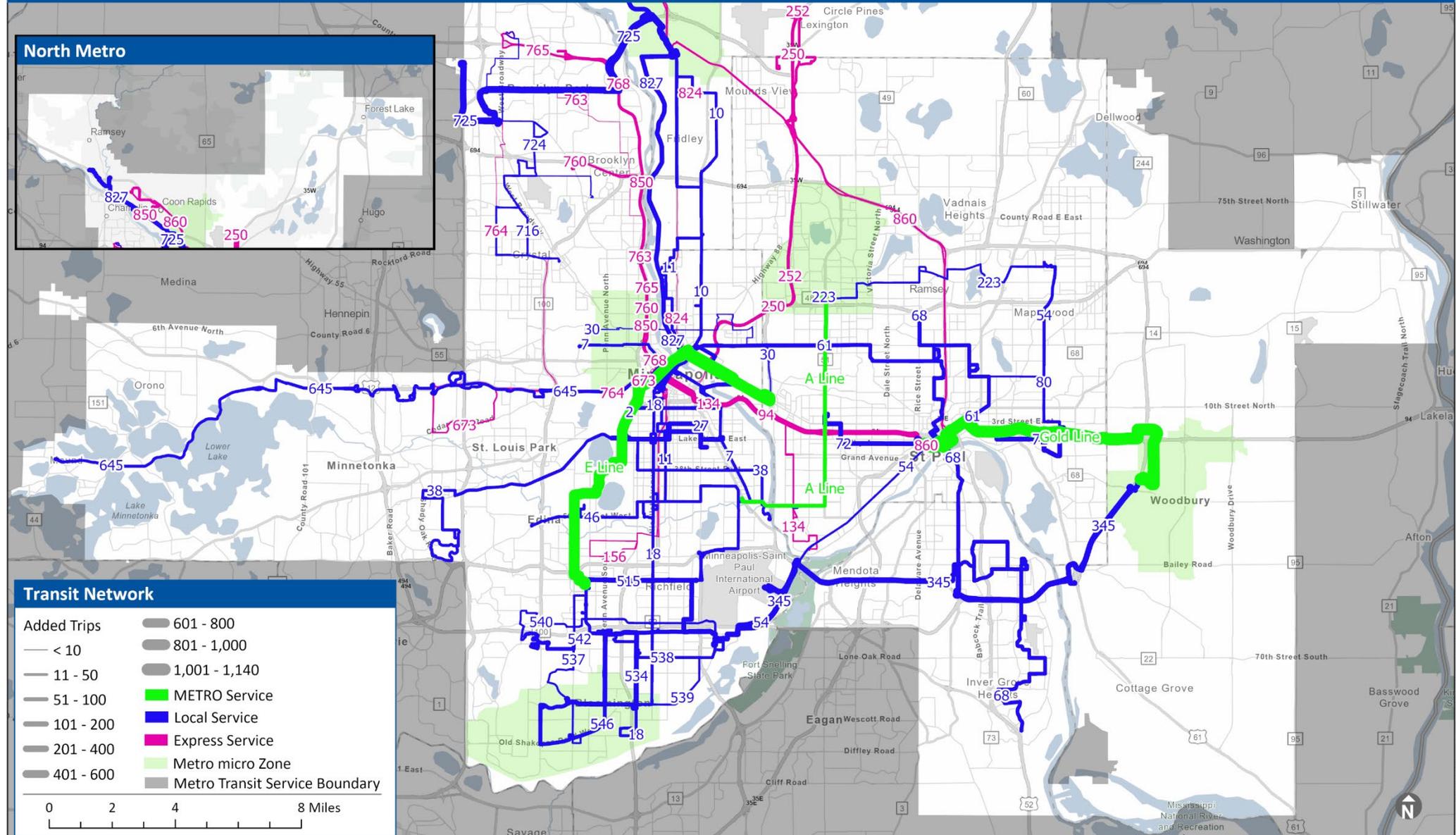
- 2025 Focus
 - Strengthening the network with frequency improvements
 - All-day express network
 - New route coverage
 - New Metro micro coverage
- Region-wide impact
 - Gold, B and E Lines
- Most improvements in TMAs 1 and 2
 - Select improvements in TMA 3



Weekly Service Hours



Dec 2024 - Dec 2025 Added Trips by Route





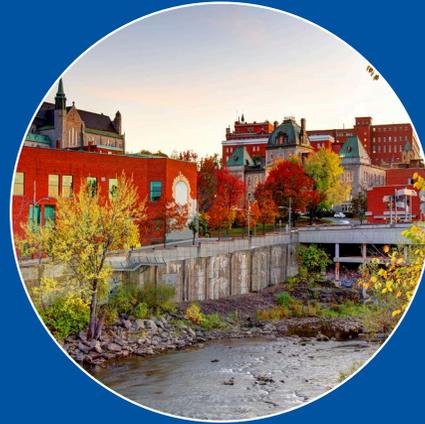
March 2025

- Gold Line
- Implement skip stops in downtown Saint Paul



June 2025

- B Line
 - New Routes 27, 38, & 72
 - Restored Route 860
- Route 7 Better Bus Routes
- 10-min service improvements on A Line, Route 2, Route 10
- New weekend and evening service on Rt 94



August 2025

- Route 61 Better Bus Routes
- Restored Routes 134 and 765
- Route 68 frequency improvements
- **Bloomington service improvements**
- Bloomington, Blaine Metro micro
- Implement KEN
 - 250, 673, & 768

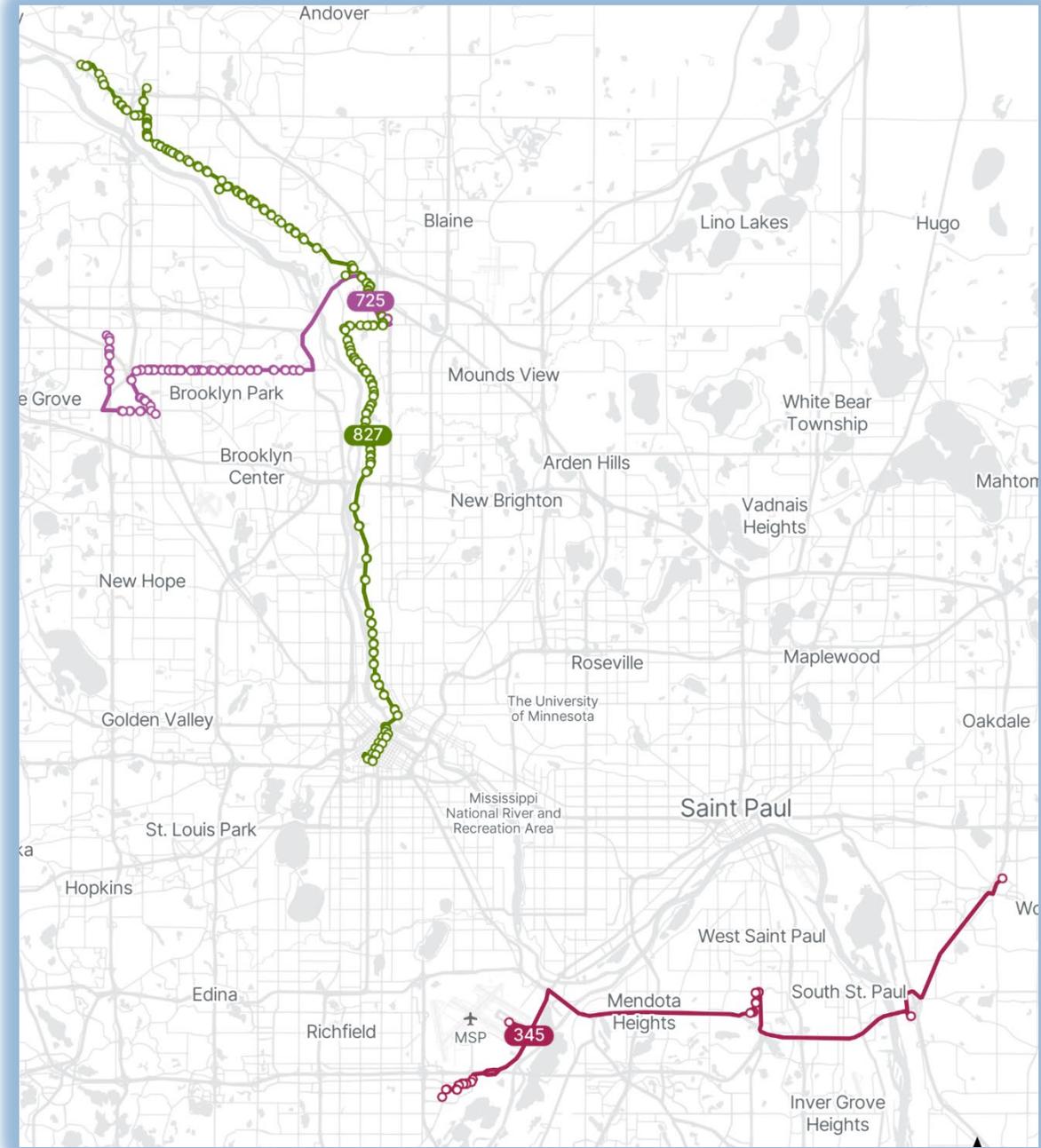


December 2025

- **E Line**
 - **New route 36**
- Northstar bus launch (882, 888 in Jan 2026)
- New Routes 156, 345, 725, and 827
- Alignment adjustments on Routes 27, 67, 72, and 645
- Route 9 frequency improvement Sunday

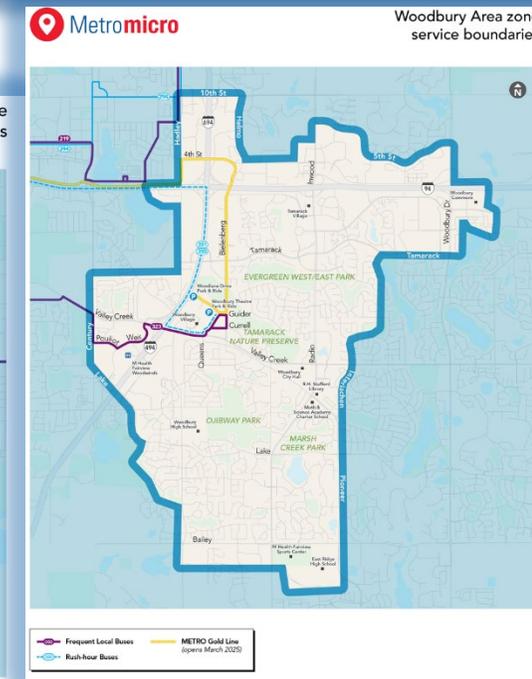
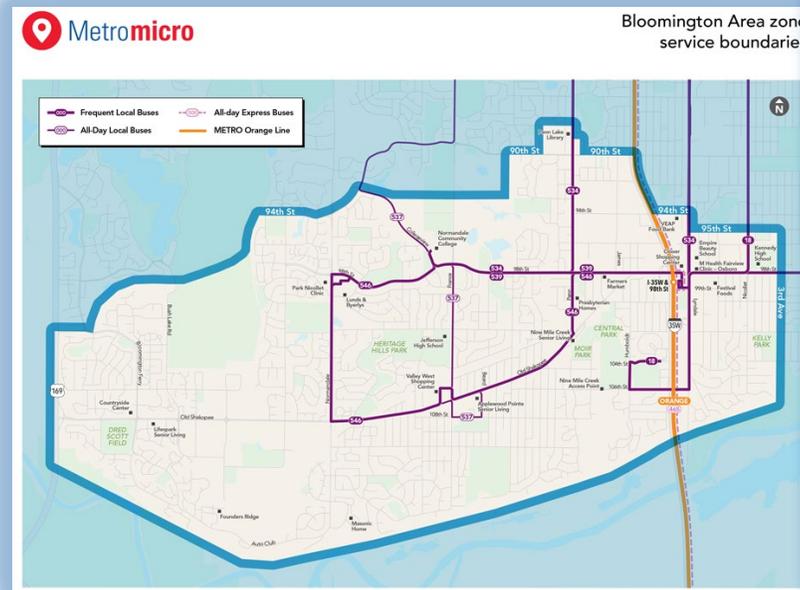
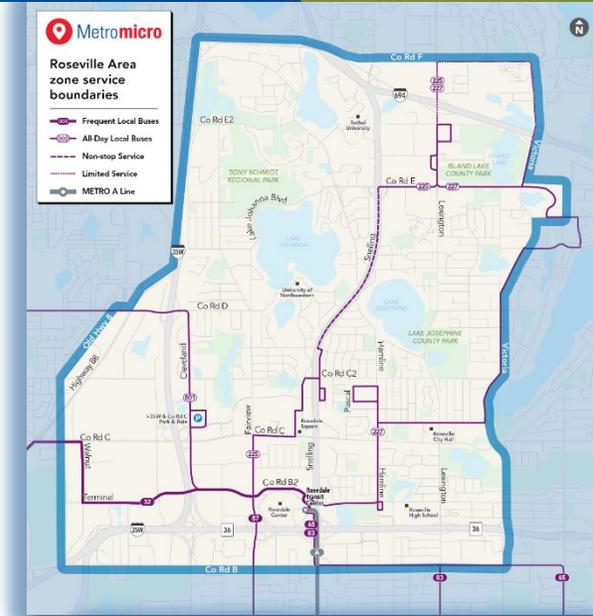
New Coverage Dec 2025

- Route 725
 - Crosstown to Osseo, Brooklyn Park, Coon Rapids, and Blaine
 - Hourly trips, all days
- Route 345
 - Serving Mall of America, MSP Airport, West. St. Paul, Newport, Woodbury
 - Hourly trips, all days
- Route 827
 - New routing along East River Rd / Marshall St south of 694
 - 30-minute service during peak, hourly during middays and Saturdays



Metro micro

- Four new zones opened
 - Roseville, Woodbury Area zones in January 2025
 - Bloomington, Blaine Area zones in Fall 2025
- 155,000+ completed boardings
- 10,500+ new riders created
- Almost 60 square miles of coverage
 - Majority of service areas which previous had no regular transit access



Bus Ridership Recovery

Service Day	September 2025 Recovery*	September 2025 In-Service Hours
Weekday	60%	87%
Saturday	82.7%	107.2%
Sunday	91.3%	121.3%

* % of September 2019 Ridership

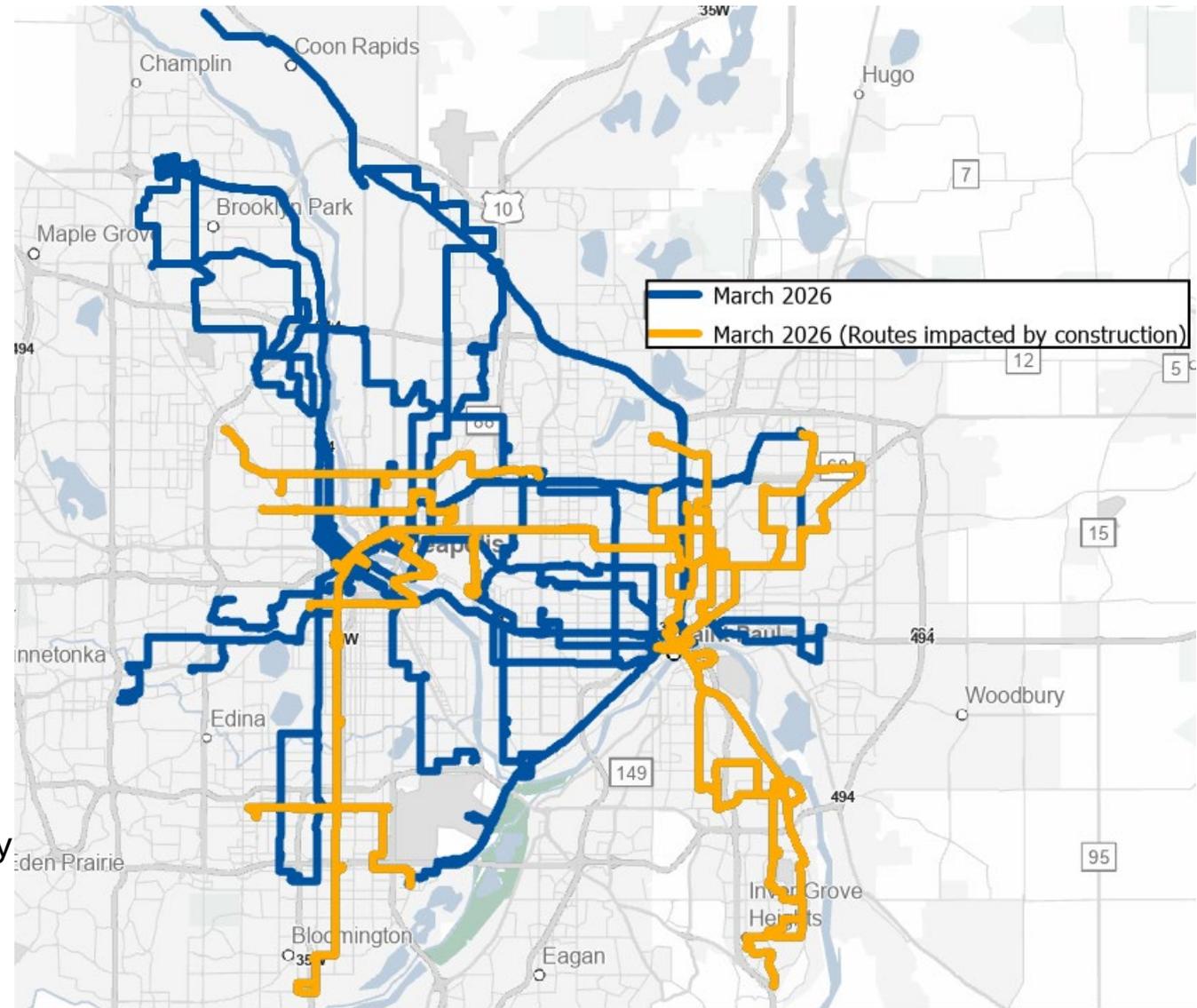


2026 Look-Ahead

(as of January 2026)

March 2026

- Construction Schedule
- Service Improvements
 - Route 22
 - 15" base frequency
 - Route 94
 - 15" peak frequency
 - Route 270 (Key Express Network)
 - 15" peak + hourly bi-directional mid-day



June/August/December 2026

- **June 2026**

- Renew the Blue (BLSOGR3)
 - Improved Rail Replacement Bus Service
- Northstar Transition Phase 2
 - Additional service adjustments and restructuring in Anoka/Coon Rapids/Fridley
- Better Bus Route 14
 - Introducing Route 48

- **August 2026**

- Better Bus Route 74
- U of M Express Routes Improvements

- **December 2026**

- Construction Schedule cancel out
- Local routes night frequency improvements

2026 Service Planning Initiatives

- **Network 2**

- Next iteration of our short- to mid-term service plan (2029 – 2032)
- Build upon *Network Now* baseline
- Will guide our service investment priorities and prepare for METRO system growth

- **2027 Network Now Implementation**

- Focus on preparing for METRO transitway openings in 2027 including connecting bus service plans
 - Gold Line Extension + ● Green Line Extension + ● G Line (North, Phase 1)

Thank You!