

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

35 Solutions Alliance Update



SPEAKER INTRODUCTION



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AGENDA

- I. MVTA Overview
- II. System Ridership
- III. Park and Ride Utilization
- IV. MVTA Connect
- V. Event Services
- VI. Planning Decision Making
- VII. Outreach & Partnerships
- VIII. Future Plans



ABOUT MVTA

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) is the public transportation agency serving seven cities throughout the south metropolitan area, throughout Dakota and Scott counties, including Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Rosemount, Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee.

Services Provided:

- Fixed Routes – **25 routes**
 - Express/Reverse Commute
 - Local Service
- On-Demand
 - MVTA Connect
- Event Services
 - Sporting Events
 - Concerts
 - State Fair
 - Renaissance Festival



RIDERSHIP TRENDS

- **Ridership +7.8%**
 - Express +10.4%
 - Local -0.1%
 - Connect +33.7%
 - State Fair +17%
 - Ren Fest +8.3%
- **Park & Rides +21.1%**
 - **Top Park & Rides 2025**
 1. Maple Grove TS
 2. Apple Valley TS
 3. Burnsville TS



GROWTH AREAS

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

MVTA has partnered with local schools, employers, and destinations to improve service quality and spur ridership growth.

- 499: Shakopee High School and Southwest Intermediate School
- 420: Dakota County Technical College
- 436: Viking Lakes and Enjoy Eagan

DOWNTOWN COMMUTERS

As businesses return to the office, MVTA has service ready for commuters, leading to increasing ridership.

- In 2024, STPs had more express riders than Metro Transit (pre-COVID, STPs had less than half of Metro Transit's express ridership)
- 2025: Mpls express up 11.2%, St. Paul express up 13.2%

UMN SERVICE

Ridership has grown quickly on routes that serve the University of Minnesota, and MVTA has increased service to meet demand.

- 465: Ridership increasing
- 475: Added service in peak times to address overcrowding
- 490: Simplified route to add more UMN service

MVTA SERVICE CHANGE DECISION-MAKING OVERVIEW

MVTA operates primarily coverage-based service.

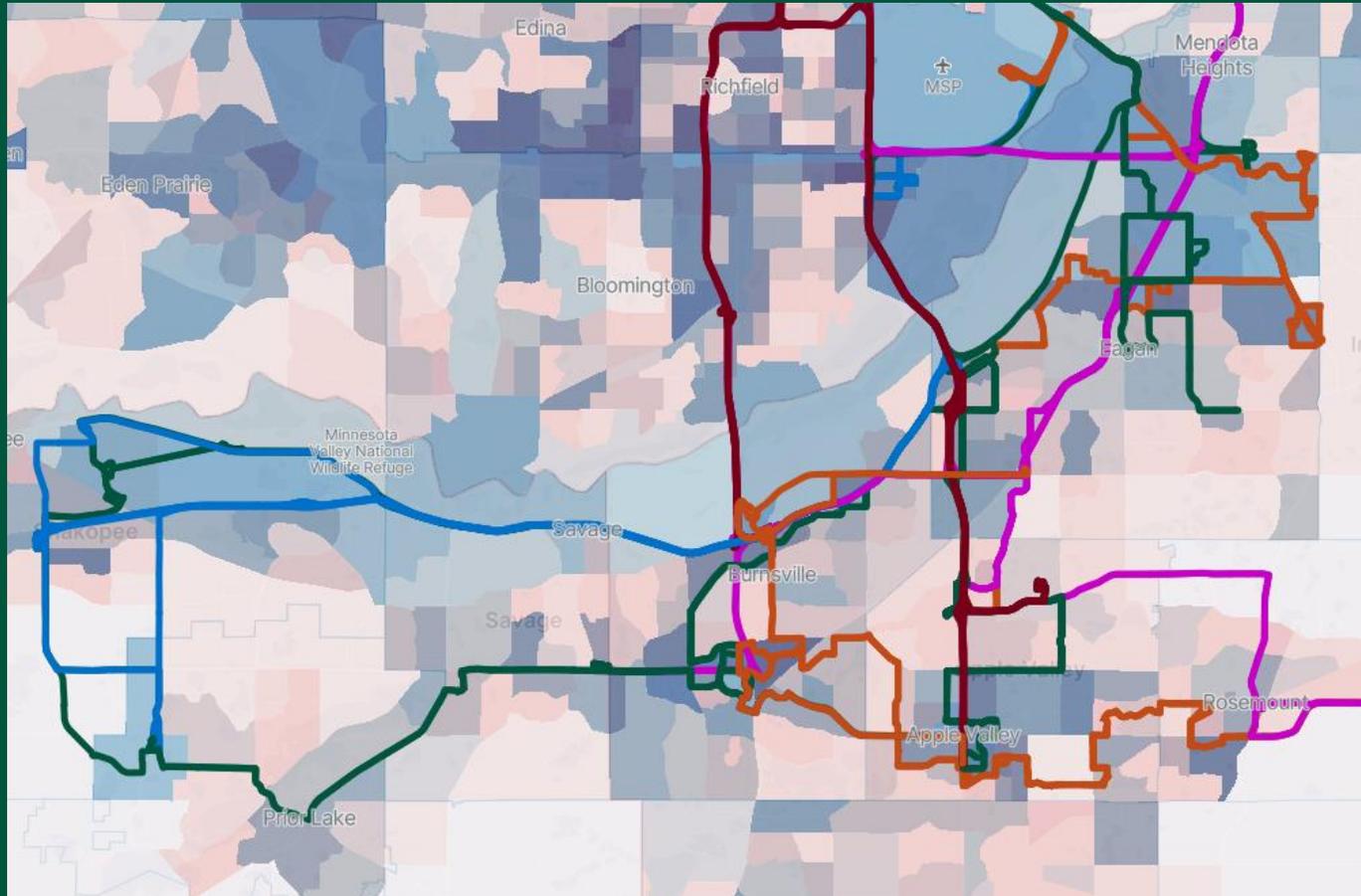
MVTA and other transit providers use many factors when considering service changes:

- Community and customer service feedback
- Ridership data and other relevant data
- Discussion with service area stakeholders
- Developments in the region
- Regional goals and plans
- Long-term service plans
- And more...

Eliminating service without a complete planning process can lead to negative community outcomes.



TRANSIT PROPENSITY INDEX (TPI) OVERVIEW VS. REGIONAL ROUTE PERFORMANCE



TPI Includes:

- Population & employment density
- Minority & low-income populations
- Zero-car households
- People with disabilities

OUTREACH AND RESULTS



- Worked closely with the cities of Rosemount and Apple Valley
- Held discussions with Dakota County Technical College (DCTC)
- Public outreach process garnered feedback to inform alterations
- Fall 2025: Major change to add DCTC and other important destinations

+40.3% ridership increase YOY following the change!



- Partnership with Viking Lakes, Eagan Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Added airport service to aid workforce, travelers, and residents
- Change also improved connectivity in Eagan, a common customer request

+51.6% monthly ridership increase YOY following the change!

2026 SERVICE PLANS

MVTA will be undergoing four service changes in 2026. Feedback will be gathered prior to any major changes via a public comment period. A preview of highlighted changes is below (*changes are not final and are contingent upon TPI review, public feedback, and funding availability*):

Spring 2026:

- Replacement of local weekend service in Shakopee with MVTA Connect
- Combining of 4FUN and 495 routes
- Alterations to Cedar Avenue service (including added Zoo service)

Summer 2026:

- Consolidation of Express services
- Introduction of Friday Express schedule
- Seasonal UMN reductions

Fall 2026:

- Return of full UMN service
- Improved regional connectivity

Winter 2026:

- Return of Buck Hill route



FUTURE SERVICE PLANS

- Enhance **regional connectivity** for riders
- Expand **MVTA Connect** service flexibility
- Increase options for express riders and **utilize successes (University service)**
- Maintain key event services and **explore expansion opportunities**
 - Including **Mystic Lake Amphitheater**



FUTURE SERVICE PLANS

Service Efficiency

- Continue a comprehensive **Local Service Analysis** to evaluate route performance and rider demand.

Five-Year Fleet Plan

- **Fleet Plan** focused on vehicle replacement and right-sizing. Ensure fleet investments support long-term service goals and community needs.

Partnerships and Pilot Programs to expand MVTA Connect service flexibility

- Strengthen rider opportunities through innovative collaborations, including:
 - Pursuing **grant-funded Autonomous Vehicle Pilot** opportunities
 - Partnering with **Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)** and transit providers to expand service options

QUESTIONS?

