



Network Now & Orange Line Updates

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for I-35W Solutions Alliance



Today's Agenda

- Network Now Framework: Progress Updates
 - Example Showcase: 2025 Bloomington Changes
- Orange Line: Ridership Trends
- Network Now 2026 Update
- 2027 Look-ahead

Network Now Implementation Project Goals

When all the improvements in the Network Now framework are operating the Twin Cities will have:

40%

more transit
service

27%

increased
access to jobs

70+ routes

will have
frequency or span
improvements

26

routes will have
15 minute or
better service

LRT service
will be back
to **10-minute**
frequency

8 new micro

zones and routes
with new coverage
will be operating

50 routes officially

discontinued and the
resources invested
into other service

12 suspended

routes will be
restored, among
other improvements

More options for
greener travel as
people reduce their
carbon emissions
by choosing transit

Network Now Implementation Progress Updates: Key Metrics

As of October 2026, compared to the December 2023 baseline, we have:

40% more service available

Network Now Baseline (Dec 2023)

23% increased

Improved frequency / span

50 routes improved

19 remaining

Increased frequent service

25 routes with 15-min frequency or better

1 remaining

Implemented Metro micro

1

5 new zones in operations

3 upcoming zones

Restored suspended routes

6 routes restored

6 remaining

Network Now Implementation

August 2025 Improvements in Bloomington



Simplify – reduce to just one pattern



Improve frequency – minimum of 60 min service



Consistency – same frequency level all day

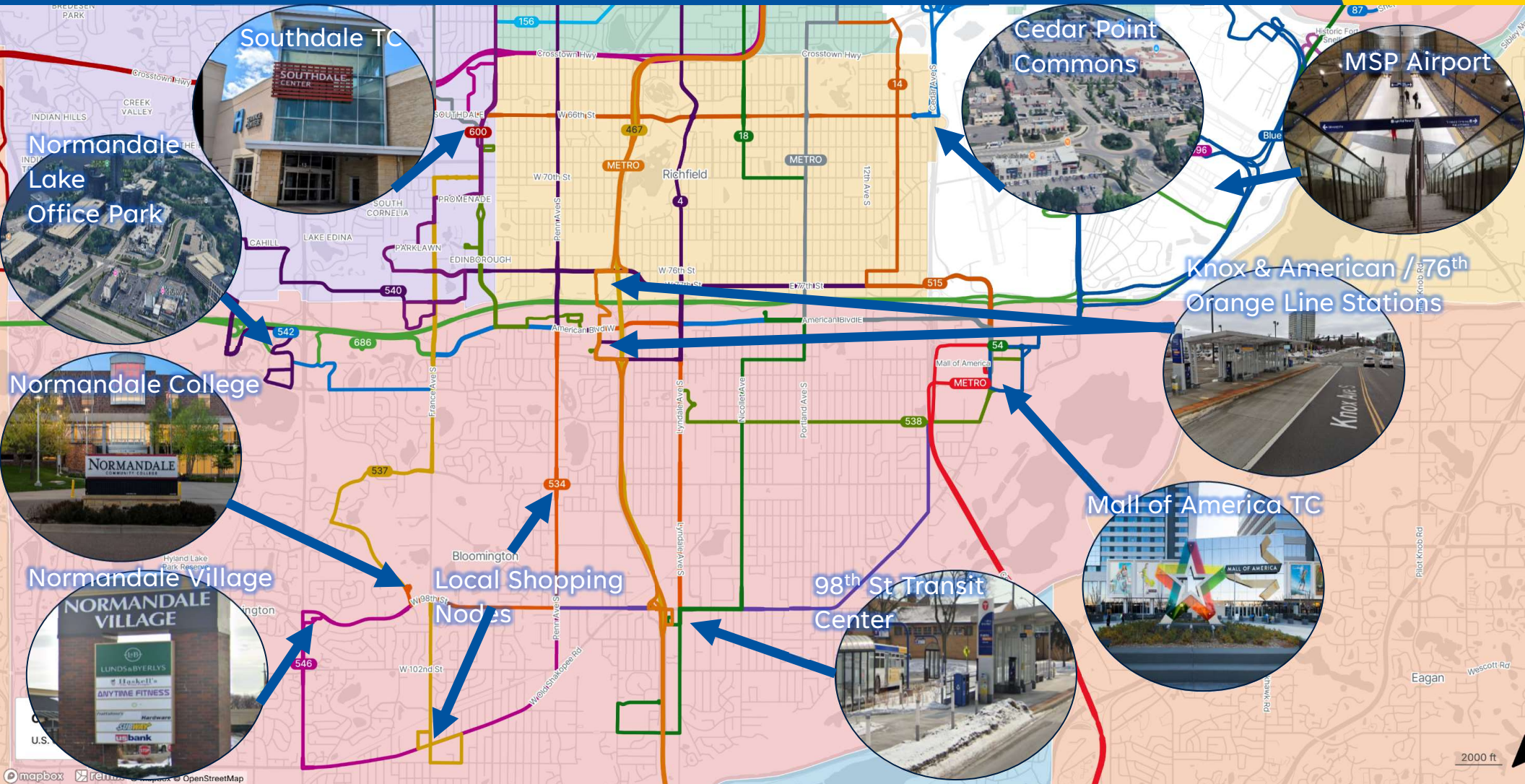


Improve span – service most of the day where market supported



Implement micro – offer demand-responsive transit where fixed route demand diminishes

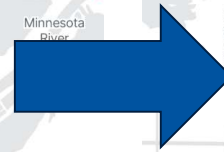
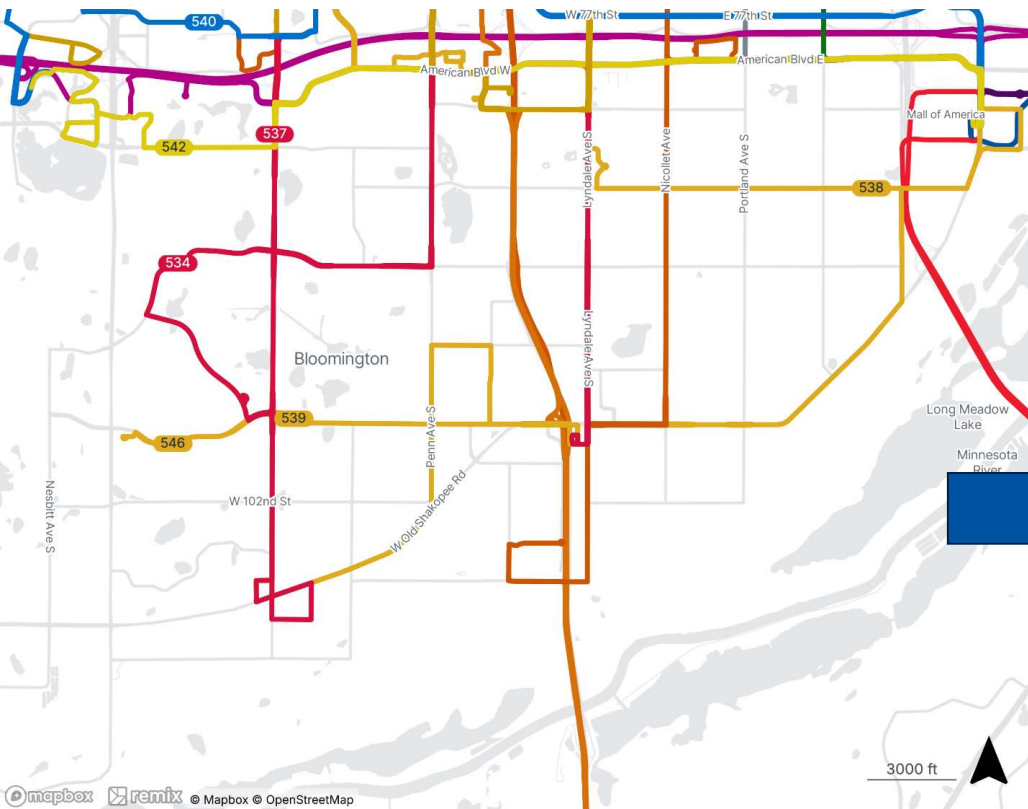
Important Destinations in the Area



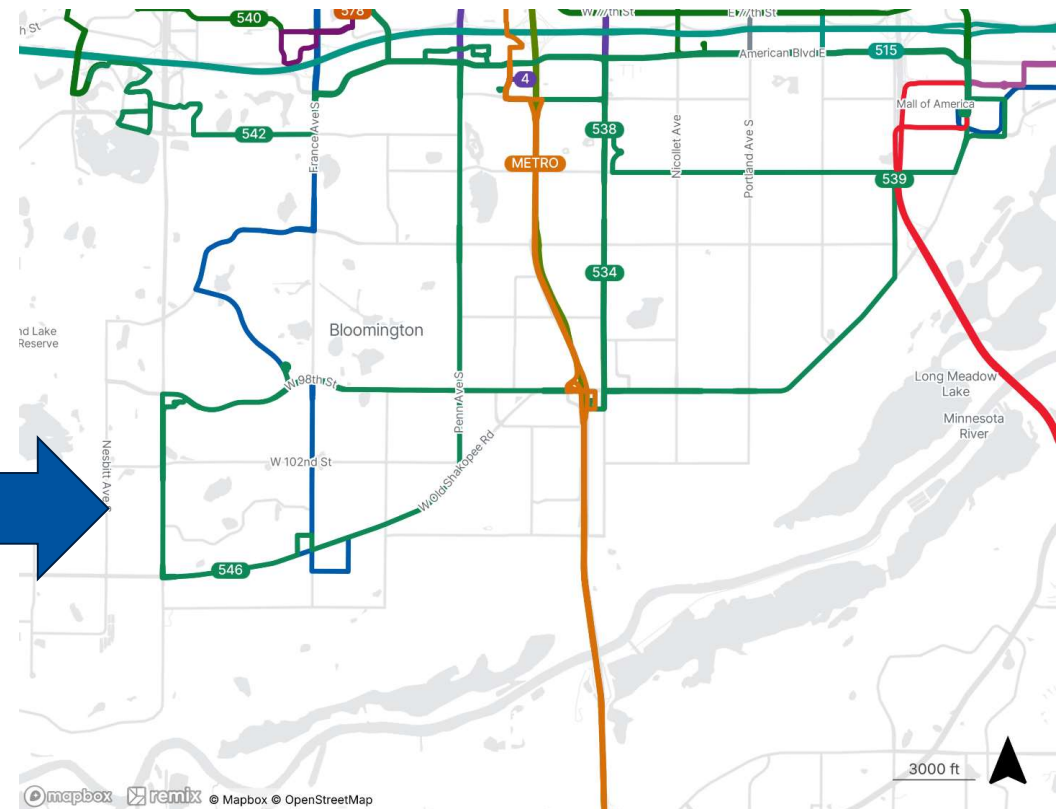
Transit Service Improvements

Prioritize Frequency and Simplicity

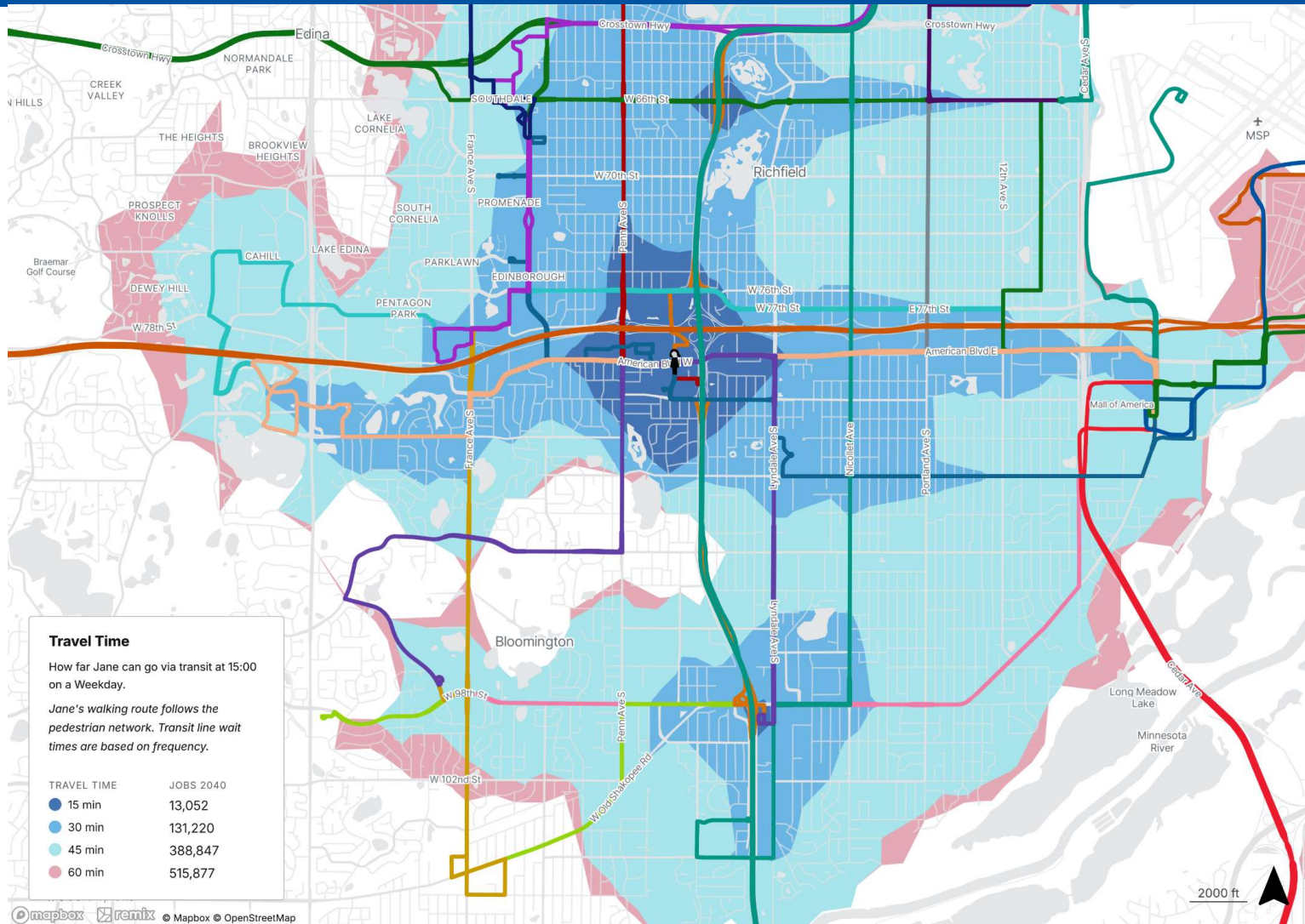
120 min service
30 – 60 min service



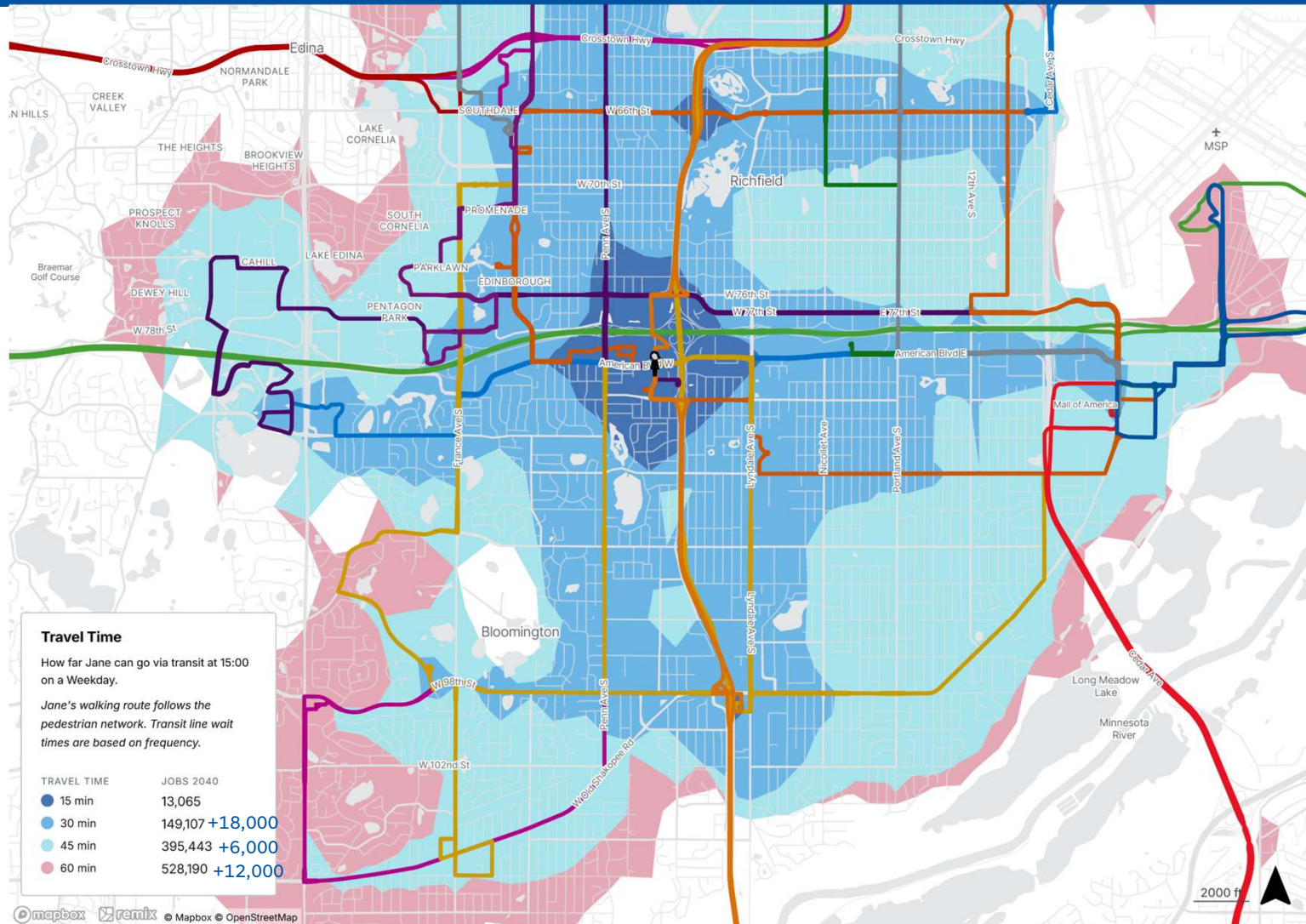
60 min service
30 min service



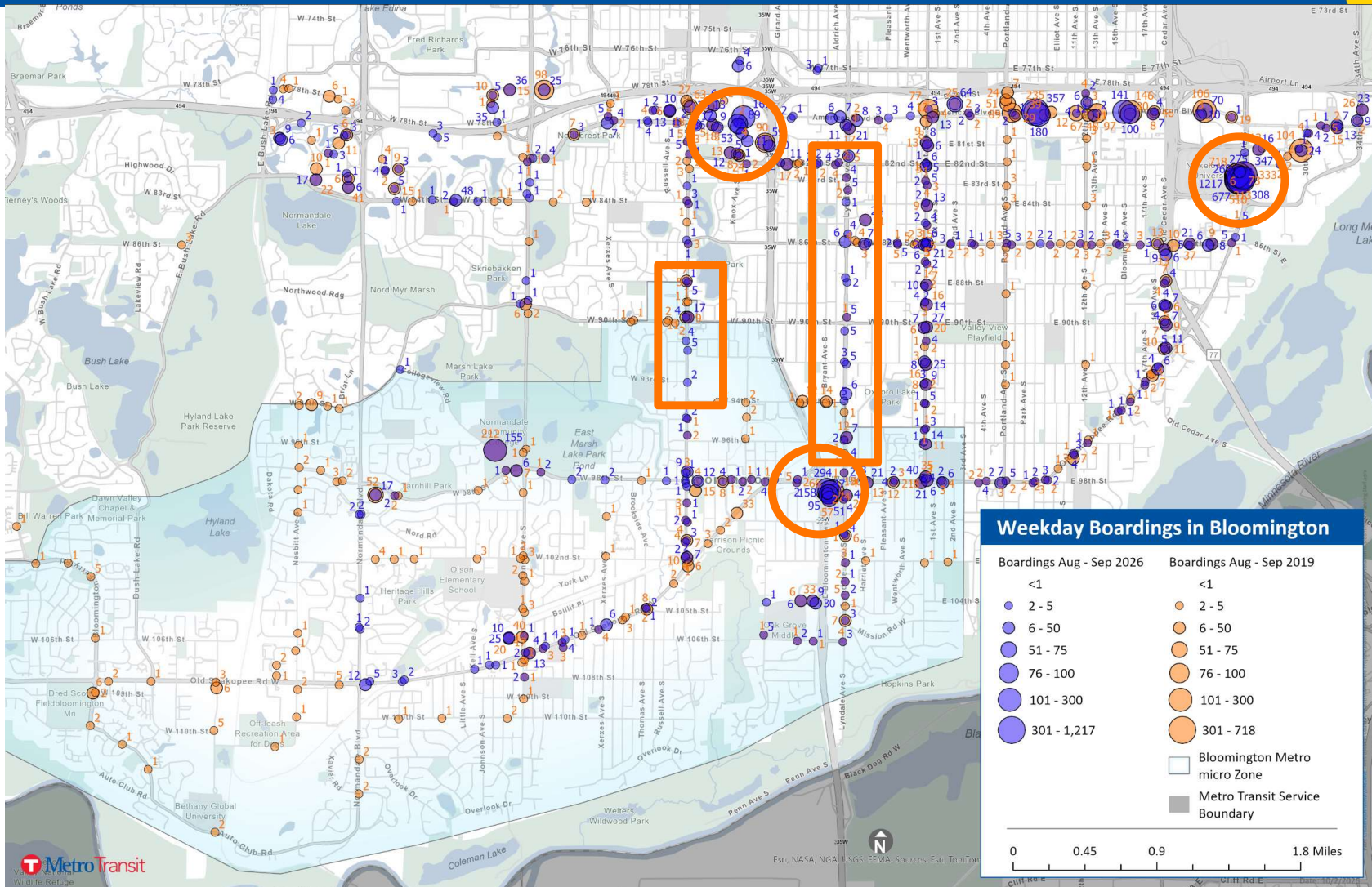
March 2025 Job Accessibility



March 2026 Job Accessibility



Average Bus Weekday Ridership 2019: 5,807 Boardings Average Bus Weekday Ridership 2026: 6,969 Boardings, +20%



Map does not include Metro micro ridership



Average Ridership by Month

Use the NTD Mode and Route filters in the upper right to select the type of routes.
Average weekday ridership is presented in a line chart and data table below for reference.
Rides are subject to small changes for 90 days as new data comes in.

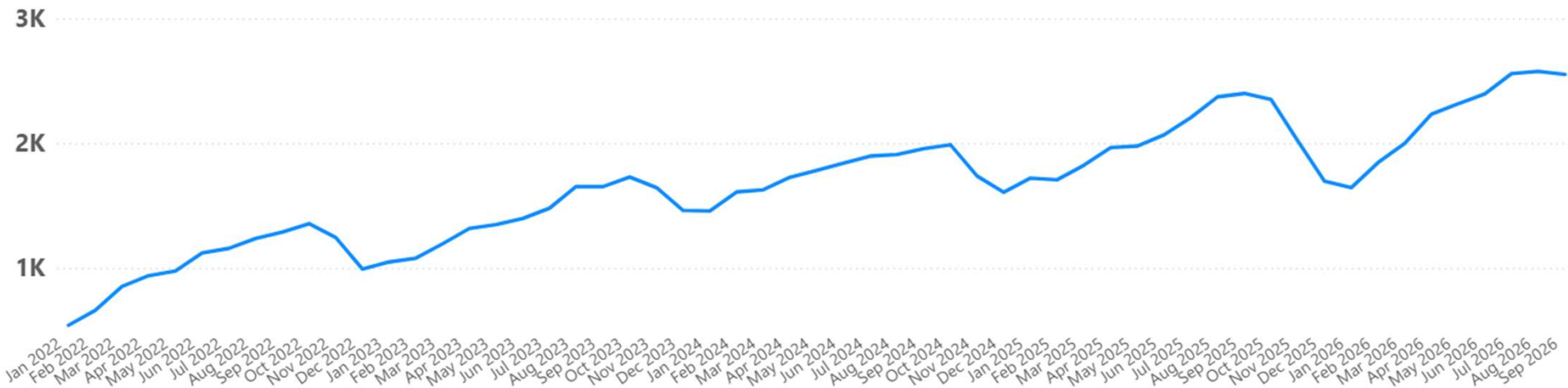
NTD Mode

☐ MB

Route

904

Orange Line



Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total	
2022	541	660	851	938	976	1,120	1,157	1,236	1,288	1,355	1,244	991	1,033	+116%
2023	1,048	1,078	1,194	1,316	1,347	1,396	1,479	1,653	1,651	1,729	1,644	1,460	1,418	
2024	1,456	1,609	1,627	1,727	1,781	1,839	1,897	1,910	1,955	1,988	1,736	1,607	1,761	
2025	1,720	1,707	1,824	1,965	1,977	2,067	2,206	2,372	2,399	2,351	2,019	1,695	2,026	
2026	1,643	1,844	1,998	2,233	2,316	2,395	2,557	2,576	2,551				2,235	+10%
Total	1,294	1,382	1,486	1,648	1,672	1,759	1,879	1,931	1,961	1,868	1,651	1,441	1,666	.1

Network Now 2026 Update

- Update Connecting Bus Service Plans
 - Green Line Extension Connecting Bus Service
 - Highway 55 Connecting Bus Service
- Timeline
 - Public Comment Period ended **October 4**
 - Revised material for review and approval from the Metropolitan Council in **November**
 - Implement Network Now thru 2027-2028



Slide 12

KR1 [@Ahn, Jonathan] (cc [@Harrington, Adam]) Flip the narrative: we are focusing on amending Network Now this year to account for connecting bus networks AND will be reviewing / revising.

In talking points - completing all improvements by end of 2027 is not achievable SO we will be reviewing and revising the timeline for completing the plan.

Roth, Katie, 2026-07-21T13:08:05.593

KR1 0 Take the word "internally" out of your talking points- it connotes obfuscation in a way that is not needed.

Roth, Katie, 2026-07-21T13:31:38.111

2027 Look-ahead

- Another busy year of new openings:
 - Extended Green Line opens **Saturday, June 12, 2027**
 - Gold Line Extension
 - G Line (Phase 1)
- **Renew the Blue Phase 3**
 - Spring 2027 + Summer 2027

Thank You!