

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: August 24, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: September 9, 2026

Business Item: 2026-150

METRO H Line – Authorization to Release Recommended Corridor Plan for Public Comment

Proposed action

That the Council authorize release of the METRO H Line Recommended Corridor Plan for public review and comment; and direct staff to collect public comments through Wednesday, October 7, 2026, summarize comments, and report the findings to the Metropolitan Council.

Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Senior Planner Jordan Kocak presented this item, describing the H Line Recommended Corridor Plan process, updates, engagement plan, and timeline.

Carter, Tyronne noted appreciation for the public engagement strategies, particularly targeted outreach to BIPOC communities.

Carter, Toni stated that she very much appreciated understanding the input that has come from neighbors along the corridor who have had questions and who have made comments and recommendations. She committed to continue to listen to the community as the Recommended Corridor Plan moves into the second round of engagement.

Johnson asked what the total project cost is projected to be and anticipated date of completion. Kocak responded that the planning level estimate is up to \$150 million dollars and that the expected project completion date is 2029 or 2030 and that this estimate would be revised as the project moves into the engineering phase.

Osman expressed that he is glad to see comments from the public incorporated into the Recommended Corridor Plan.

Motion by Osman, seconded by Carter, Toni. Barber recused. Motion carried.

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District(s), member(s):	District 7 (Osman), District 10 (Lindstrom), District 13 (Lee), District 14 (Carter)
Policy/legal reference:	PIC 2-2 - Accountability to the Public Policy
Staff prepared/presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Assistant General Manager, 612-349-7772 Kyle O'Donnell Burrows, Acting Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7749 Jordan Kocak, Sr. Planner, Arterial BRT,
Division/department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed action

That the Council authorize release of the METRO H Line Recommended Corridor Plan for public review and comment; and direct staff to collect public comments through Wednesday, October 7, 2026, summarize comments, and report the findings to the Metropolitan Council.

Background

The METRO H Line is a planned bus rapid transit line that will provide faster and more reliable transit service in the Route 3 corridor between downtown Minneapolis and Sun Ray Transit Center along Washington, Como, Maryland, and White Bear avenues.

The Council previously adopted the H Line alignment in March 2021 (Business Item 2021-52) that resulted from the Network Next plan (2019-2021). The H Line Recommended Corridor Plan identifies station locations for the H Line bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor. Recommended station locations result from planning activities throughout 2025-2026, including public outreach and engagement, interagency coordination, and transit analysis within the corridor.

The H Line Draft Corridor Plan was published on March 23, 2026. Comments on the Draft Corridor Plan were accepted through May 4, 2026, with a variety of communications and outreach activities conducted throughout the comment period. Metro Transit received 1,122 comments on the plan (via online survey, email, phone) in addition to one petition letter organized by a district council and four comment letters from agency partners.

Staff read and categorized each of the comments received during the Draft Corridor Plan public comment period, as well as those submitted by agency partners. Staff have completed additional analysis of alternative platform locations at multiple station locations and have developed recommendations for revisions at several proposed station locations. These changes, additional analysis and responses to comments are reflected in the Recommended Corridor Plan.

Following Council action, staff will release the Recommended Corridor Plan for a 30-day public

comment period and continue outreach and communications to engage community members around the plan. Staff will bring a Final Corridor Plan for Council approval following the comment period. Upon completion and approval, the plan will identify the final planned locations for H Line stations in advance of project design and engineering.

Rationale

The proposed comment period continues transparent and meaningful discussion with the public about the H Line ahead of finalizing station locations.

Thrive lens analysis

The H Line will upgrade Route 3, one of Metro Transit's highest ridership bus routes. It will enhance transit in the Como Avenue/Maryland Avenue corridor, currently served primarily by Route 3, as well as portions of Routes 54, 64, and 80. Route 3 is one of Metro Transit's highest ridership bus routes.

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Using the Thrive lens, investment in high-quality transit options in the corridor will advance the Thrive outcomes of Prosperity, Equity, and Stewardship.

The H Line advances Prosperity by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The H Line advances Equity by improving transit access to jobs, parks, and opportunities for people with low incomes and communities of color. About half of Route 3 customers live in low-income households, and about 45 percent of Route 3 customers are people of color.

The H Line advances Stewardship by coordinating and designing project improvements efficiently with regional partnerships from MnDOT, Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the cities of Minneapolis, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, and Saint Paul, the University of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Funding

There is no funding attached to this action. Eventual approval of the Final H Line Corridor Plan will establish the station count and scope of the H Line project.

Small business inclusion

There is no contracting, and therefore no small business inclusion, associated with this action.

