Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Committee meeting date: June 17, 2026 **Date:** June 4, 2026

Action Transmittal: 2026-30

Release of Draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Amendment 3 for Public Comment

To: Technical Advisory Committee

From: Transportation Advisory Board

Prepared by: Bradley Bobbitt, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1724

Requested action

Metro Transit requests that the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan be amended to:

- Change the bus rapid transit project METRO Purple Line to the METRO Bronze Line and update its alignment and funding; and
- Add METRO J Line and METRO K Line bus rapid transit projects to the fiscally constrained plan.

TPP amendments must undergo a public review and comment period prior to adoption by the Council.

Recommended motion

Recommend that the Metropolitan Council release the 2050 TPP Amendment 3 (attached), updating the Bronze Line bus rapid transit project (formerly Purple Line) and adding the J and K Line bus rapid transit projects, for public review and comment.

Background and purpose

The Met Council develops the region's long-range transportation plan, called the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), and updates it at least every five years as required under federal law. The plan identifies the region's transportation system goals and multimodal investment priorities over a 25-year period. The Met Council adopted the most recent update to the TPP, the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, on February 12, 2025, and subsequently passed two amendments. The plan identifies and lists regionally significant transportation investments that will be implemented within its timeframe and maintains fiscal balance between anticipated project costs and funding.

Metro Transit has requested changes to the fiscally constrained Transit Investment Plan to:

- Update METRO Purple Line to Bronze Line and adopt the revised 9.8-mile dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) alignment with 4.9 miles of bus lanes that will provide faster and more reliable transit service to the cities of St. Paul and Maplewood. The line will replace Route 58 along White Bear Avenue and part of Maryland Avenue with enhanced service and facilities.
- Add METRO J Line, a planned arterial BRT line that will provide faster and more reliable transit service in the West 7th corridor currently served by Route 54. It will travel between Union Depot in downtown St. Paul and Mall of America Transit Center in Bloomington and

include service to MSP international airport.

- Add METRO K Line, a planned arterial BRT line that will provide faster and more reliable transit service in the Nicollet corridor currently served by Route 18. It will travel between downtown Minneapolis and American Boulevard in Bloomington.

Plan amendments involving changes to, or additions of, regionally significant projects in the fiscally constrained plan must undergo a 45-day public comment period. The proposed action would recommend that the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 3 (attached) be released for the required public comment period, planned for July 9 through August 24, with a public hearing at the August 10 meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Committee. Attachment 1 contains the amendment text to be posted on the Met Council's website for public review. The attached text also references project websites hosted by Metro Transit and has basic project information.

Relationship to regional policy

All transitway projects are considered regionally significant projects under federal guidance. These projects must be identified as funded in a region's long-range transportation plan to qualify for Federal Transit Administration capital investment grants and to meet regional requirements in the Met Council's adopted Transitway Advancement Policy. The proposed amendment, if adopted, will incorporate changes to the METRO Bronze Line and add METRO J and K lines to the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) fiscally constrained plan.

Staff analysis

According to the region's Transitway Advancement Policy, outlined on pages 41 through 44 in the Transit Investment Plan section of the TPP, transitway projects can be added to the fiscally constrained plan when the originating agency has provided:

- Documentation of transitway type, alignment and station locations, and selection process.
- Resolutions of support from relevant government bodies and agencies.
- Documentation of fiscal constraint.
- Documentation of public engagement and feedback.

Metro Transit has provided the appropriate information to meet these criteria for incorporating the METRO Bronze Line changes and the METRO J and K lines into the 2050 TPP fiscally constrained plan. Relevant local government agencies have supplied the necessary resolutions of support.

Committee comments and actions

At its May 14, 2026, regular meeting, the TAC Planning Committee recommended to the Technical Advisory Committee that the 2050 TPP Amendment 3, updating the Bronze Line bus rapid transit project (formerly Purple Line) and adding the J and K Line bus rapid transit projects, be released for public review and comment. The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

At its June 3, 2026, regular meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended to the Transportation Advisory Board that the 2050 TPP Amendment 3, updating the Bronze Line bus rapid transit project (formerly Purple Line) and adding the J and K Line bus rapid transit projects, be released for public review and comment, including some minor changes requested by staff to reflect comments from the City of Minneapolis and correct a minor error in the draft. The motion carried with one dissenting vote. Members discussed the benefits of funding the Bronze Line with no federal funds including fewer constraints and a more predicable schedule. The greater anticipated use of local funds for these projects prompted discussion on concerns from the Suburban Transit Association related to effects on sales tax distributions for transit operations.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed *(Scheduled)*
TAC Planning	Review and recommend	May 14, 2026
Technical Advisory Committee	Review and recommend	June 3, 2026
Transportation Advisory Board	Review and recommend	*June 17, 2026*
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review and recommend	*June 22, 2026*
Metropolitan Council	Review and release for public comment	*July 8, 2026*