

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee meeting date:** February 23, 2026

**For the Metropolitan Council:** March 11, 2026

## Business Item: 2026-46

Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Plan Update Final Recommendations

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the recommendations from the 2025 Arterial BRT Plan Update, identifying the West 7th corridor as the J Line and the Nicollet corridor as the K Line.

### Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metro Transit ABRT Planning Manager Kyle O'Donnell Burrows presented this item, providing background on the study selection process and recommended outcomes.

Obisakin asked what was included in the equity goal. O'Donnell Burrows shared that this goal considered how well each corridor served people of color, low-income households, and households with limited access to private vehicles – among others.

Chamblis asked about the status of conversations with the City of Minneapolis regarding Nicollet Mall. O'Donnell Burrows stated that this had been on a pause for the past several months but has recently restarted and City and Metro Transit staff are actively coordinating on next steps.

Chair Barber expressed appreciation for proactive updates and communication with Council Members and TAB, and the overall process and work of staff.

Motion by Osman, seconded by Obisakin. Motion carried.



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<b>District(s), member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/legal reference:</b>	PIC 2-2a – Accountability to the Public Policy
<b>Staff prepared/presented:</b>	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, Planning Manager, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7749
<b>Division/department:</b>	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

### Proposed action

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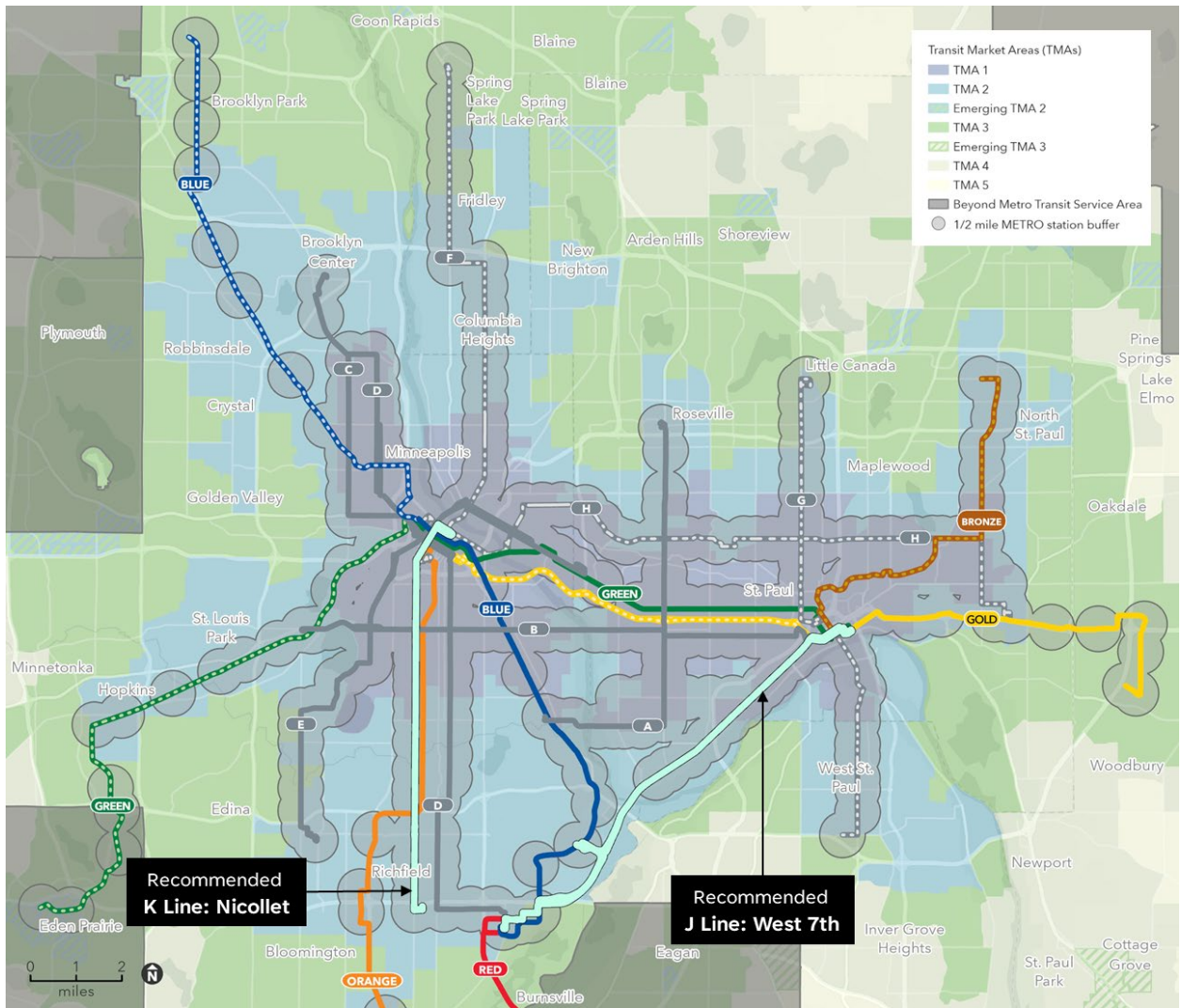
### Background

In 2025 and 2026, Metro Transit led the Arterial BRT Plan Update, a planning process to identify Metro Transit's next priorities for arterial BRT to be implemented between 2030 and 2035. The Plan Update followed a four-step process to identify the J Line and K Line. Beginning with a set of 17 candidate corridors, and completing a series of screening, evaluation, and prioritization steps to narrow down to the final recommended corridors. These steps included extensive technical analysis and engaged regional stakeholders and the public.

In January 2025, Metro Transit staff finalized recommendations for the next arterial BRT corridors:

- METRO J Line: The J Line will serve the West 7th Street corridor from downtown Saint Paul and Union Depot to the Mall of America, serving MSP International Airport.
- METRO K Line: The K Line will serve the Nicollet Avenue corridor from downtown Minneapolis to American Boulevard.

A map of the recommended J Line and K Line is included below. Staff will bring forward a recommendation for the L Line following additional planning in 2026.



## Rationale

Council adoption of the recommendations from the 2025 Arterial BRT Plan Update will establish the J Line and K Line corridors in the arterial BRT program, allowing for advancement of planning, project development, and coordination with partner-led roadway projects. These corridors would be reflected in the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan through future amendment, anticipated in spring 2026.

## Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, investment in high-quality transit improvements in the West 7th Street and Nicollet Avenue corridors will advance the Thrive outcome of 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 arterial BRT improvements in these corridors advance the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for people with low incomes and communities of color. About 35 to 40% of the population within a 10-minute walk from these corridors identify as people of color. About 28% of the population are experiencing poverty.

The recommended improvements advance the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by balancing improved transit access throughout the region with improved investment in areas of higher expected demand for transit. These recommended corridors are expected to exceed regional transit guidelines for productivity (passengers per service hour).

## **Funding**

There is no funding attached to this action. Identifying the J Line and K Line as Metro Transit's next arterial BRT priorities will allow funding to be pursued for these projects.

## **Small business inclusion**

There are no funds expended, and therefore no small business inclusion, associated with this action.

