

Central Corridor Transit Service Study Update

Presenters: Scott Thompson, Senior Service Planner, Metro Transit , 612-349-7774, Scott.Thompson@metrotransit.org; and Jill Hentges, Community Outreach, Metro Transit, 612-349-7318, Jill.Hentges@metrotransit.org.

Transit Service Study Overview

- Comprehensive review of the transit network
- Integrate new facilities & future plans
- Improve connections & reliability
 - Enhanced timed - transfers especially in off-peak
 - Better neighborhood to neighborhood connections
 - Grid route network where appropriate
- Simplify system
- Faster service to major destinations
- Optimize efficiency of routes & schedules

Implemented Sector Studies

- Northeast Metro Transit Restructuring Plan (Sectors 1 & 2) 2000 & 2001
- Three Cities Transit Restructuring Plan (Sector 7) 2001
- Central-South Transit Plan (Sector 5) 2004
- Northwest Metro Transit Planning Study (Sector 8) 2007

A map shows the eight sectors.

Key Considerations in Central Corridor

- Strong community interest in future transit service, bus and rail
- Commitment to Central Corridor transit study before LRT service begins
- Ridership forecast projects large volume of transfers between bus and rail

Central Corridor Transit Service Study Area

A map shows the geographic scope of the project: Larpentuer Ave on the north, 35E on east (includes downtown), Mississippi River on south and west. Study also includes downtown Minneapolis south to Lake Street (east of Hiawatha LRT) and north to Hennepin Ave.

Modeled Central Corridor Bus Route Network

A map shows future bus routes connecting to the Central Corridor, including new north south routes on Fairview, Lexington, Hamline & Victoria.

Central Corridor Existing Conditions

- Study Area
 - 246,170 population; 357,587 jobs
 - 14 colleges and universities; 95,000+ students
 - 113,378 housing units
- Existing Service
 - 14 local, 9 express routes
 - 86,000 average weekday rides

- (1/3 of the total weekday rides system wide)
- Service Assessment Results
 - Good existing route network design and coverage
 - Some gaps in grid network
 - Lack of adequate frequency and span of service on some routes
- Existing conditions report online www.metrotransit.org/central-corridor-study

A map shows a sample of daily boardings, in this case, on Route 65 weekday boardings.

Transit Service Study Timeline

- Data Collection: 2010
- Evaluate Existing Conditions: Early 2012
- Stakeholder / Community Engagement: January to March
- Concept Plan Development: March to May
- Concept Plan Review, Public Comment: June
- Plan Revision : July to September
- Final Plan Approval: October to November
- Service Change Implementation: 2013 and 2014
- Ongoing Service Evaluation: Ongoing

Community Engagement & Outreach

- Strong desire to better engage our agency colleagues and community partners in our process
- Coordinate with existing (standing) meetings
- Better provide useful information to support tremendous outreach efforts
- Concentrated effort to extend effectiveness and reach
- Ultimately, the project is strengthened by the many fingerprints it carries
- Strong desire to engage the diverse community in transit service planning BEFORE planning begins
- COORDINATE with existing corridor outreach efforts
- Broaden ongoing RELATIONSHIP between Metro Transit and the community
- CONNECT with key community organizations

Community Outreach

- Website with online survey
- Over 40 meetings with neighborhoods, businesses, agency colleagues
- Three open houses in March
 - Project information
 - Existing service
 - Origin/destination exercise
- Trusted Advocate Project

Trusted Advocate Project

- Nine trusted advocates hired from communities traditionally under-represented in public process
- New Americans from Africa, Persons with varied abilities, African America, Southeast Asian, Renters
- Communities are very transit literate
- Requires high level of TRUST
- Funding from Central Corridor Funders Collaborative