



**WORK SESSION
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA WEBEX
DECEMBER 8, 2020
6:15 PM**

Call to order

1. Metropolitan Transit Project Manager Shahin Khazrajafari will be presenting an overview of the forthcoming Metro Transit D Line Bus Rapid Transit project, the anticipated construction timeline, and will be available to answer any questions.

Adjournment

Auxiliary aids for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Requests must be made at least 96 hours in advance to the City Clerk at 612-861-9738.



WORK SESSION STAFF REPORT NO. 31

WORK SESSION

12/8/2020

REPORT PREPARED BY: Joe Powers, Assistant City Engineer

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REVIEW: Kristin Asher, Public Works Director/City Engineer
12/2/2020

OTHER DEPARTMENT REVIEW: N/A

CITY MANAGER REVIEW: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager
12/2/2020

ITEM FOR WORK SESSION:

Metropolitan Transit Project Manager Shahin Khazrajafari will be presenting an overview of the forthcoming Metro Transit D Line Bus Rapid Transit project, the anticipated construction timeline, and will be available to answer any questions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Metro Transit is moving towards construction of planned improvements to the Route 5 corridor with the D Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project after securing final project funding at the legislature in the recent bonding bill. The project will be a positive asset to the City of Richfield and enhance the overall metro transit system in our region.

The D Line will substantially replace Route 5, running primarily on Portland Avenue within Richfield and on Chicago, Emerson and Fremont Avenues in Minneapolis. Rapid bus brings better amenities, such as:

- Faster, more frequent service;
- Pre-boarding fare payment for faster stops;
- Neighborhood-scale stations with amenities;
- Enhanced security; and,
- Larger & specialized vehicles.

D Line stations in Richfield will be located at:

- Portland Ave. & 66th St.;
- Portland Ave. & 70th St.;
- Portland Ave. & 73rd St.; and,
- Portland Ave. & 77th St.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Route 5 was the Twin Cities' busiest bus route, carrying about 16,000 customers each weekday. During rush hours, Route 5 buses make up less than 2 percent of vehicle traffic but carry more than 20 percent of people traveling through the corridor. The D Line is projected to be about 20 percent faster than Route 5 with longer station spacing, fares collected at stations, and raised curbs for accessibility.

DIRECTION NEEDED:

No direction needed at this time but Councilmembers are encouraged to ask questions about the

project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Richfield City Council adopted resolutions of support for the D Line Bus Rapid Transit project at the April 24, 2018 & April 9, 2019 regular City Council meetings and are attached.

B. POLICIES (resolutions, ordinances, regulations, statutes, etc):

The Metro Transit D Line BRT Project is consistent with the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 7 - Transportation).

C. CRITICAL TIMING ISSUES:

- Construction is slated to start in spring/summer 2021.
- Council will be asked in January 2021 to approve a Joint Powers Agreement/Cooperative Construction Agreement between the City and Metropolitan Council. This agreement has been reviewed by City staff and the City Attorney and governs Metropolitan Council (Metro Transit) access onto City property, which is needed to construct the D Line Improvements.

D. FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact to the City of Richfield as part of the D Line project.

E. LEGAL CONSIDERATION:

None

ALTERNATIVE(S):

None

PRINCIPAL PARTIES EXPECTED AT MEETING:

ATTACHMENTS:

	Description	Type
□	2018 Resolution of Support	Resolution Letter
□	2019 Resolution of Support	Resolution Letter

RESOLUTION NO. 11493

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE METRO D LINE PROJECT

WHEREAS, The City of Richfield's Comprehensive Plan promotes an integrated transportation system that will serve the future needs of its residents, businesses, and visitors; as well as supports the City's redevelopment plans to complement the metropolitan transportation system; and

WHEREAS, Metro Transit's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) offers riders fast, frequent service with numerous amenities, that will give riders on the region's transit system more mobility options and connect people with jobs; and

WHEREAS, The A Line BRT, which opened in summer 2016, has drawn increased ridership and is an overwhelming success; and

WHEREAS, the proposed build out of the region's BRT system would connect an additional 200,000 people to 500,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the existing local bus route in this corridor has the highest productivity in terms of carrying the most passengers each hour; and

WHEREAS, The D Line could result in a faster trip, up to 25% faster, by stopping less often, deploying bus priority at traffic signals, and implementing off-board fare payment; and

WHEREAS, The D Line would operate in Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, The City of Richfield will benefit from improvements to stops within Richfield, which will offer improved amenities, including security features, improved lighting, real-time signage, and heated shelters. The stop locations in Richfield are:

- Portland Ave. & 66th St.
- Portland Ave. & 70th St.
- Portland Ave. & 73rd St.
- Portland Ave. & 77th St.; and

WHEREAS, The D Line project still needs to secure \$35 million in funding to move forward into construction in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Mark Dayton has included a \$50 million busway investment in his Bonding Proposal, which would be used to fund the remaining gap for D Line.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Richfield expresses its support for the Metropolitan Council's D Line BRT project, with the inclusion of the four stops listed above, which would serve this community and urges the Minnesota Legislature to adopt Governor Mark Dayton's state bonding proposal to invest \$50 million in regional BRT projects, including the D Line.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Richfield, Minnesota this 24th day of April, 2018.


Pat Elliott, Mayor

ATTEST:


Elizabeth VanHoose, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 11618

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE METRO D LINE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Richfield's Comprehensive Plan promotes an integrated transportation system that will serve the future needs of its residents, businesses, and visitors; as well as supports the City's redevelopment plans to complement the metropolitan transportation system; and

WHEREAS, Metro Transit's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) offers riders fast, frequent service with numerous amenities, that will give riders on the region's transit system more mobility options and connect people with jobs; and

WHEREAS, the A Line BRT, which opened in summer 2016, has drawn increased ridership and is an overwhelming success; and

WHEREAS, the proposed build out of the region's BRT system would connect an additional 200,000 people to 500,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the existing local bus route in this corridor has the highest productivity in terms of carrying the most passengers each hour; and

WHEREAS, the D Line could result in a faster trip, up to 25% faster, by stopping less often, deploying bus priority at traffic signals, and implementing off-board fare payment; and

WHEREAS, the D Line would operate in Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richfield will benefit from improvements to stops within Richfield, which will offer improved amenities, including security features, improved lighting, real-time signage, and heated shelters. The stop locations in Richfield are:

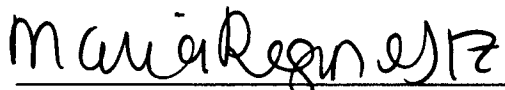
- Portland Ave. & 66th St.
- Portland Ave. & 70th St.
- Portland Ave. & 73rd St.
- Portland Ave. & 77th St.; and

WHEREAS, the D Line project still needs to secure \$20 million in funding to move forward with construction in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walz's capital budget directs \$20 million toward the implementation of the D Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Richfield expresses its support for the Metropolitan Council's D Line BRT project, with the inclusion of the four stops listed above, which would serve this community and urges the Minnesota Legislature to adopt Governor Tim Walz's state bonding proposal to invest \$20 million in the Metro Transit D Line BRT Project.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Richfield, Minnesota this 9th day of April, 2019.



Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Elizabeth VanHoose, City Clerk