



560 Sixth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411-4398

November 1, 2021

Mayor Robert Nelson
1301 81st Avenue Northeast
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

Dear Mayor Nelson,

Wes Kooistra received your letter regarding the planned reroute of buses on the Route 10 “N” branch and Route 824. Metro Transit Service Development is leading these service changes, and I write today to offer additional information as to how we arrived at our current plan, our intentions moving forward, and the timeline for making these changes.

Details of the settlement with Northtown owners are in development, and last summer were informed that bus access on mall property will be restricted effective December 4. We assessed the options, taking ridership impacts, bus operations, and travel time into consideration. The rerouting of our buses via Monroe Street to 81st Avenue to University Avenue has the fewest impacts on our riders, schedules and operations. Using Osborne Road instead of 81st Ave would impact an additional 3-8 riders in Spring Lake Park (based on pre-pandemic and current ridership). Because rerouting via 81st Ave maintains service to more riders at the same operating cost of Osborne, Metro Transit plans to move forward with using 81st Ave starting December 4.

Metro Transit strives to serve people in a manner that is convenient, consistent, and safe for riders, operators, and the broader community. The planned reroute using 81st Ave helps us meet this mission. We understand that there are trade-offs whenever transit is introduced on a new street and did share our plan with city staff, legislators, impacted riders and residents before making any decisions. As always, we invite our City partners and the public to help us understand how to best serve evolving transportation needs through our regular communication channels as well as through efforts like Network Next long-range planning. Network Next developed recommendations for bus rapid transit expansion earlier this year, and a next step will involve planning the local and express bus network vision for 2040.

If the City Council would like to discuss transit further, we welcome the conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Adam E. Harrington'.

Adam Harrington, Director of Service Development