

Serving a Thriving Region

Peter Lindstrom
Metropolitan Council Member, District 10

June 18, 2026



Metropolitan Council – Our History

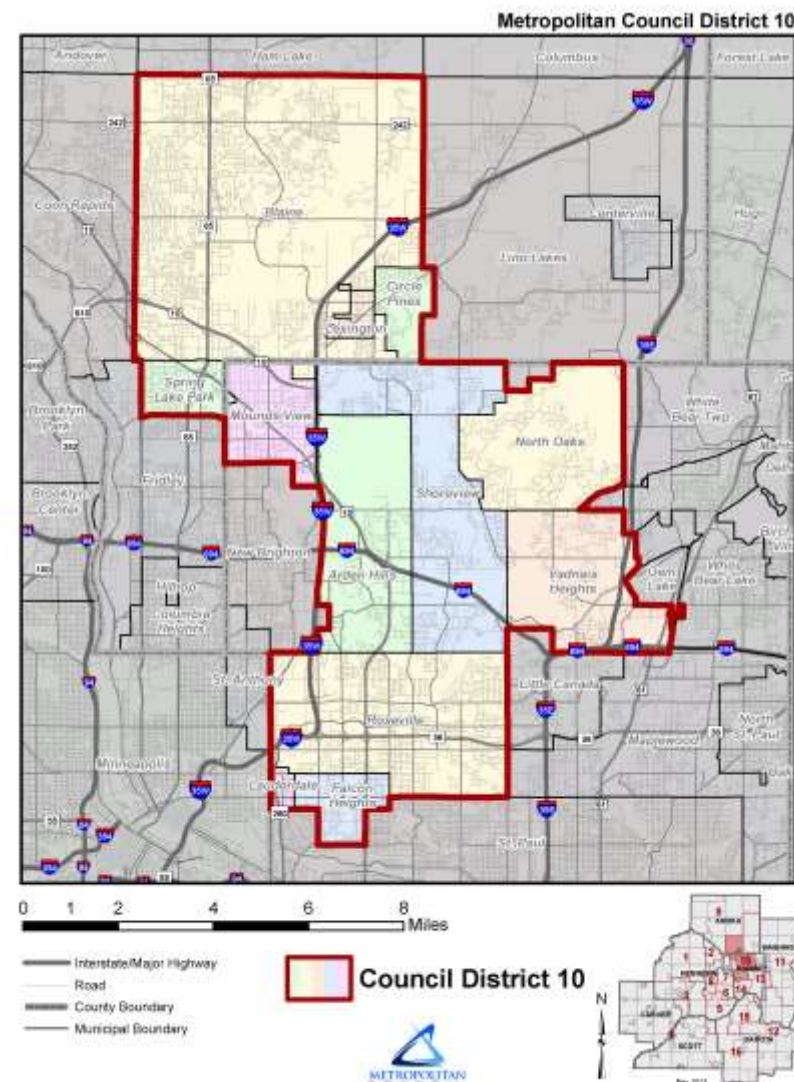


- Created in 1967 as a “regional solution to regional problems,” like:
 - Water quality concerns and wastewater treatment;
 - Sprawl into sensitive natural areas and uncoordinated planning and economic development; and
 - Fiscal inequality between local governments, which threatened essential service delivery.
- At the time, Governor Harold LeVander shared that the “Council was created to do a job which has proved too big for any single community.”
- Over the 58 years since the Council was created, we have taken on additional regional policy and service delivery responsibilities.

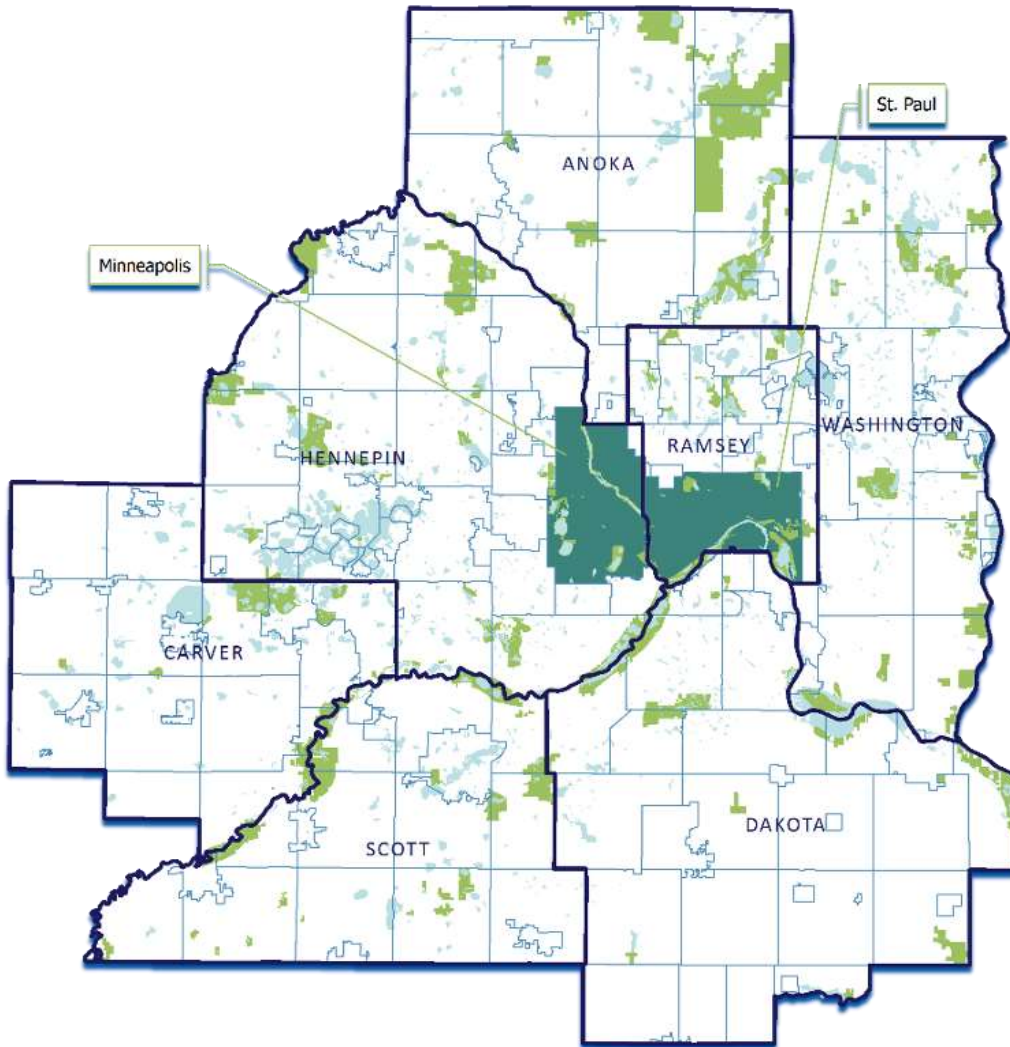
Metropolitan Council District 10



- Council Member for District 10
- Committee assignments
 - Community Development Committee
 - Environment Committee
- Council's representative at:
 - Regional Council of Mayors
 - Environmental Quality Board



Twin Cities Metropolitan Region



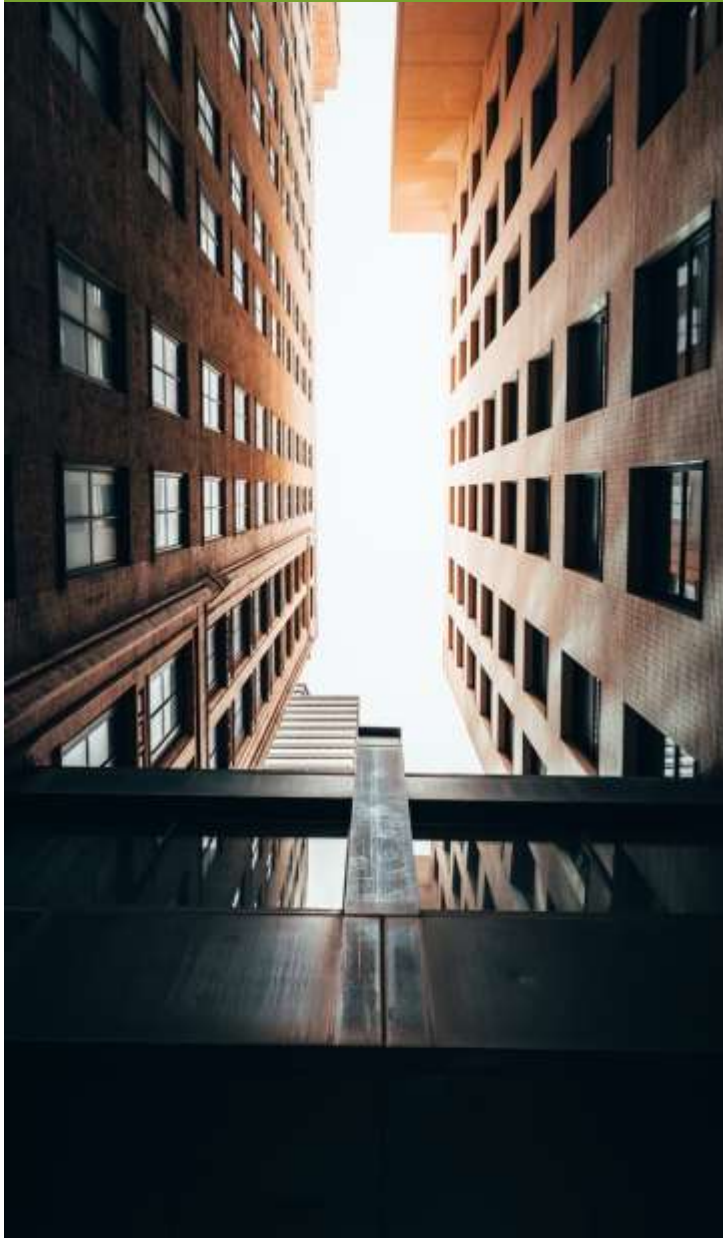
Fast Facts

- 7 Counties
- 181 Cities and Townships
- People from 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations and many other Native communities
- About 3.25 million people (2024 estimate)
- Projected growth of +610K people by 2050

Long-range planning

Environmental protection

Transportation services



MN Statute Requires a Regional Development Guide

The Metropolitan Council shall prepare and adopt, after appropriate study and such public hearings as may be necessary, **a comprehensive development guide** for the metropolitan area.....

(Metropolitan Land Planning Act: Minn. Stat. 473.145)

- Every 10 years, the Council
 - Prepares system plans for parks, water resources and transportation
 - Adopt policy plans for Housing and Water Supply policy plans
- Council is also responsible for reviewing local comprehensive plans and providing technical assistance to communities as they work through their local comprehensive planning process.



2050 Regional Planning Vision

Our Region is Equitable, Inclusive, and Welcoming

Our quality of life is high by national standards but not all communities share in this. We envision a future where inequities and injustices have been eliminated and all residents and newcomers feel welcome, included, and empowered.

Our Communities are Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant

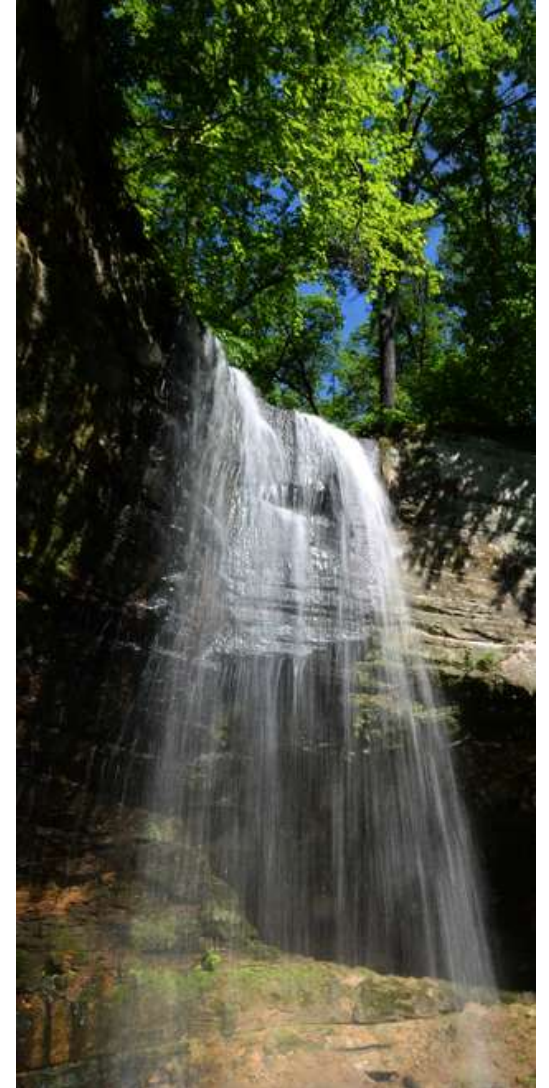
The wellbeing of our region depends on the strength and inclusiveness of our economy as well as the quality, safety, and reliability of our public infrastructure and services. We envision a future where all our region's residents can live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives with a sense of security, agency, and wellbeing.

We Lead on Addressing Climate Change

Our region leads on the critical issue of climate change. We envision a future where we have eliminated or mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient.

We Protect and Restore Natural Systems

Our region has world class parks and abundant natural resources. We envision a future where natural systems are increasingly protected, integrated, and restored to ensure a high quality of life for our growing region.



2050 Planning Assistance Grants

Eligible Communities

- 60 sewerred communities - \$40,000 each
- 4 unsewered communities - \$25,000 each
- Scott County, Carver County, and Consortium = \$110,000 each

Communities eligible for a Planning Assistance Grant meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Current population (2024) is between 2,500 to 14,999 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 125% of metro median net tax capacity per capita; or
2. Current population (2024) is between 15,000 to 35,000 AND adjusted net tax capacity per capita (2024) is less than or equal to 100% of metro median net tax capacity per capita; or
3. County with land use planning authority for townships within their jurisdiction OR a consortium of 5 or more Dakota County communities in the Rural Service Area working collaboratively on their comprehensive plan updates.

Planning Assistance Incentive Grants

Advancing Regional Goals

- People-centered regional goals:
 - Our region is equitable and inclusive.
 - Our communities are healthy and safe.
 - Our region is dynamic and resilient.
- Opportunities to support Regional Goal Frameworks for Equity, Environmental Justice, Anti-Displacement, Community Centered Engagement, and Commitments to American Indian communities
- **\$10,000 per eligible grant participant**

Early Plan Completion

- Staggered deadline spreads out plan submissions
 - Improves efficiency and accuracy in plan reviews
- **Oct. 10, 2028** – Early Plan Completion Incentive Grant deadline for 2050 Comprehensive Plan submissions.
- **Oct. 31, 2028** – Deadline 2050 CPU submissions to be deemed complete to qualify for the Early Plan Completion Incentive Grant.
- **\$4,000 per eligible grant participant**

Regional Parks: Many Adventures Close to Home

- 56 regional parks and park reserves
- 8 special recreation features
- Nearly 55,000 acres open for public use
- Regional trails totaling nearly 400 miles
- 63.3 million visits in 2019, millions more than the Mall of America
- By 2040, we plan to expand the regional parks system to nearly 70,000 acres and 1,100 miles of trails



Water: Collection and Treatment



- Whenever someone in the Twin Cities region takes a shower, flushes a toilet, or runs a washing machine, it likely reaches a Met Council treatment facility through the extensive network of local and regional sanitary sewer pipes.
- We own, operate, and maintain the Twin Cities metro regional wastewater collection and treatment system, which includes:
 - 635 miles of regional sanitary sewers
 - 230 metering stations
 - 60 lift stations
 - 9 wastewater treatment facilities

Transportation: Responsibilities

Planning

- Serves as the region's federally required **Metropolitan Planning Organization**
- Performs long-range **transportation system planning**
- Shorter term federal transportation funds programming with the **Transportation Advisory Board**

Transit Operations

- Provide, contract for, and coordinate **metropolitan transit operations**
- Provide financial assistance to other **regional transit providers**



Transportation: Planning and Funding



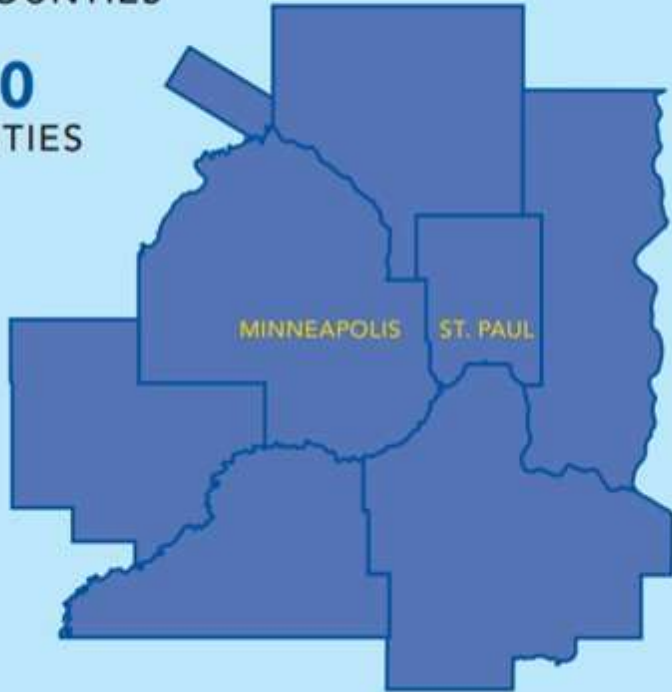
- Since 2014, we have awarded over \$25M of federal infrastructure funding to projects in the City of. This includes:
 - 2021: \$21,533 in direct COVID Relief funds for transportation projects.
 - 2020: \$25M for the METRO F Line, which serves Spring Lake Park along University Avenue.

About Metro Transit

AREA SERVED

7+
COUNTIES

90
CITIES



900 SQ. MILES

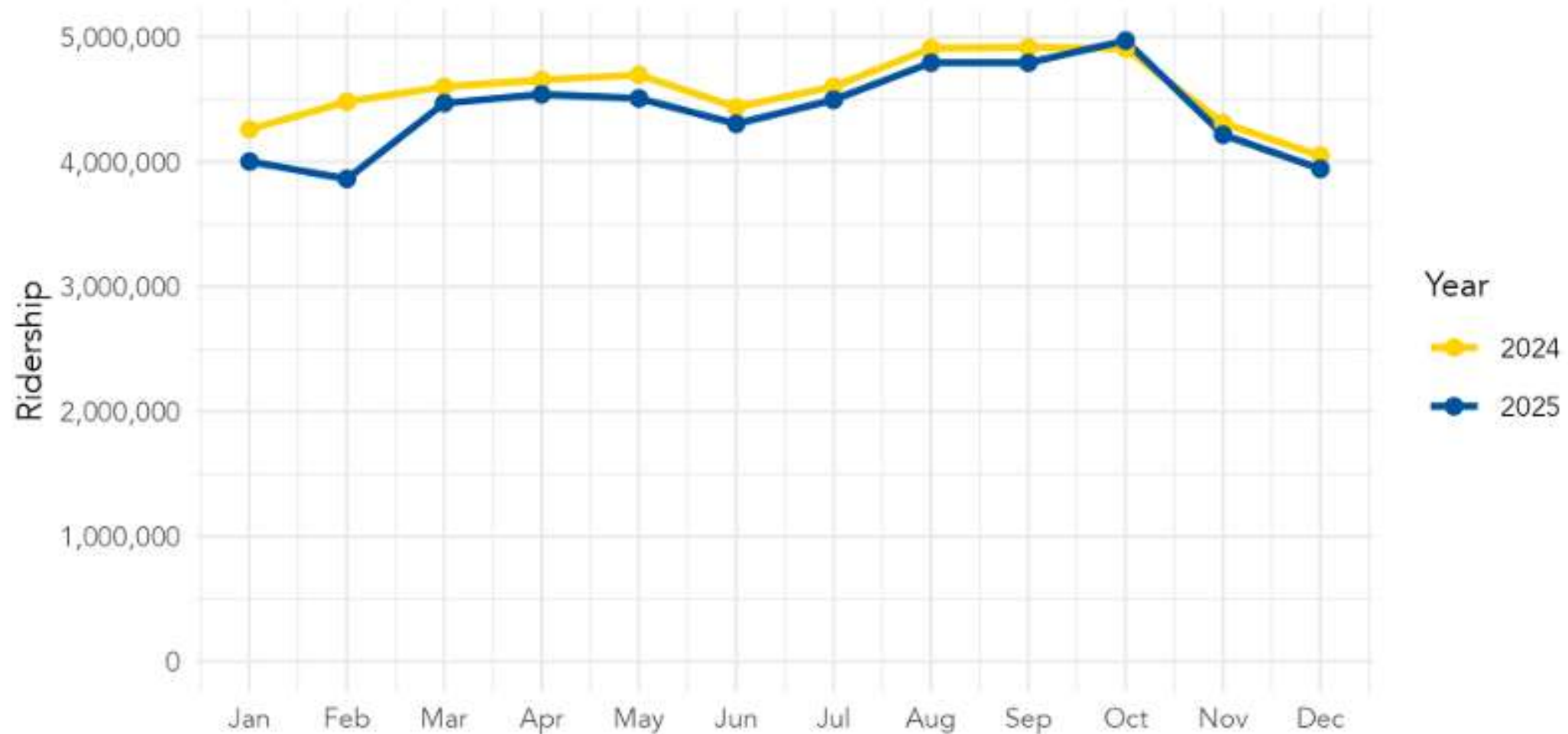
- Division of the Metropolitan Council
- Largest regional transit provider
- Met Council transportation services
 - Metro Mobility
 - Contracted service
 - Planning
 - Allocates federal funding



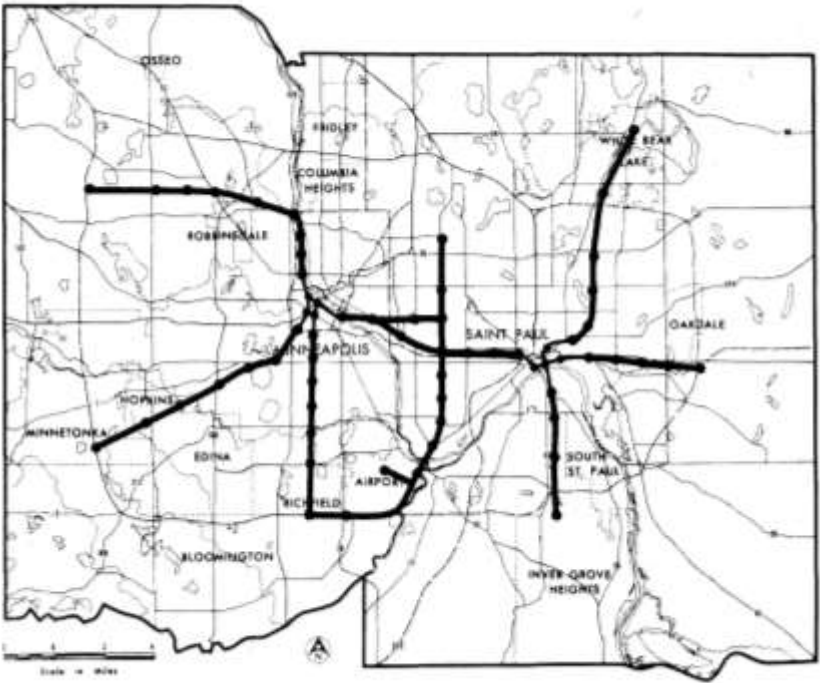
Total Met Council Ridership

2024 Total: 57.28 Million

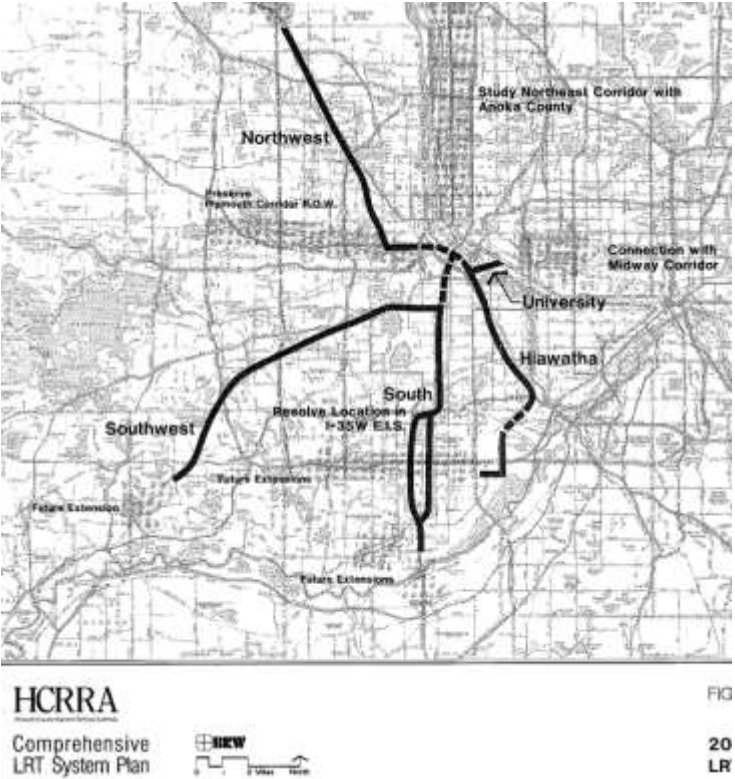
2025 Total: 55.44 Million



Transitway Plans Over the Decades



1969
MTC

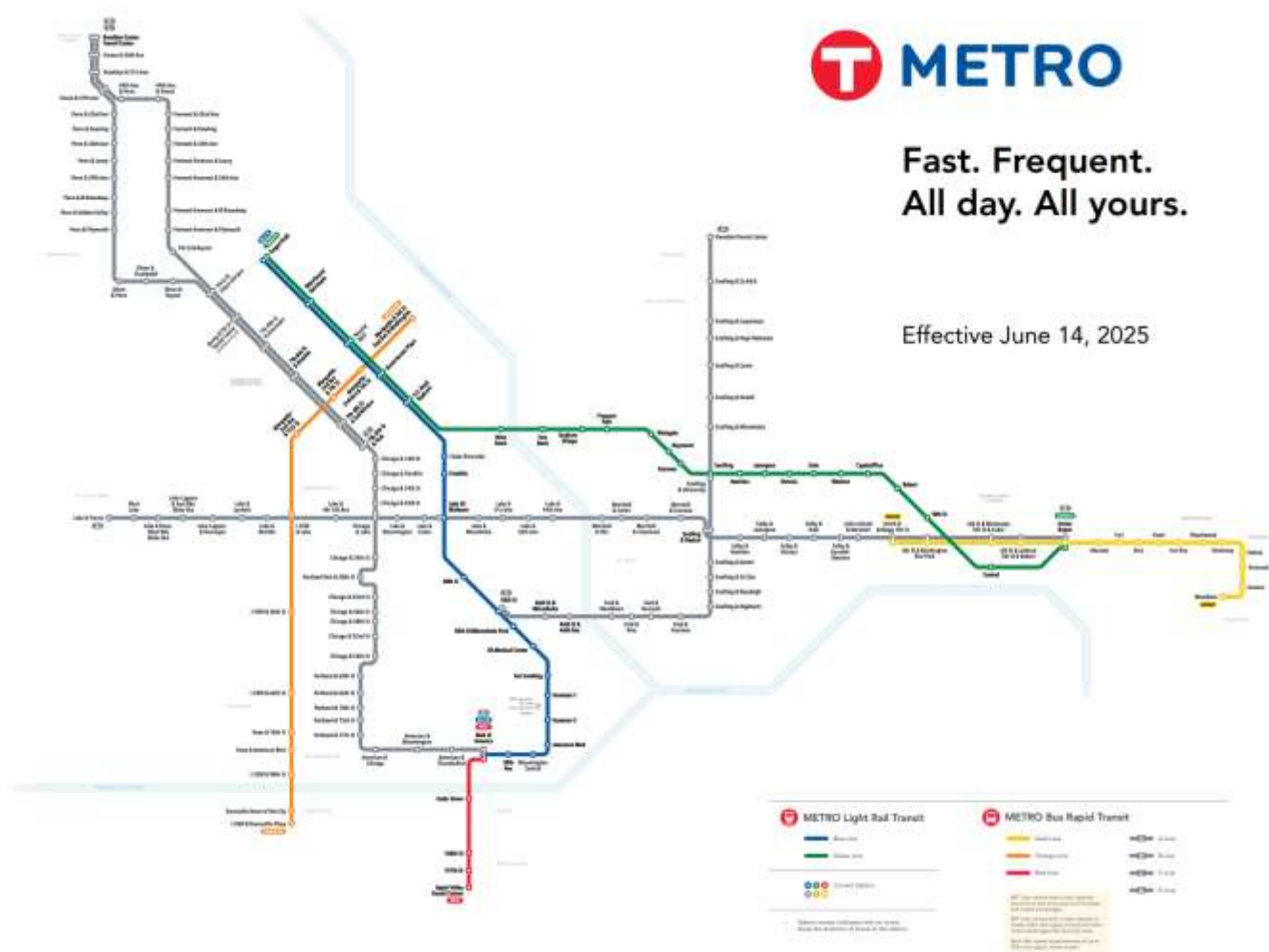


1988 County Regional Rail Plans
(LRT)



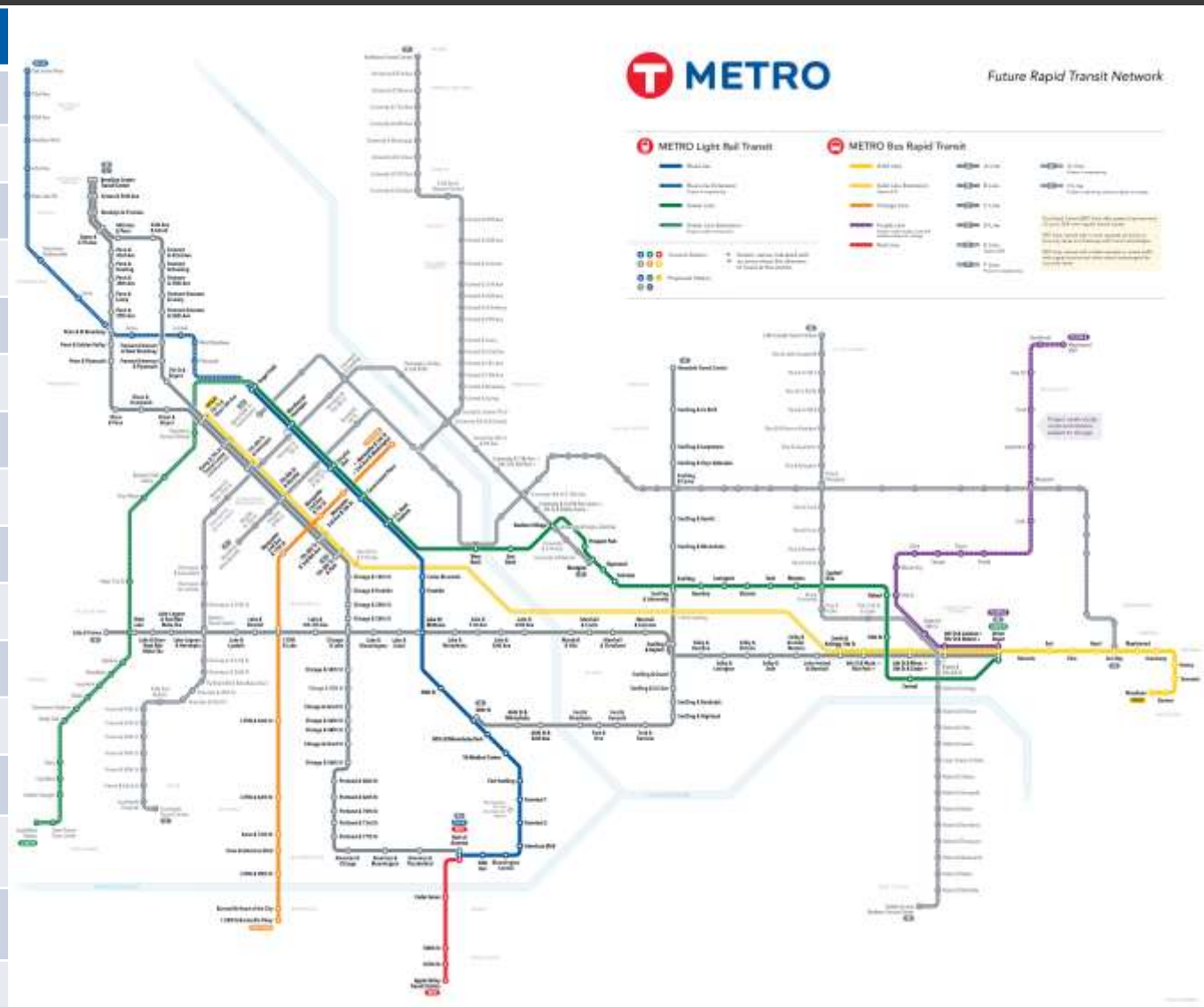
2014
CTIB

Current METRO Transitway Network



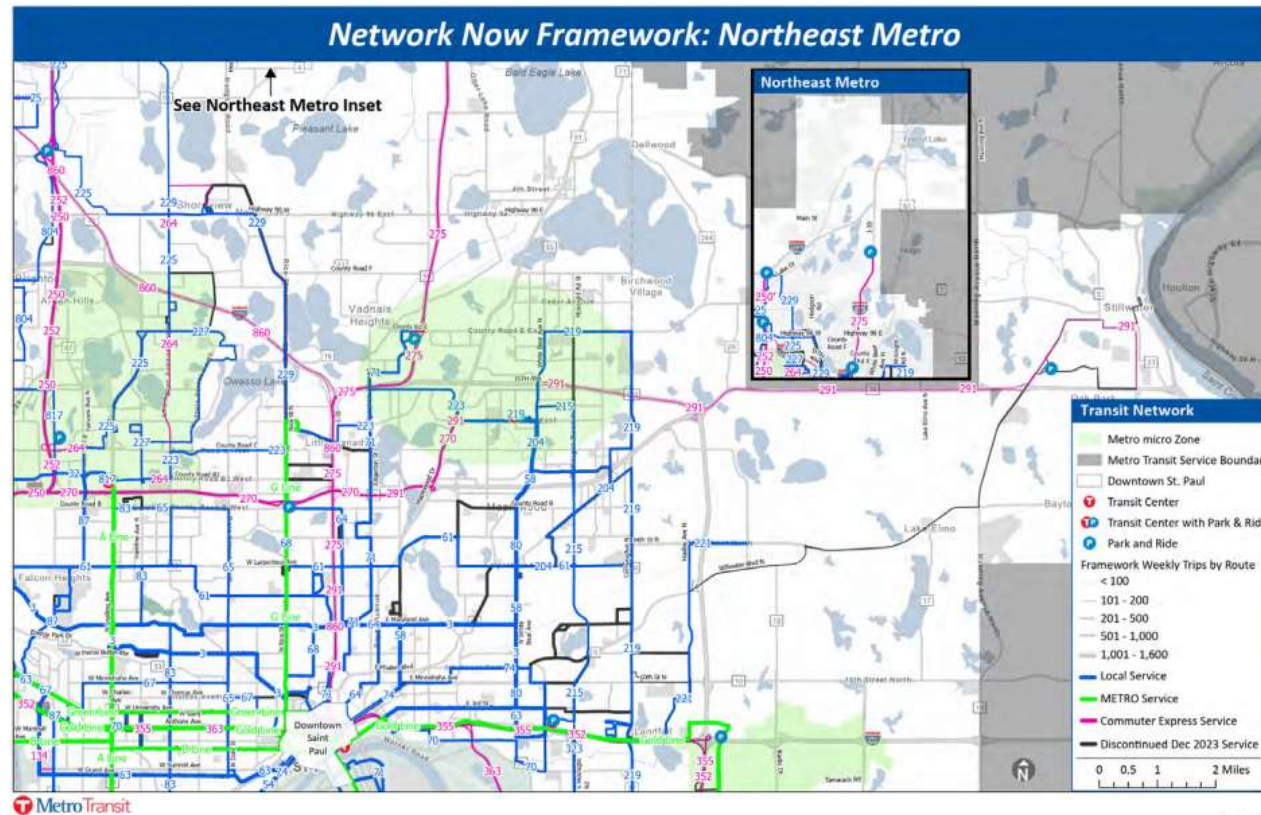
METRO Transit Vision

METRO Line	Opened/Opening
Blue Line LRT	2004
Northstar Commuter Rail	2009
Green Line LRT	2014
A Line BRT	2016
C Line BRT	2019
Orange Line BRT	2021
D Line BRT	2022
B Line BRT	2024
Gold Line BRT	2025
E Line BRT	2025
F Line BRT	2026
Green Line LRT Ext	2027
Purple Line BRT	2027/2028
G Line BRT	2027/2028
H Line BRT	2028/2029
Blue Line LRT Ext	2028/2030



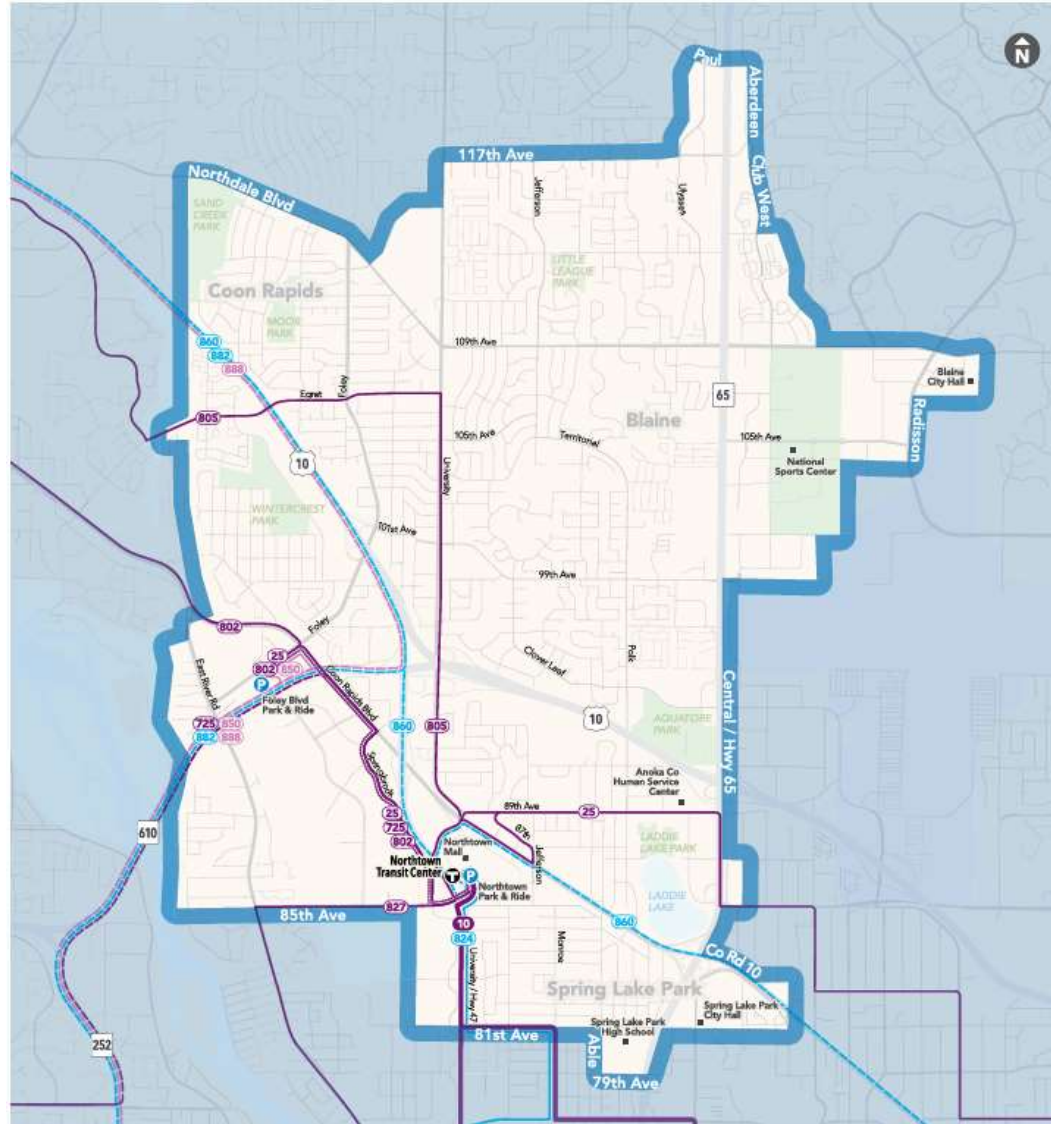
Rebuilding Service: Network Now

Network Now: our near-term plan to design transit service to best meet the needs of our region



<https://www.metrotransit.org/network-now>

Metro Micro



<https://www.metrotransit.org/micro-blaine>

Recent Progress and What's Next

Recent Accomplishments

- Opened the Gold Line and the B Line BRT
- Expansion of Micro Transit around the metro, including in Spring Lake Park.
- Major Investments in our wastewater treatment system.

Upcoming Activities

- Supporting local governments in implementing the Imagine 2050 regional development guide:
 - Implementing tools and guides to support local staff
 - Preparing and distributing grants to support small cities with updating their comprehensive plans.
- Continuing to implement the Metro Transit Safety and Security Action Plan in collaboration with our partners.
- Planning and building the F Line BRT.

Personal Investment = Regional Benefits

- Ride with us for your next travel outing
- Engage in local and regional planning opportunities
- Participate in park or waterway clean-ups
- Let's stay connected! Invite us to your next gathering



Questions?

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