

Orange Line BRT Purpose Statement

METRO Orange Line is a planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line between Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington, Burnsville, and Lakeville. The Orange Line will benefit existing riders and attract new riders by improving transit access, service, and reliability on the I-35W corridor. Fully-accessible, high-amenity stations and METRO branding will increase the visibility of transit and leverage service improvements.

All-day, frequent BRT service will complement local and express bus routes along I-35W, providing competitive running times for station-to-station trips and a new option for reverse -commute markets. Both BRT and express riders will benefit from station, runningway, technology, and service improvements.

Phase I of the Orange Line will establish BRT stations and service along I-35W between downtown Minneapolis and Highway 13 and Nicollet Avenue. A future Phase II of the Orange Line could extend the service south to Burnsville Shopping Center and the Kenrick park and ride facility in Lakeville.

As a part of the METRO system, the Orange Line will connect people across the region to job centers, housing options, transit stations, and key destinations in the I-35W corridor. In Phase I alone, the Orange Line will improve access to 162,000 jobs and 64,000 residents, including 30,000 jobs and 40,000 residents outside of downtown Minneapolis. By providing a new transportation option and expanding accessibility, BRT service will also promote compact, walkable development in the station areas.