# **METRO Orange Line Update**

Charles Carlson, Project Director
March 8, 2017



#### **Orange Line BRT Project**





#### Most heavily-traveled express bus corridor

- 14,000 existing bus riders each weekday on 26 routes
- Over 26,000 rides by 2040 w/ BRT
- 210,000 cars a day
- Past express bus investments

#### Who are Orange Line riders?

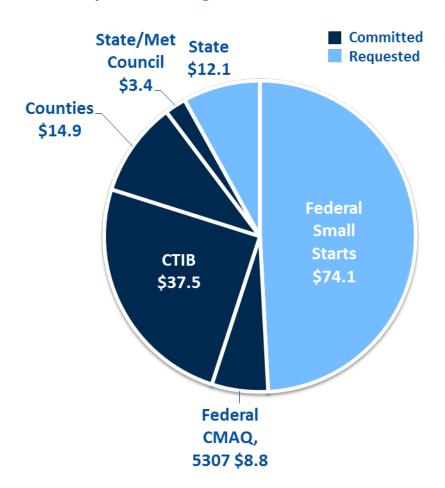
- Access to 30,000 suburban jobs
- Better serves all-day, evening, weekend markets
- Better serves non-downtown trips, especially to the 494 corridor

### **Funding & Budget**



- Total capital cost: \$150.7M
- Secured \$39.63M for the project in 2016, bringing total committed funding from all sources to \$64.52M
- Federal LONP secured in February
  - Allows the Council to fund MnDOT partnership agreement with committed local funding

#### **Capital Funding Sources, in Millions**



#### **Six-Month Project Look Ahead**



- Execute MnDOT partnership agreement
- Execute local funding agreements with counties
- MnDOT letting June 7, 2017
- Finalize 35W construction schedules with MnDOT
- Continue public outreach
- Complete 60% design of 11 stations and Knox Avenue Transitway
- Obtain remaining \$12.1M in state funding
- Initiate ROW appraisals and acquisition



Knox Avenue Transitway, Bloomington



### **Project Schedule and Milestones**



Milestone	Date
Bid documents for Lake Street and 12 <sup>th</sup> Street	Q1 2017
Secure remaining \$12.1M of state funding	Q2 2017
Acquire needed ROW in Richfield & Bloomington	Q2-Q4 2017
MnDOT coordinated construction start	Q3 2017
Final design completion for Orange Line	Q4 2017
Execute SSGA	Q1 2018
Construction start after SSGA	Q2 2018
Acquire buses and fare equipment	2019 – 2020
Construction completion	2020 – 2021
Revenue Service	2020 – 2021

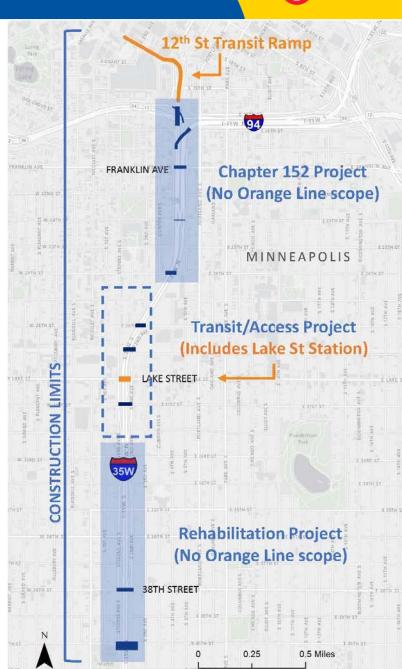
Dependent on final phasing plan for MnDOT's Transit/Access Project



#### **MnDOT Coordinated Construction**



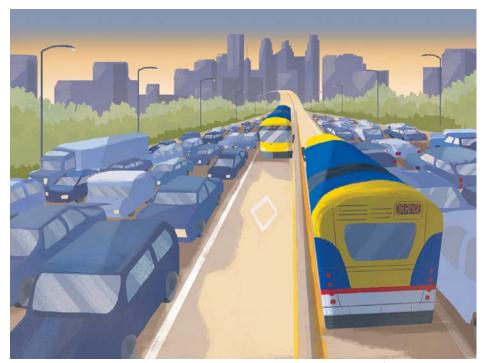
- Highway and bridge reconstruction
  - New MnPASS lanes
  - Chapter 152 bridge replacements
  - Overpass bridges replaced or improved
  - Noise barrier improvements
  - Local access improvements
  - Exit ramp SB to Lake St
  - Exit ramp NB to 28th St
- Transit station and ramp (part of Orange Line)
  - I-35W & Lake Street station
  - New bus-only downtown access via 12th St
- Initial construction starts mid-late 2017
- Nearly \$300 million combined project



### MnDOT Partnership Construction precedes FTA grant



- FTA Small Starts Grant anticipated in 2018
- MnDOT construction must proceed in 2017
- Orange Line project elements included requires partnership agreement
- Agreement allows MnDOT to build Lake Street Station, 12<sup>th</sup> Street Ramp, and related construction
- Secured funding approvals and federal permission to begin construction



12<sup>th</sup> Street Ramp

## **Existing Conditions at 12<sup>th</sup> Street**

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- 700 buses daily
- 13,000 existing daily I-35W riders
- One of the worst congestion pinch points in the transit network







# 12<sup>th</sup> Street Ramp





### **Existing Conditions**









#### **Lake Street Station**



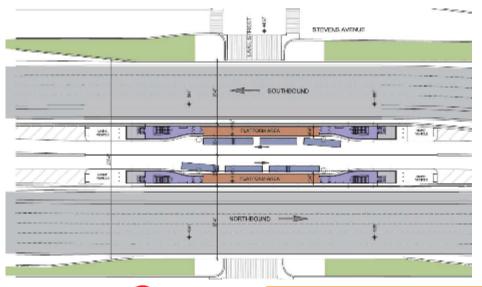


During peak hours, over 100 buses per hour will connect Lake Street to the heart of downtown in 7 minutes





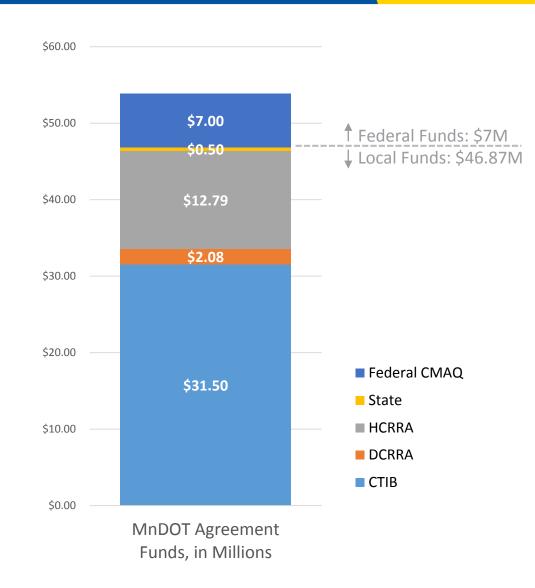
Lake Street bus stops, below I-35W bridge



### **Funding for Partnership Agreement**



- All Orange Line funds needed for partnership agreement are secured
- Local funds will be part of agreement executed this spring
- Federal CMAQ funds will be brought into the agreement following SSGA in 2018
- Metro Transit will pay MnDOT in installments starting in Q3 2017



### Sequence and Schedule to MnDOT Partnership





#### **Federal Process**

FTA LONP approval February 2017

# MnDOT Partnership Agreement

Met Council authorize & negotiate MnDOT agreement March 22, 2017

MnDOT contracting & award Summer 2017

MnDOT leads coordinated construction 2017-2021