



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



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<https://mn.gov/caapb/>

Date: June 4, 2026
To: Members of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)
From: Peter Musty, Principal Planner and Administrator of the Rules for Zoning and Design

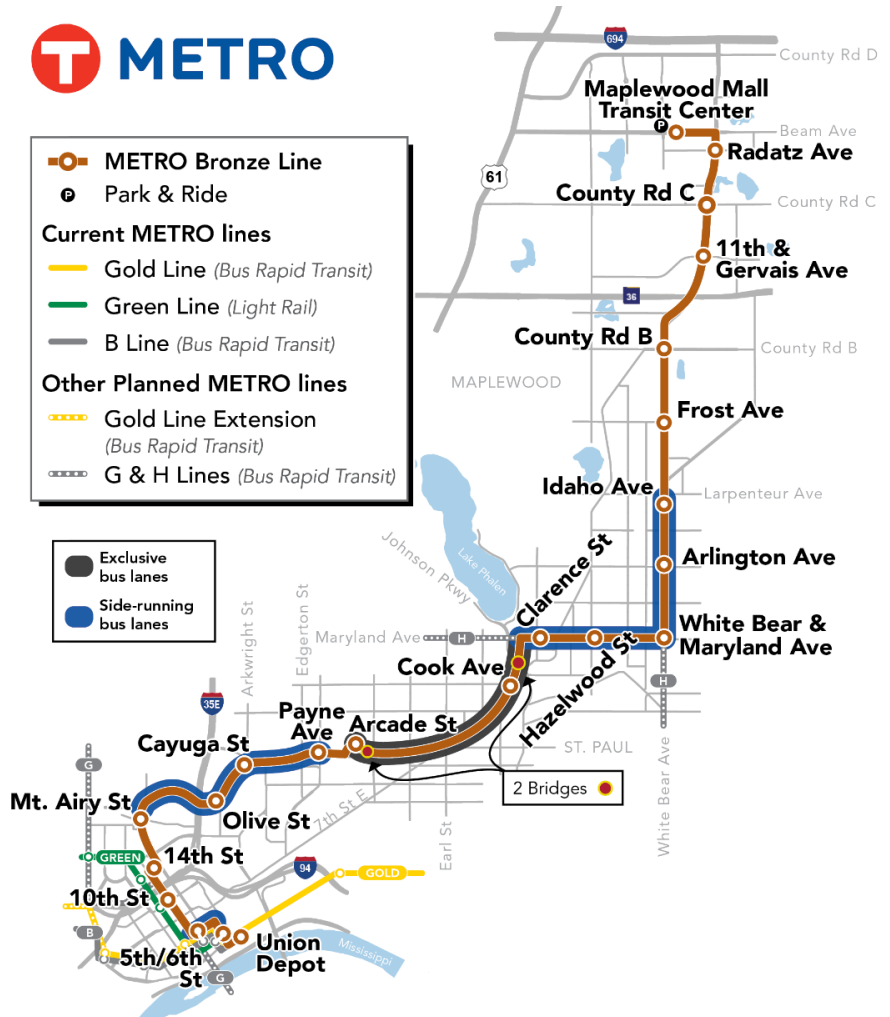
METRO Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit - Statement of Support

Update on METRO Bronze Line (BRT) Bus Rapid Transit (formerly known as the Purple Line)

The METRO Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project represents the continuation of the previously approved Rush Line / METRO Purple Line corridor, with modifications to the northern alignment resulting from the Route Modification Study (RMS) Phase I and Phase II. While the alignment has been refined, the project's purpose, corridor limits, and regional mobility objectives remain consistent with prior actions reviewed by partner agencies and the region.

The revised Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) redefines the project as the METRO Bronze Line and consists of an approximately 10-mile corridor between Union Depot in downtown Saint Paul and the Maplewood Mall Transit Center. The project includes 22 planned stations and a range of corridor improvements intended to enhance transit reliability, safety, and multimodal access.

In Maplewood, the revised LPA includes six stations, improvements to the Maplewood Mall Transit Center, and pavement replacement along White Bear Avenue between Frost Avenue and Beam Avenue. In this segment, buses will primarily operate in mixed traffic without dedicated bus lanes.



Within the City of Saint Paul, including the Capitol Area, the revised LPA includes new and reconstructed BRT stations; roadway reconstruction along Pennsylvania Avenue, Maryland Avenue, and White Bear Avenue (to Larpenteur Avenue); and implementation of semi-exclusive, side-running bus lanes. Additional improvements include enhancements to Phalen Boulevard, reconstruction of portions of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail to accommodate dedicated transit operations, and new busway bridge crossings at Arcade Street and Johnson Parkway.

Previous CAAPB Approvals and Statements of Support for Bronze (Purple) Line

As with previous iterations of the project, elements of the Bronze Line within the Capitol Area are subject to review and approval by CAAPB, consistent with its authority over the location and design of transit facilities within the Capitol Area.

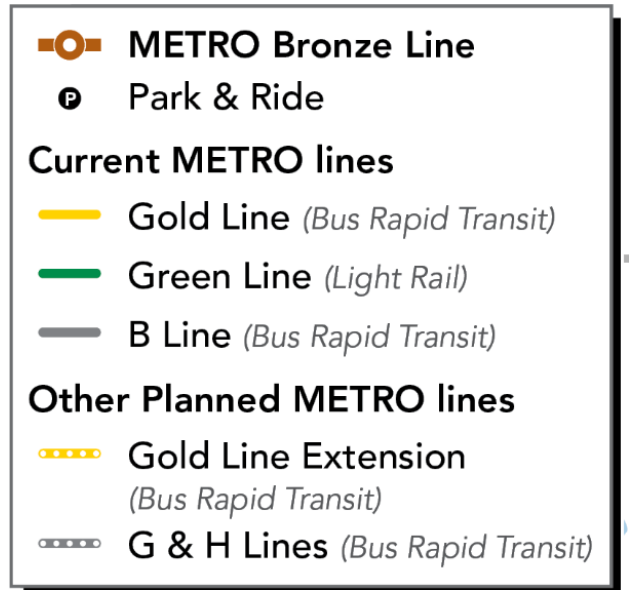
2023 Station Location Approval, Statement of Support

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) last took formal action on the METRO Purple Line on January 27, 2023, when it approved the locations of two proposed BRT station facilities within the Capitol Area—at Mt. Airy (Winter) and Jackson and on 14th Street between Robert Street and Jackson Street. That action was based on the Purple Line alignment and station planning concepts at that time and established a foundation for continued coordination with CAAPB as the project has advanced. **No changes have been made to the 14th Street and Mt. Airy Station locations approved by the Board.**

For more information on the approved station locations, see the [Board memo from January 2023](#), which included a statement of support from the Board to the City for enhanced transit related to federal corridor grant on Jackson. The City’s Jackson project went forward and is now complete and designed to be BRT station ready.

2026 Request: Letter of Support for METRO Bronze Line

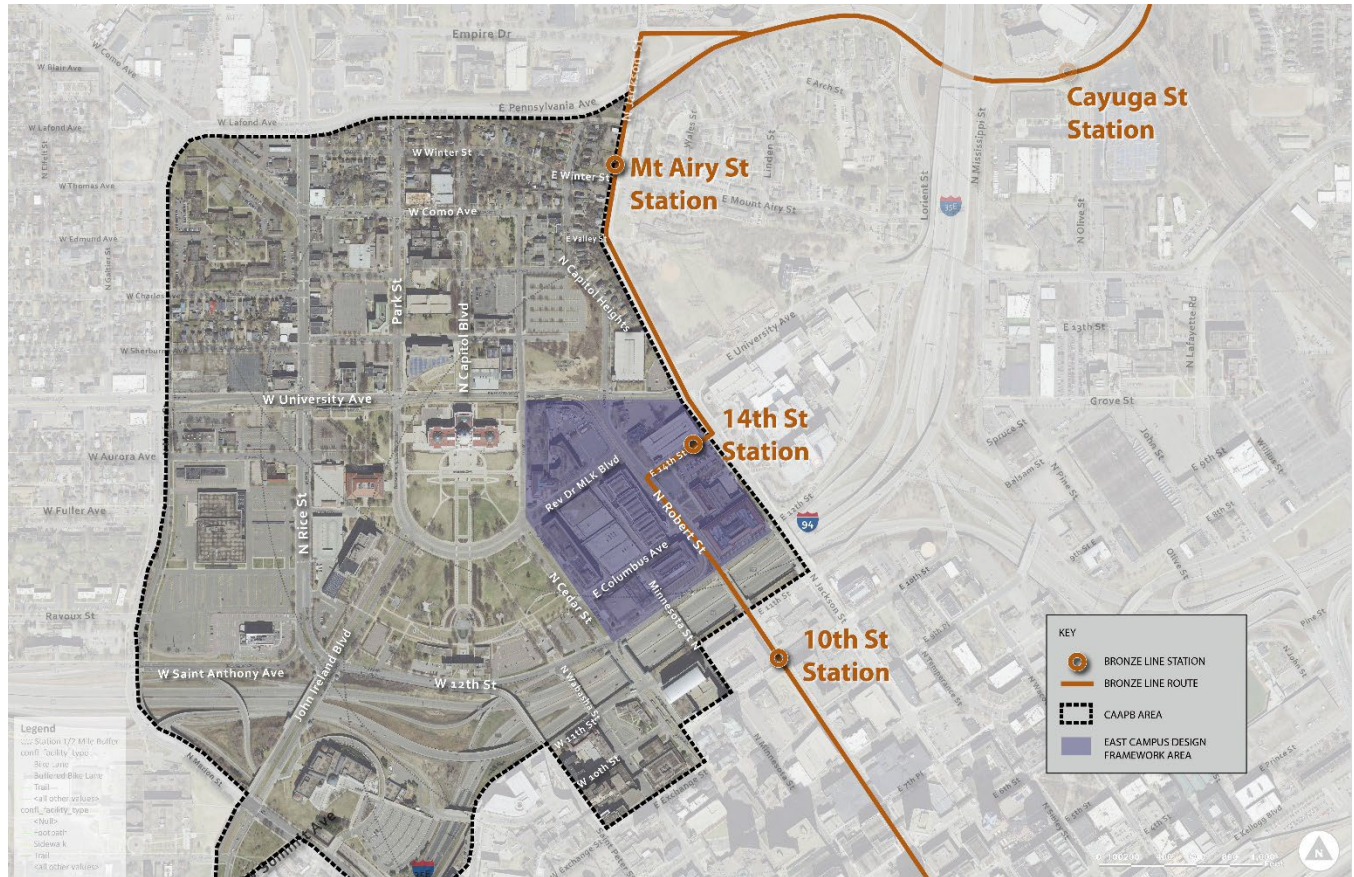
The Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County, and the cities of Maplewood and St. Paul announced in December 2025 the [METRO Bronze Line](#) bus rapid transit (BRT) project, a reimagined version of the former [Purple Line](#) BRT project. As of April 2026, Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul, and the City of Maplewood have all passed Resolutions of Support for the METRO Bronze Line Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The LPA confirms the project's scope, route, and stations.



Following the recommendation of the revised LPA by the Bronze Line Corridor Management Committee, partner agencies are now being asked to take formal action indicating support. These actions will inform the Metropolitan Council’s consideration of adopting the revised LPA into the region’s Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan. Upon adoption, Ramsey County and Metro Transit will continue advancing the project through final design and environmental review. Information of the revised route is found on the Bronze Line website:

<https://www.metrotransit.org/bronze-line-project>

Route Map: Bronze Line BRT in Capitol Area



Suggested Language for Board Action

"The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) reviewed the information provided in June 4 2026 board memo provided by CAAPB staff that includes the summary of METRO Bronze Line planning process, both the confirmed route through the Capitol Area and its revised route north of the Capitol Area, and approves the draft statement of support included in the memo’s Attachment A confirming Board support for the Bronze Line."

Attachments

Attachment A: Suggested Language of Letter including CAAPB Statement of Support for METRO Bronze Line