



## Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

**Date:** August 22, 2006  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **Minneapolis Response to Metro Transit's Northwest Metro (Sector 8) Transit Restructuring Study Concept Plan**

**Recommendation:**

Receive and File action for the Attachment A letter to Metro Transit responding to the Northwest Metro Transit Restructuring Study Concept Plan

**Prepared by:** Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner, Engineering Services

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Interim City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenters:** Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner, Engineering Services  
Jon Wertjes, P.E., PTOE, Director, Traffic and Parking Services

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Not applicable X  
Policy review Group (PRG) Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Not applicable X

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

- X No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)  
\_\_\_ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget  
\_\_\_ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget  
\_\_\_ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase  
\_\_\_ Action requires use of contingency or reserves  
\_\_\_ Business Plan: X Action is within the plan. \_\_\_ Action requires a change to plan.  
\_\_\_ Other financial impact (Explain):  
\_\_\_ Request provided to department's Finance Dept. contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Background/Supporting Information**

Metro Transit released its Concept Plan for the Northwest Metro (Sector 8) Transit Restructuring Study in April 2006, and completed its public involvement process this summer. Public Works has reviewed the plan, reviewed the public input report (Attachment B), and met with Metro Transit to discuss the attached response to the Concept Plan (Attachment A).

This study is the latest of a series of service restructuring studies. The previous service restructuring study by Metro Transit was for the south metro area, which included all of south Minneapolis, and was

completed in February 2004. That study resulted in significant bus service changes in south Minneapolis, largely due to the opening of the Hiawatha light rail line.

The northwest sector study follows the same methodology as was followed for the south sector study: to reallocate existing transit service hours to provide faster, more direct, and more reliable service; to improve connections between neighborhoods and transit centers; and to integrate plans for new services and facilities. The study area includes north Minneapolis, north of Highway 55 and west of the Mississippi River, and extends north to Maple Grove and west to Plymouth.

The bus service changes proposed in north Minneapolis are much more modest than were implemented in south Minneapolis. The majority of the local routes in north Minneapolis will continue to operate as they do today, although some service has been shifted to different route numbers.

Attached is the staff response submitted to Metro Transit (Attachment A) and a summary of public comment prepared by Metro Transit (Attachment B). The Concept Plan is available on Metro Transit's website at [http://metrotransit.org/improvingTransit/NW\\_restructuring/index.asp](http://metrotransit.org/improvingTransit/NW_restructuring/index.asp).

Metro Transit is currently in the process of revising the Concept Plan, based upon the public input, and plans to implement the plan beginning in 2007. The service changes in north Minneapolis would likely be in the first phase of implementation, while service changes dependent upon the completion of the Brooklyn Park Transit Center expansion would be implemented in the second phase.