



# Regional Transportation

Senate Transportation Committee



January 2023

Chair Charlie Zelle

[metro council.org](http://metro council.org)



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# Metropolitan Council Overview



# Metropolitan Council



## Policy-making, planning, and coordination

- 17 members appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor

## Strategic investments, and services support regional economic vitality

- Create a financially sustainable 21st century transportation system
- Invest in infrastructure that supports economic development

# Metropolitan Council

## Community Development

## Environmental Services

## Transportation

Economic Development & Housing Grants  
MN 473.251

Regional Land Use Planning  
MN 473.851-867

Housing Services  
MN 473.195

Wastewater  
MN 473.511

Surface Water Quality  
MN 473.157

Water Supply Planning  
MN 473.1565

Regional Transportation Planning  
MN 473.146

Transitway Development  
MN 473.399

Transit Services  
MN 473.385

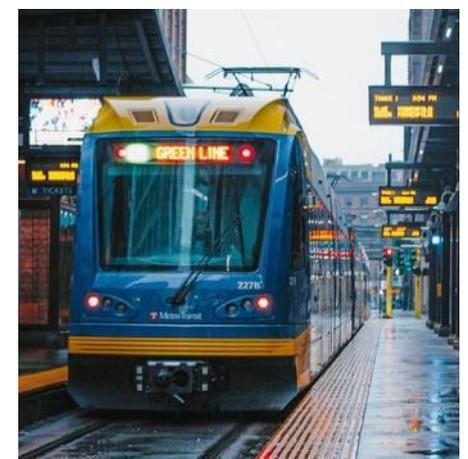
# Transportation

## 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**





 **Metro Transit**

# Metro Transit

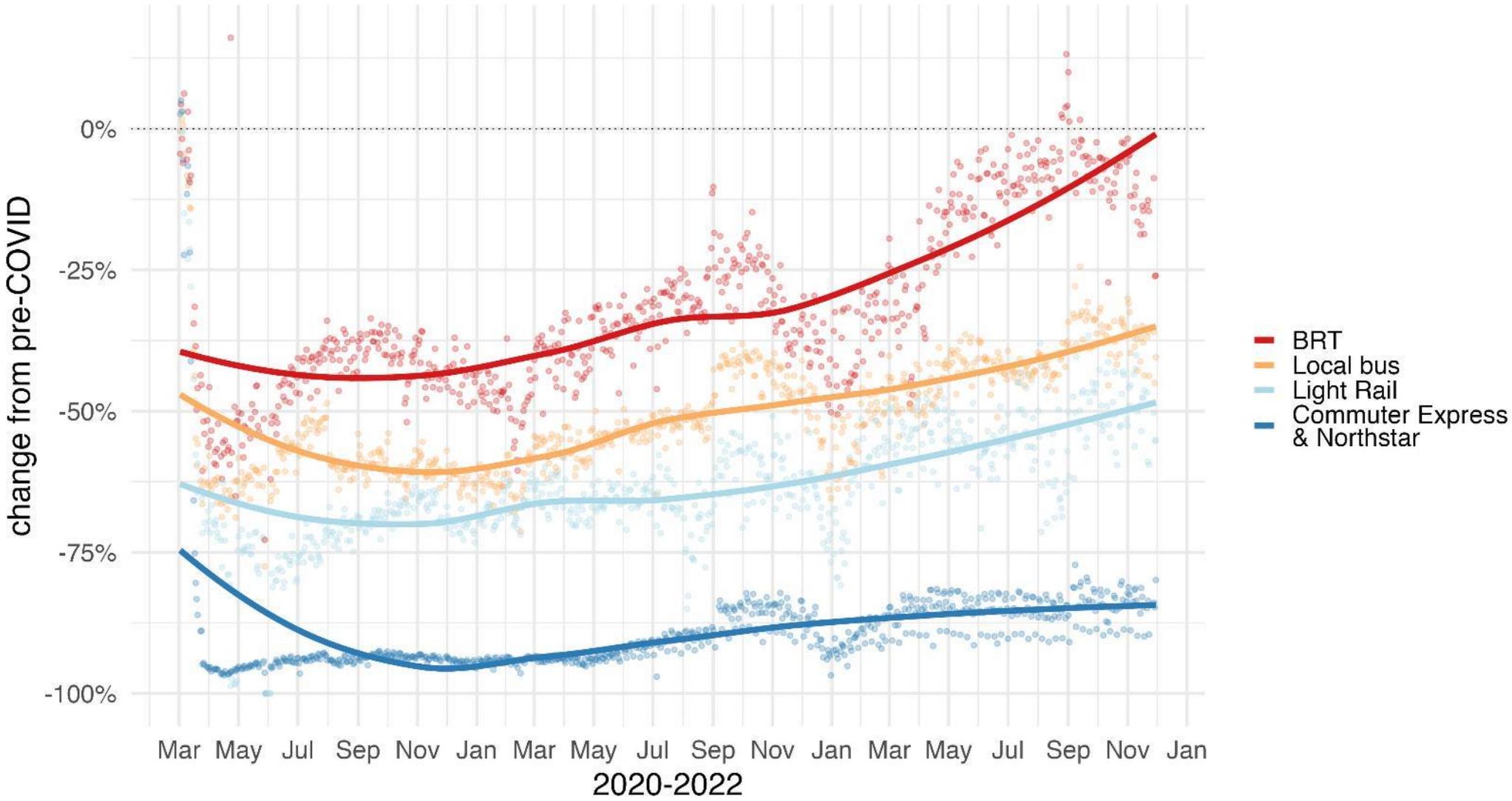


## About

- Division of the Metropolitan Council
- Largest transit provider in the region
- Operates bus, light rail, and commuter rail

# Metro Transit ridership is rebounding

- Averaging about 130,000 rides per weekday
- Systemwide, about 55% of pre-COVID ridership (45% down)



# Trip purpose changes during COVID



## A 2021 on-board travel behavior survey of the busiest Metro Transit lines found:

- Strong retention of trips for “life maintenance” activities (shopping, errands, appointments)
- Drop in share of 9 to 5 commutes
- Drop in trips for social and community purposes
- Similar transit use for trips to school and off-peak work commutes

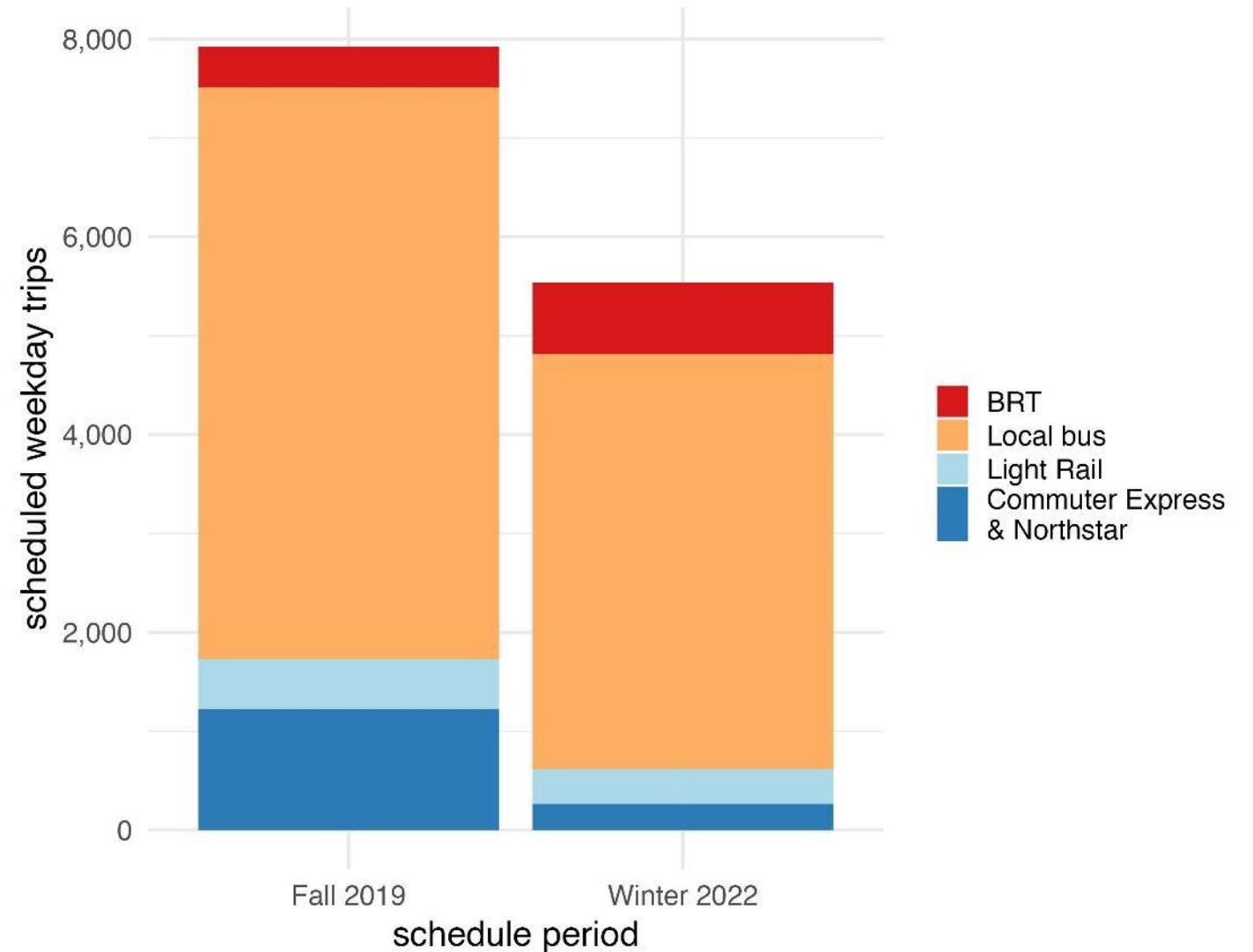
*Full transit network survey results coming 2023*

# Metro Transit service levels



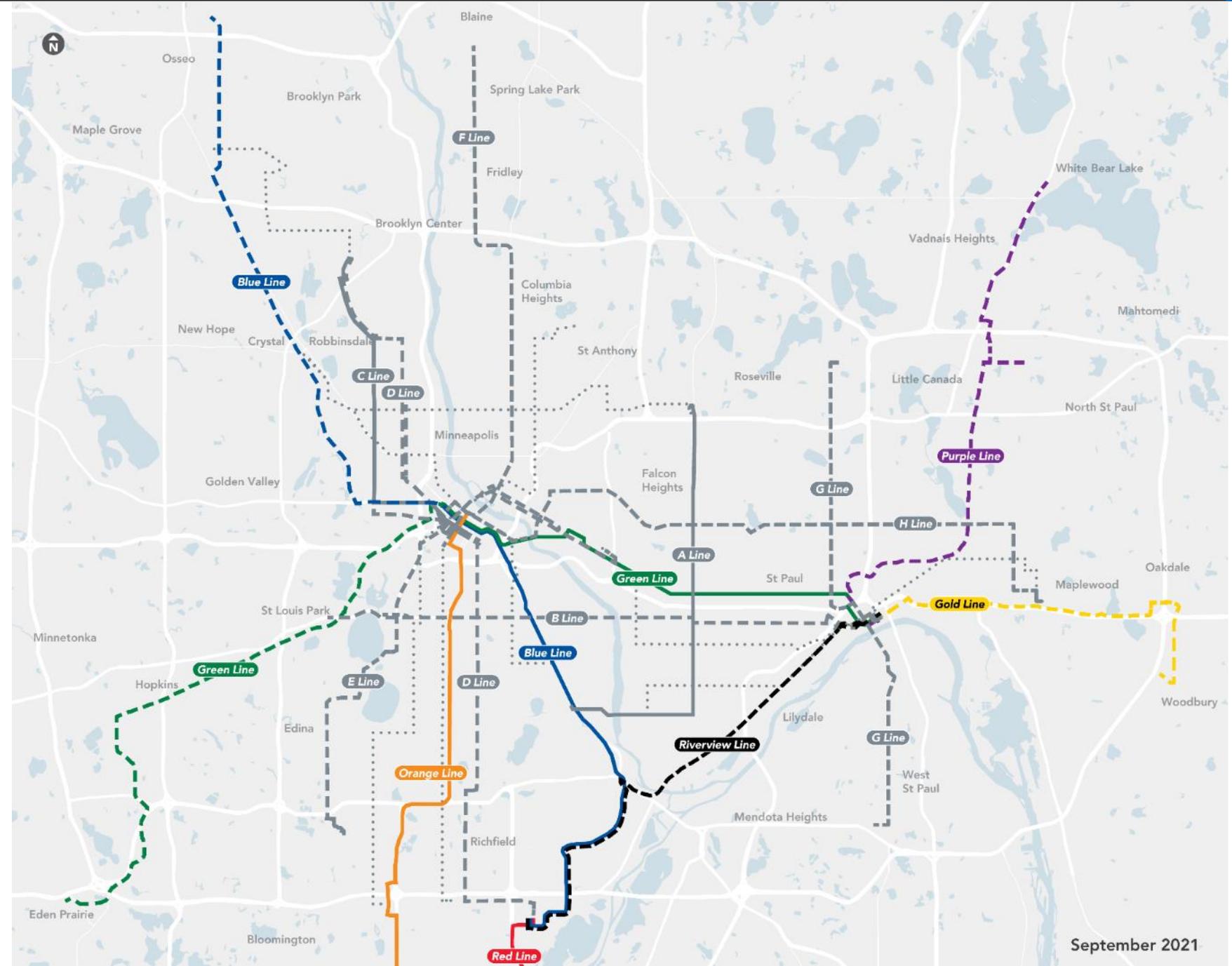
Current service hours are approximately 68% of 2019 service hours

Recent service reductions due to the shortage of operators



# Strengthening the regional transit network

METRO line	Opened/Opening
Blue Line	2004
Green Line	2014
A Line	2016
C Line	2019
D Line	2022
B Line	2024
E Line	2025
Gold Line	2025
Purple Line	2026
F Line	2026
G Line	2025-2030
H Line	2025-2030
Green Line Extension	2027
Blue Line Extension	TBD

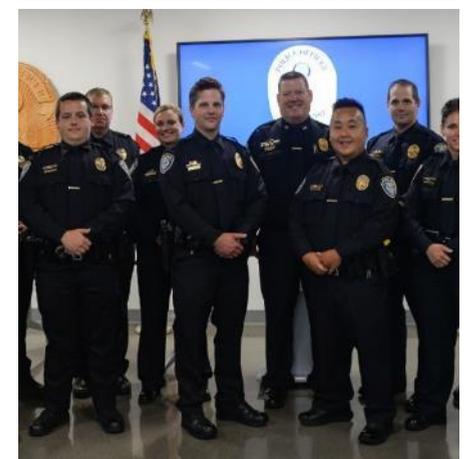


September 2021

# Additional Metro Transit initiatives

## Examples

- Safety & Security Action Plan
- Workforce Recruitment and Development
- Zero Emissions Bus Transition Plan
- Speed & Reliability Program
- Pass Programs, including new U of M Universal Transit Pass



# Metropolitan Transportation Services



# Transportation Services

## Planning

- Serves as the region's federally required Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Performs long-range transportation system planning for all modes
- Shorter term federal transportation funds programming

## Transit operations

- Provide, contract for, and coordinate metropolitan transit operations
  - Metro Mobility
  - Fixed route bus
  - Transit Link
  - Metro Transit micro
  - Vanpool

## Grants

- Administer transportation grants to local agencies and transit operators
- Provide financial assistance to local transit providers

# Governed by state and federal law

## State Law – Minnesota Land Planning Act (MS 473.146)

“The Council is the designated planning agency for any long-range comprehensive transportation planning...[and] shall assure administration and coordination of transportation planning with appropriate state, regional and other agencies, counties, and municipalities.”

## Federal Law and Rules

- Metropolitan Transportation Planning 23 USC §134
- National Environmental Policy Act
- 1990 Clean Air Act and Conformity Rule
- Title VI Environmental Justice

# Regional transportation planning



## Transportation Policy Plan

- Long-range comprehensive policy plan for transportation
- Represents two of four required regional system plans: surface transportation and aviation
- Provides guidance on the regional transportation system for developing local comprehensive plans
- Council reviews local plan consistency and conformance with regional system plans

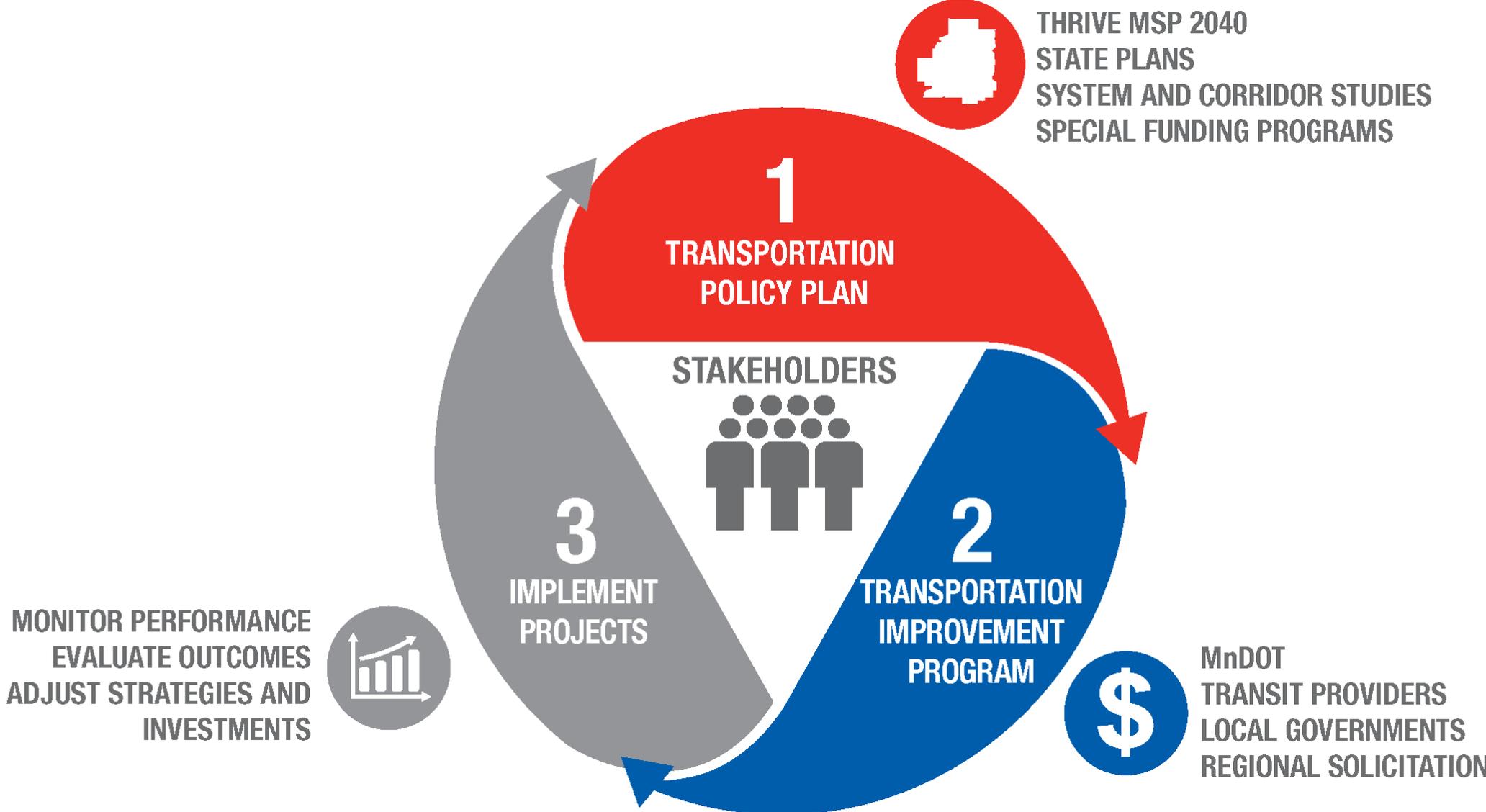
# Transportation Policy Plan



## Goals

- Transportation System Stewardship
- Safety and Security
- Access to Destinations
- Competitive Economy
- Healthy and Equitable Communities
- Leveraging Transportation Investments to Guide Land Use

# Metropolitan Planning Organization



# Transportation Advisory Board



## 34-member board

- 18 elected officials
  - 10 elected officials appointed by Metro Cities
  - 7 county board members
  - 1 Suburban Transit Association
- 4 agency members
  - Met Council, MnDOT, MPCA, MAC,
- 8 citizen members from each Met Council district
- 4 transportation mode members
  - 2 transit, 1 freight, 1 non-motorized

**State Statute 473.146  
Subd. 4. Transportation planning**

# Transportation Advisory Board



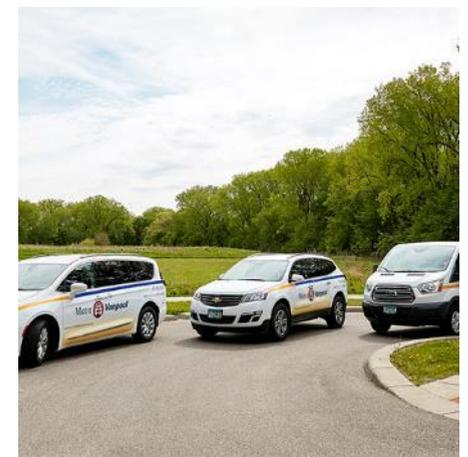
## Functions

- Provides forum for state, regional and local officials, transportation providers and community members
- Reviews and comments on regional and statewide plans
- Solicits, evaluates and recommends local and regional projects to receive federal transportation funding
- Recommends the region's Transportation Improvement Program
  - Includes all regional projects that have federal transportation funds being spent over the next four years.

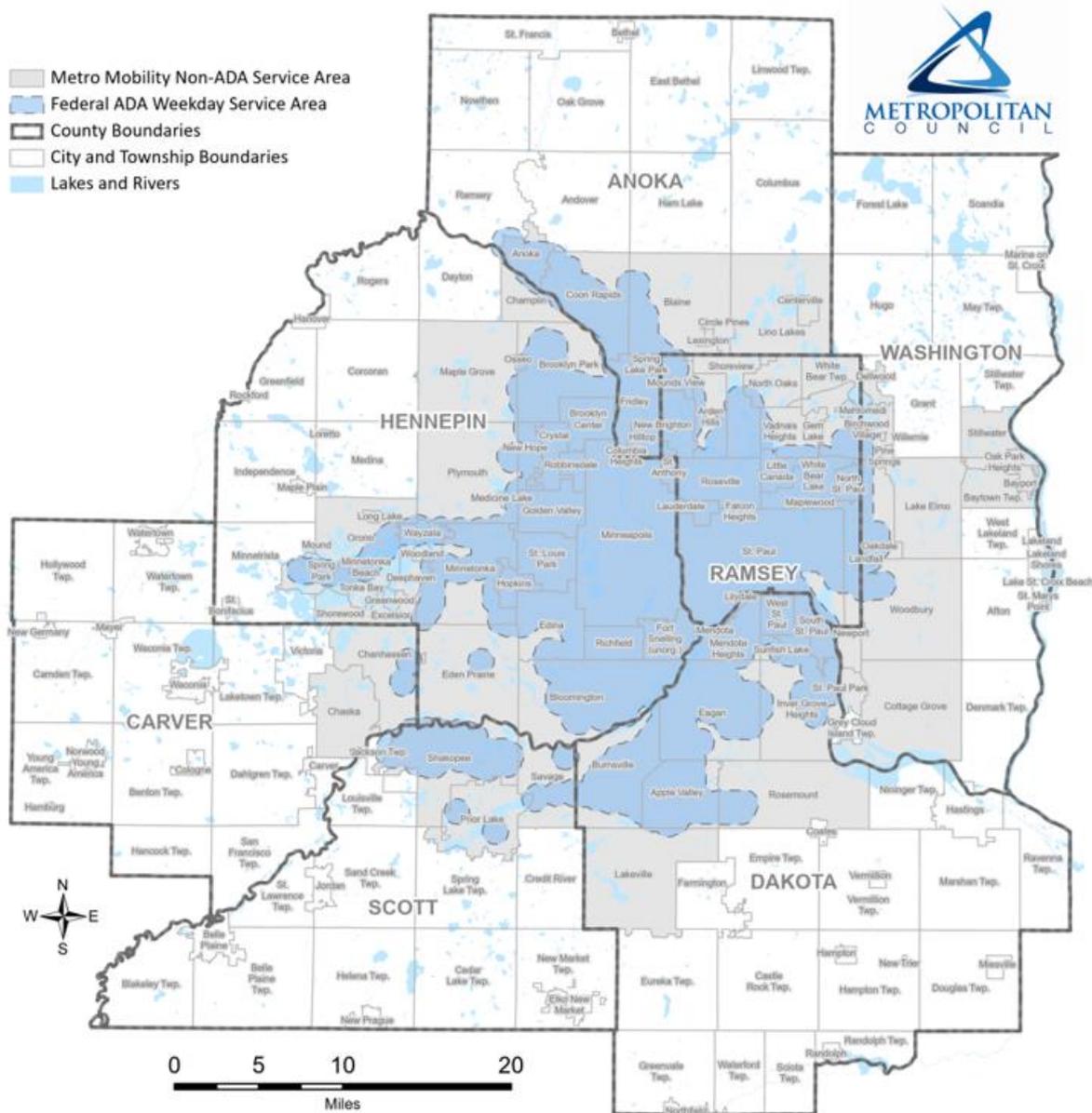
# Metropolitan Transportation Services

## Contracted transit operations

- **Fixed route** – backbone of public transit
- **Metro Mobility**
  - A shared ride, public transportation service for certified riders who are unable to use regular fixed-route buses due to a disability or health condition.
  - Federal and State: Service guaranteed as a civil right under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); additional state requirements in 473.386
- **Transit Link** – Shared-ride public transport where regular route transit is infrequent or unavailable
- **Metro Vanpool** – Vanpools have five to 15 people sharing the ride to and from work an average of three or more days a week.
- **Regional Services** – includes fleet, technology, grants management, regional policy and provider performance reporting.



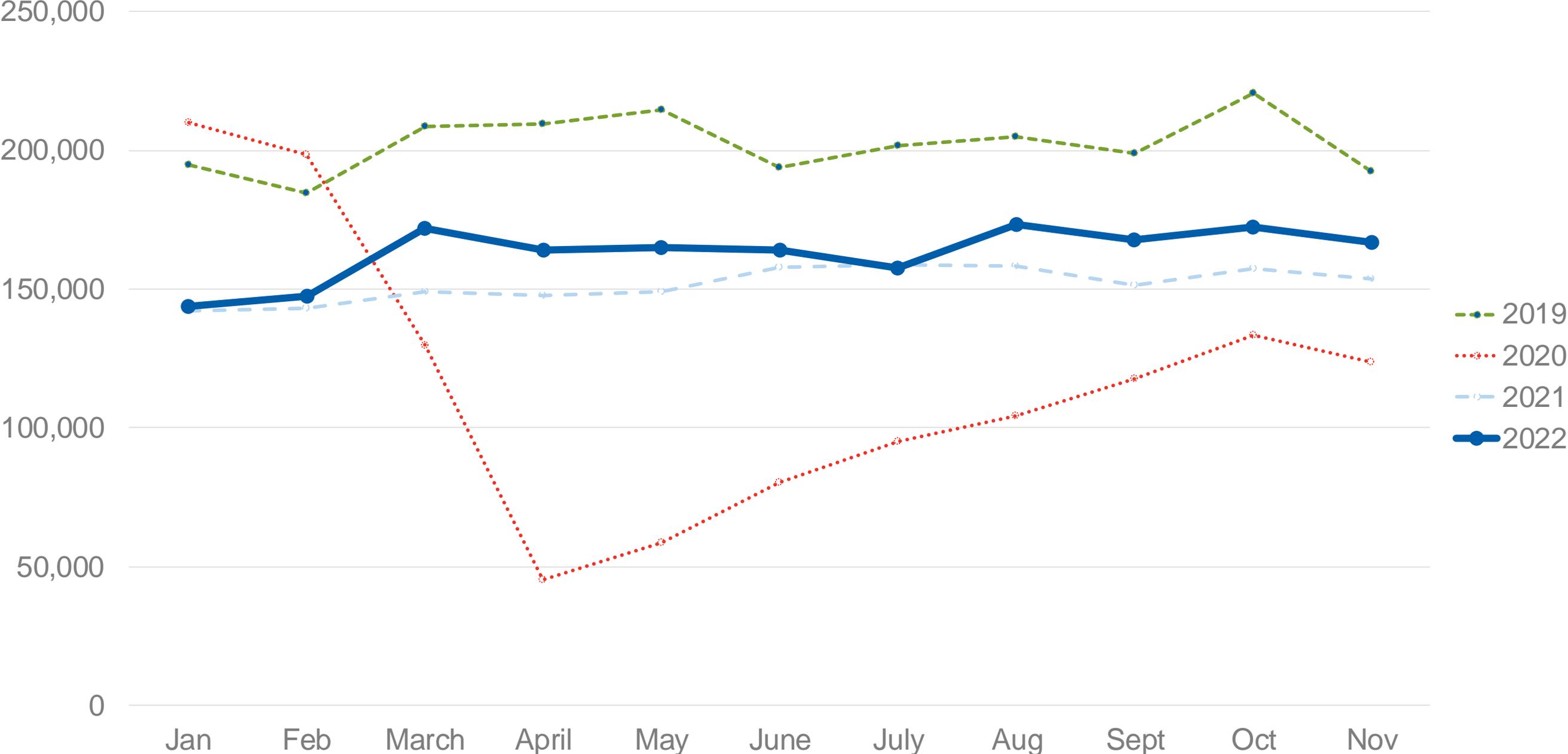
# Metro Mobility



## Service Areas

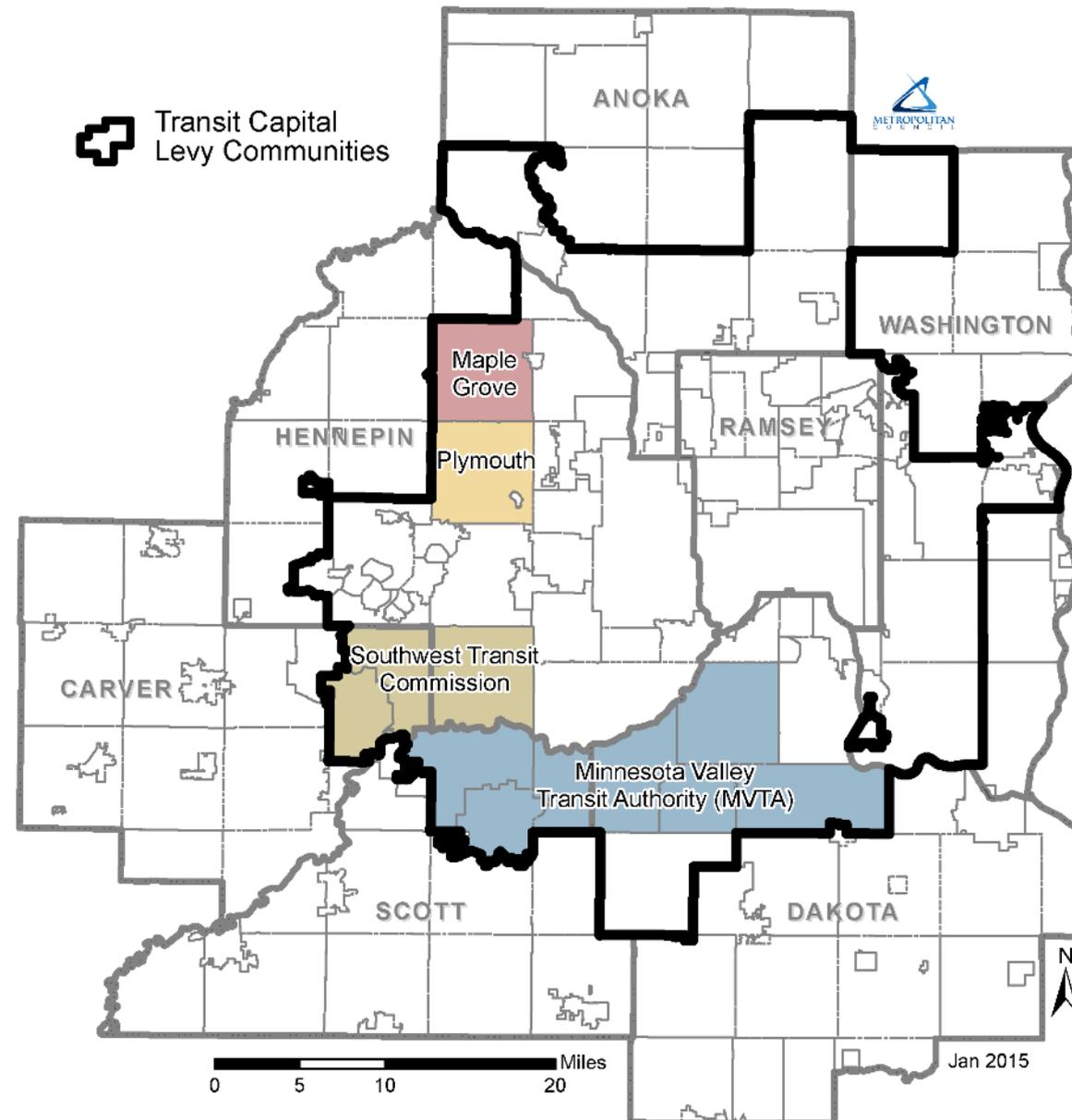
- **ADA service area** (light blue area)
  - FTA ADA mandated complementary Paratransit
  - Service provided within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and similar hours of all-day regular route bus or rail
  - Guaranteed as a civil right
  - Subject to federally required service quality thresholds
  - Zero denials
- **Non-ADA service area** (grey area)
  - Service area fixed by State statute
  - Typically, 1/4 of Metro Mobility rides are non-ADA
  - Ride requests are placed on standby
  - Trip denials allowed depending on system operating capacity

# Metro Mobility ridership nears pre-pandemic levels



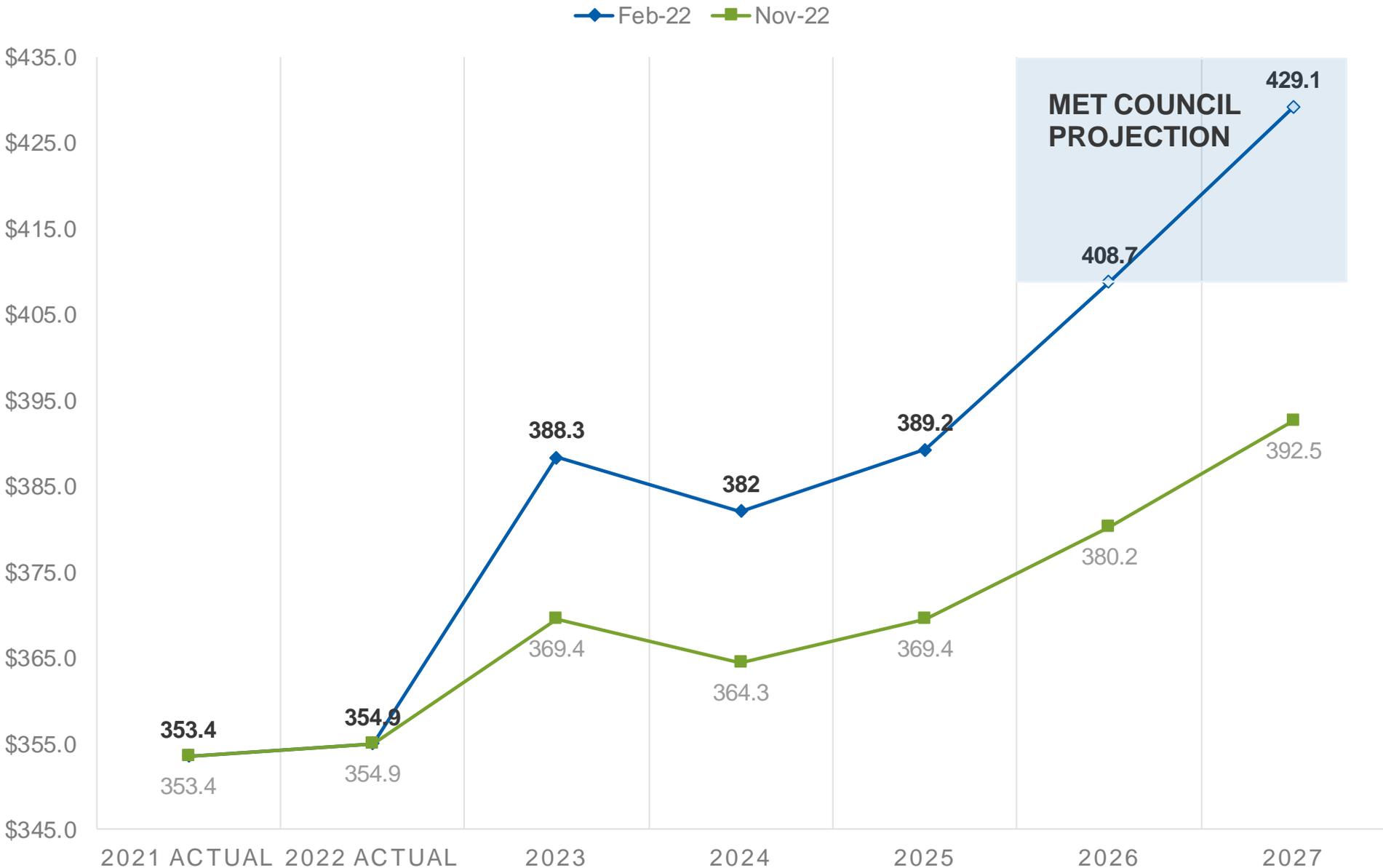
# Other regional transit providers

- Minnesota Valley Transit Authority
- SouthWest Transit
- Maple Grove Transit
- Plymouth Metrolink
- University of Minnesota



# Motor Vehicle Sales Tax revenues

NOV. 2022 VS. FEBRUARY 2022 FORECAST



- 5-year total loss of \$121.4M
- FY24-25 biennial MVST revenues to the Council and STP's reduced \$37.5 million, or 4.9%, from the Feb. forecast
- FY26-27 biennial MVST revenues to the Council and STP's reduced \$ 65.0 million, or 7.8%, from the Feb. forecast and Council planning estimates

# Met Council transportation budget summary

	State Fiscal Years			
<b>Nov 22 Forecast</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>
Base Revenues for Operations	\$ 976.3	\$ 1,111.9	\$ 1,189.6	\$ 1,387.1
Metro Mobility Forecasted GF Support	-	-	-	228.4
Operating Expenses	1,149.8	1,228.6	1,503.3	1,685.9
<b>Structural Position</b>	<b>\$ (173.5)</b>	<b>\$ (116.7)</b>	<b>\$ (313.7)</b>	<b>\$ (298.8)</b>
<b>One-Time Funding Solutions:</b>				
Non-Base State Appropriation	36.2	-	-	-
Federal Relief Funds (CARES, CRRSAA, ARP)*	208.1	210.0	207.7	-
(Add)/ Use of Available Program Reserves	(70.8)	1.0	106.0	38.0
Transfer MVST to 6-Year CIP	-	(94.3)	-	-
<b>Financial Position</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (260.8)</b>

\* Total Federal Funds \$725.8M less CRRSAA Funds \$100M moved to Capital Project

# Met Council transportation budget summary without federal funding

	State Fiscal Years			
<b>Nov 22 Forecast</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>
Base Revenues for Operations	\$ 976.3	\$ 1,111.9	\$ 1,189.6	\$ 1,387.1
Metro Mobility Forecasted GF Support	-	-	-	228.4
Operating Expenses	1,137.6	1,202.5	1,504.4	1,685.9
<b>Structural Position</b>	<b>\$ (161.3)</b>	<b>\$ (90.6)</b>	<b>\$ (314.8)</b>	<b>\$ (298.8)</b>
<b>One-Time Funding Solutions:</b>				
Non-Base State Appropriation	36.2	-	-	-
Federal Relief Funds (CARES, CRRSAA, ARP)	-	-	-	-
(Add)/ Use of Available Program Reserves	67.5	19.0	(6.0)	(6.0)
Transfer MVST to 6-Year CIP	-	(94.3)	-	-
<b>Financial Position</b>	<b>\$ (57.6)</b>	<b>\$ (165.9)</b>	<b>\$ (320.8)</b>	<b>\$ (304.8)</b>



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