The Metropolitan Council (Met Council) proposes to implement bus rapid transit (BRT) in a 13-mile corridor between downtown Minneapolis through the Northeast area of Minneapolis and the suburban communities of Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, and Blaine. The proposed corridor-based BRT project will include 23 stations that will feature fare payment infrastructure, signage, and unique branding. Bus priority treatments will be installed throughout the corridor including transit signal priority and queue jump lanes. Met Council will purchase approximately 18 sixty-foot buses with unique BRT branding. The project’s current estimated capital cost is between $75 and $85 million. Met Council expects to seek $35 million from the Small Starts program.

Met Council believes that the project would provide faster, more reliable, and more attractive bus transit service along a north-south corridor between Blaine and downtown Minneapolis. The need for the Project can be summarized by two key challenges in the corridor currently, namely slow, unreliable transit service and inadequate passenger facilities.

Met Council selected BRT in the Project corridor as the locally preferred alternative in March 2021, and it was included in the region’s fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in March 2022. Met Council hopes to complete the environmental review process in November 2023, with receipt of a Categorical Exclusion, and receive a Small Starts Grant Agreement in late 2024. Revenue service would begin in late 2026.