

Role of the Metropolitan Council in Transportation

**Presentation to the
Metropolitan Council
Committee of the Whole**

March 16, 2011

Metropolitan Council Transportation Functions

Planning

- Designated as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization or MPO
- Long-range transportation planning and shorter term federal funds programming

Transit Functions

- Provide, contract for, and coordinate metropolitan transit operations (bus and rail)
- Provide financial assistance to local transit providers

MPO Functions

- **Perform federal and state mandated planning**
 - Long-range: Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)
 - Short-range: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - Major transportation studies
- **Allocate federal funds** through competitive solicitation overseen by Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)
- **Coordinate planning activities** with MnDOT, transit operators, MAC, and local governments
- **Ensure public input** in planning and federal funds programming

Transportation Advisory Board

- Made up of elected officials from cities and counties, staff from state agencies, and citizens (M.S. 473.146)
- Fulfills requirements that local elected officials select federally funded projects
- TAB recommends projects, Council concurs/denies
- Community input into transportation planning comes primarily through TAB
- Has subcommittees with representation from a wide variety of interests

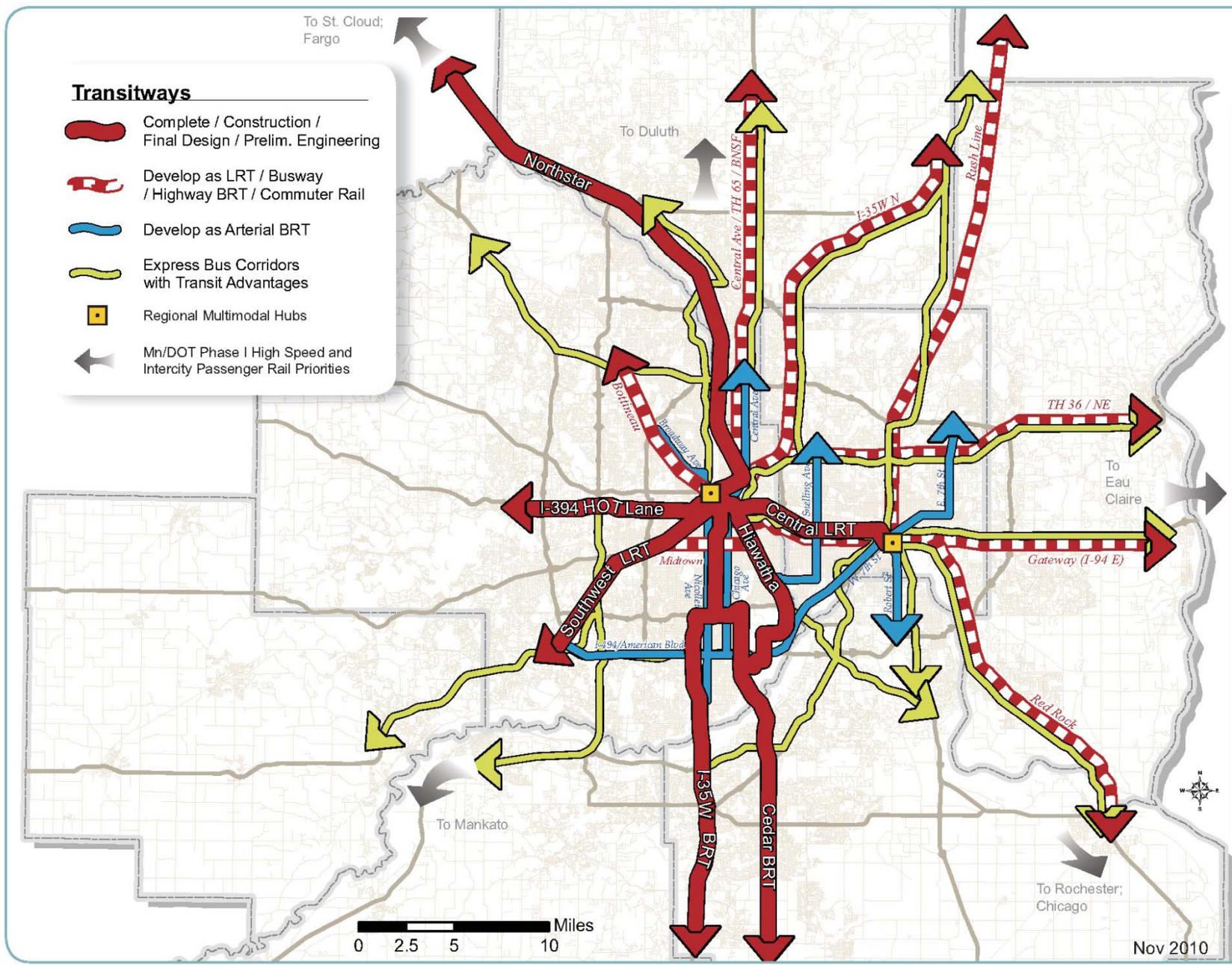
Planning Activities

- Highway Planning
- Transit Planning
- Airport Planning
- Freight Planning
- Travel Forecasting
- Corridor Studies





Figure 7-43: 2030 Transitway System



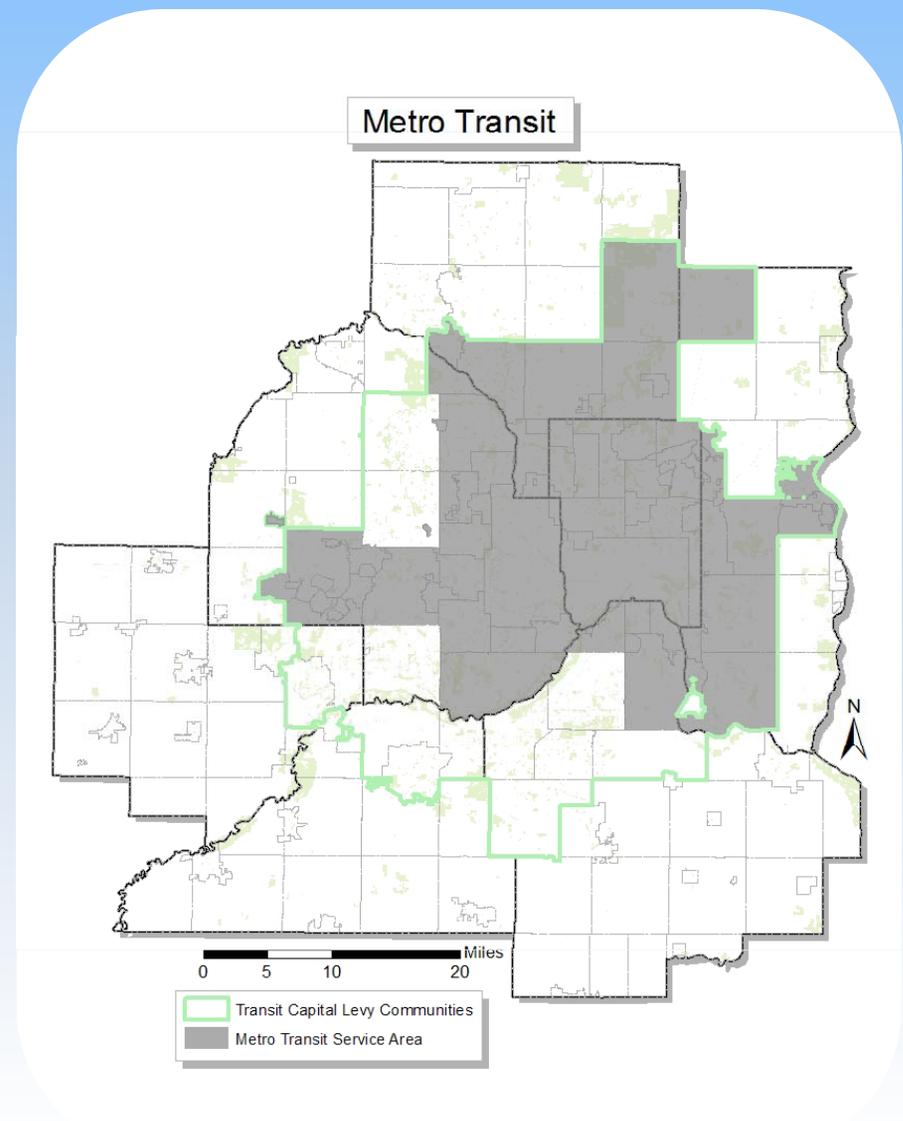


Transit System



Metro Transit

- 2010 rides = 78.0 million, up 2.3% from 2009;
2011 goal = 80 million rides
- Over 90% of region's regular route transit ridership
- 896 buses/27 rail cars/123 routes/6 locomotives & 18 passenger cars.
- 2,744 employees
- 12th largest transit system in America based on ridership



Metro Transit Customers

- 78% of trips for work and school
- 40% of downtown Minneapolis workers use transit
- 80% of LRT riders/56% of bus riders have cars but choose transit
- 54% of LRT riders have household incomes above \$50,000
- More than 90% fully satisfied with service (based on 2008 Customer Survey)



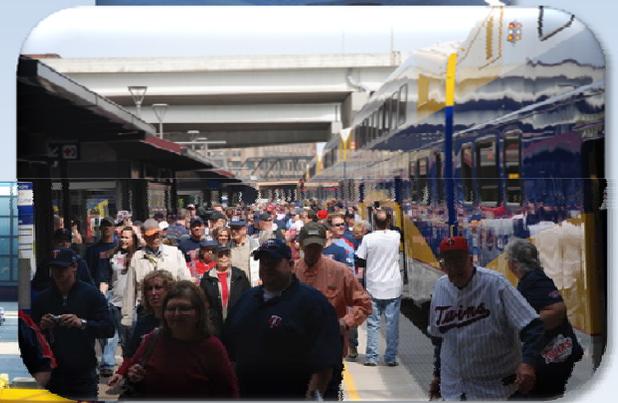
Metro Transit Partnerships

- 31,700 Metropass holders, 244 companies, 7.8M rides
 - Employer subsidies earn corporate tax benefits, recruitment advantages
- 330 employers in TransitWorks!
- School Pass Programs
 - U of M UPass, 4.0M rides
 - College Pass, 48 colleges, 1.5M rides
 - High School Pass, 5 high schools, 333,000 rides
- State Fair - 470,000 rides



Metro Transit Service Enhancements

- Marq2 lanes, Nicollet Mall
- MnPass lanes for buses
- I-35W BRT station
- Northstar commuter rail
- Twins special events



Metro Transit Customer Enhancements

- New website, mobile site
- NexTrip real-time information
- Smart card fare collection
- New media/Twitter, YouTube
- Ride2Rewards



Metro Transit's Go Greener Initiative

- Vehicles
 - Hybrid buses = 10% of fleet
 - Better MPG – from tires to technology
- Facilities
 - Service garage retrofits
 - I-35W & 46th Street Station
- Climate Registry founding member
 - Reduced CO2 emissions by 5% 2008-2009

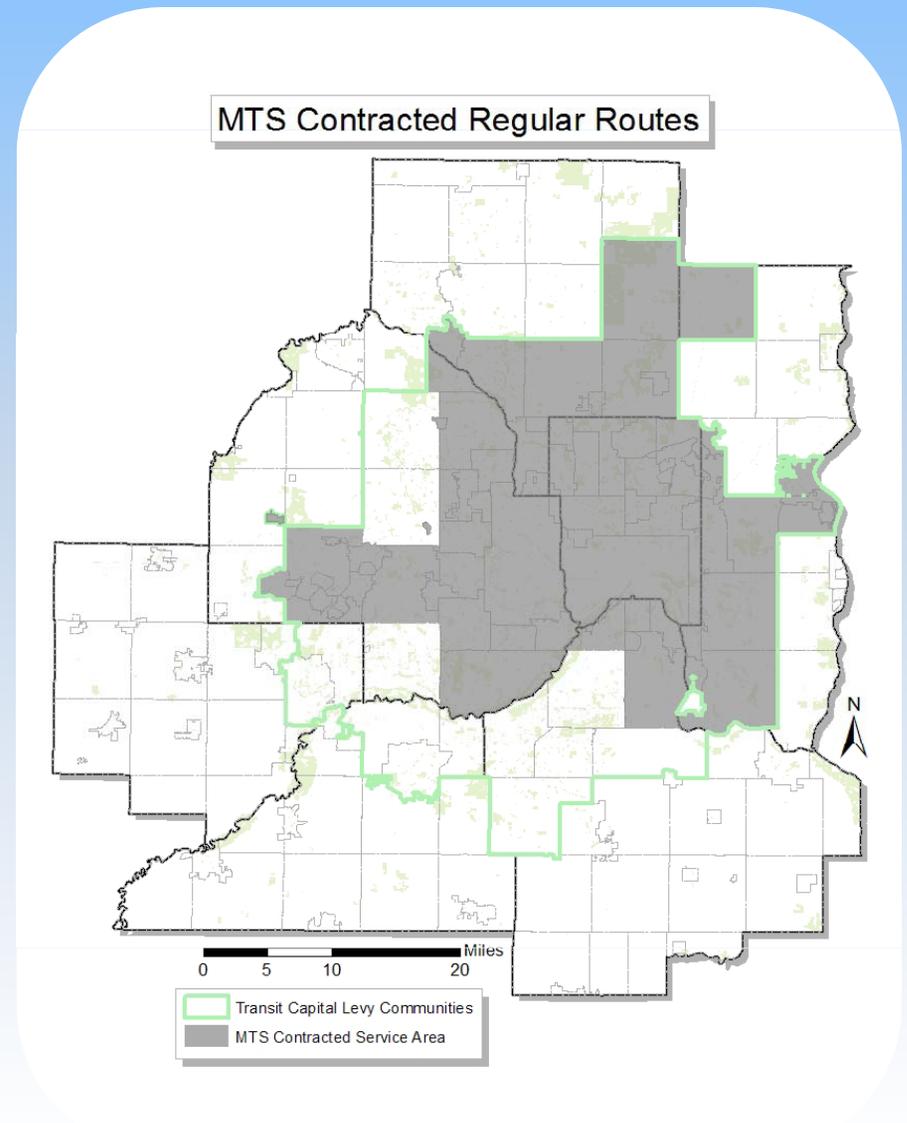


Metropolitan Transportation Services

- MTS has both Transportation Planning and Transit Operations functions
- Transit Operations includes:
 - Contracted Regular Route
 - Transit Link Dial-a-Ride
 - Metro Mobility/ADA Services
- MTS provides pass-through funding to Suburban Transit Providers (STPs)

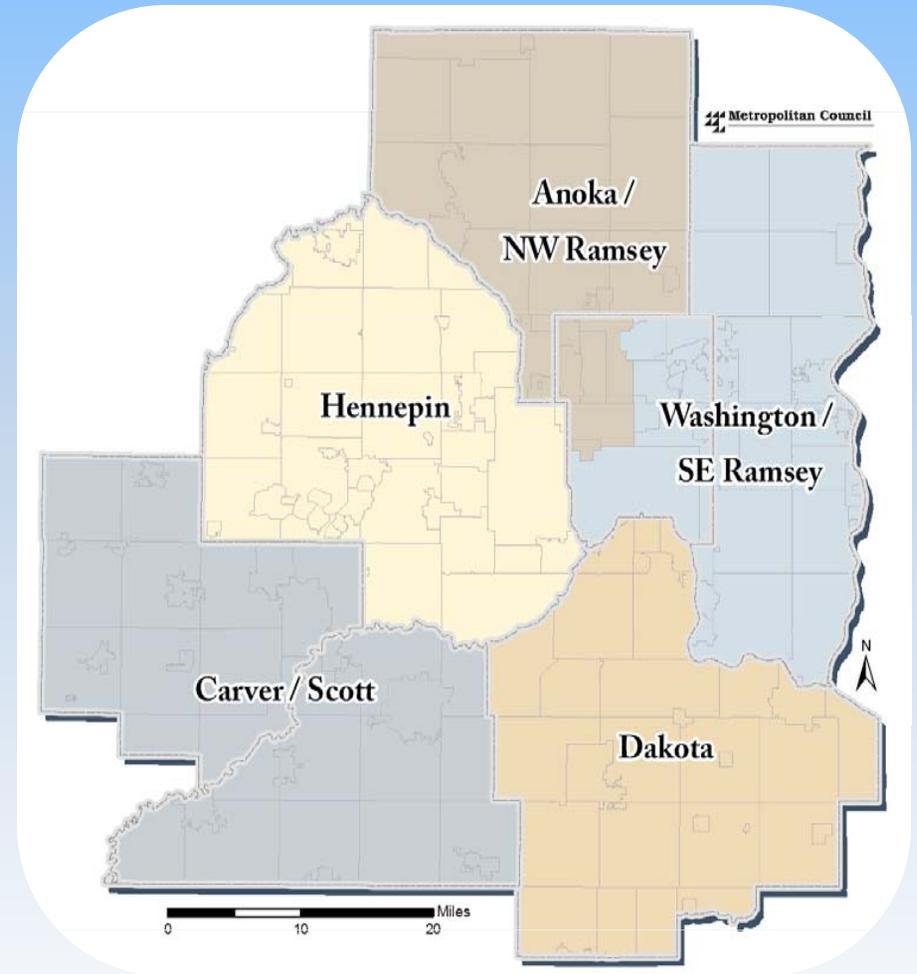
Contracted Regular Routes

- About 3.5% of Metropolitan Council regular route ridership is delivered by contracted operators
- Includes a variety of bus sizes and service types
- 2009 ridership: 2,424,200
2010 est. ridership: 2,790,000
- +57% between 2000 and 2010



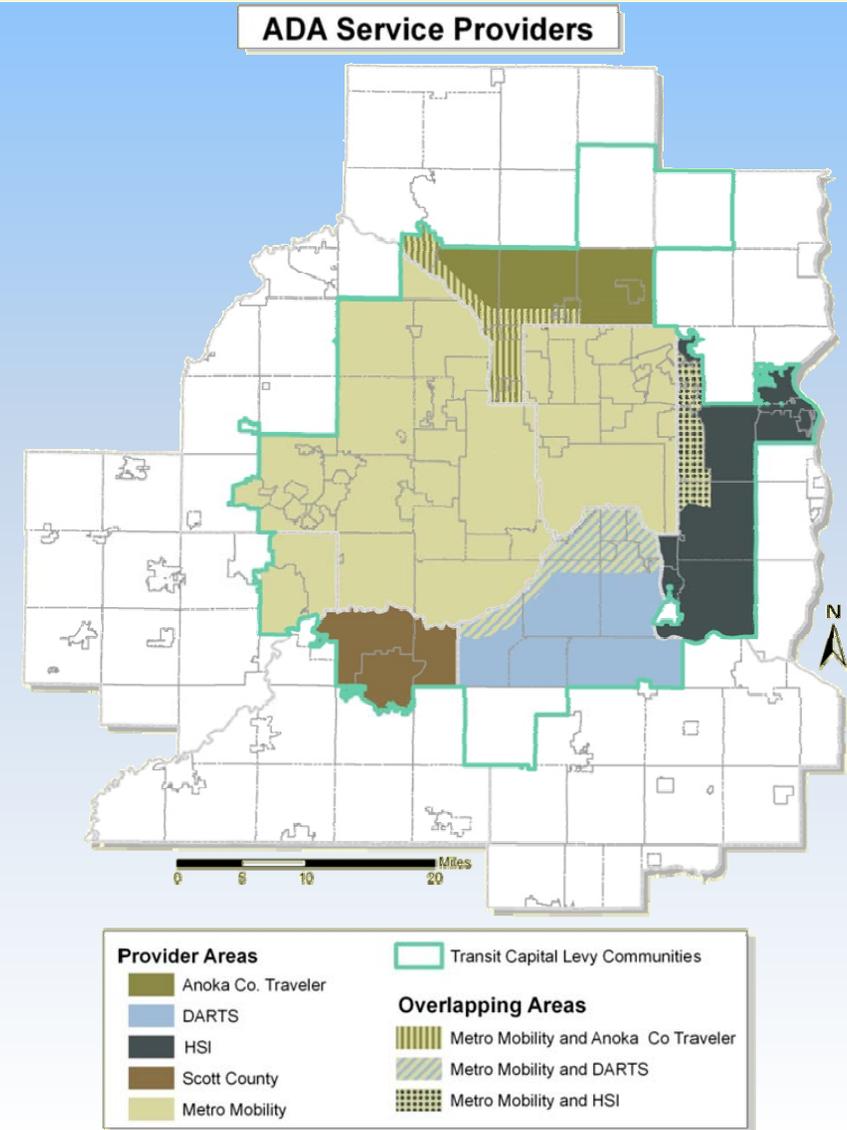
Transit Link Dial-a-Ride

- General public dial- a-ride offering a transit solution where fixed route is not available
- Five service area providers coordinate with fixed route and Metro Mobility when possible
- 2009 ridership: 375,000
2010 est. ridership: 335,000
-13% 2000 through 2010



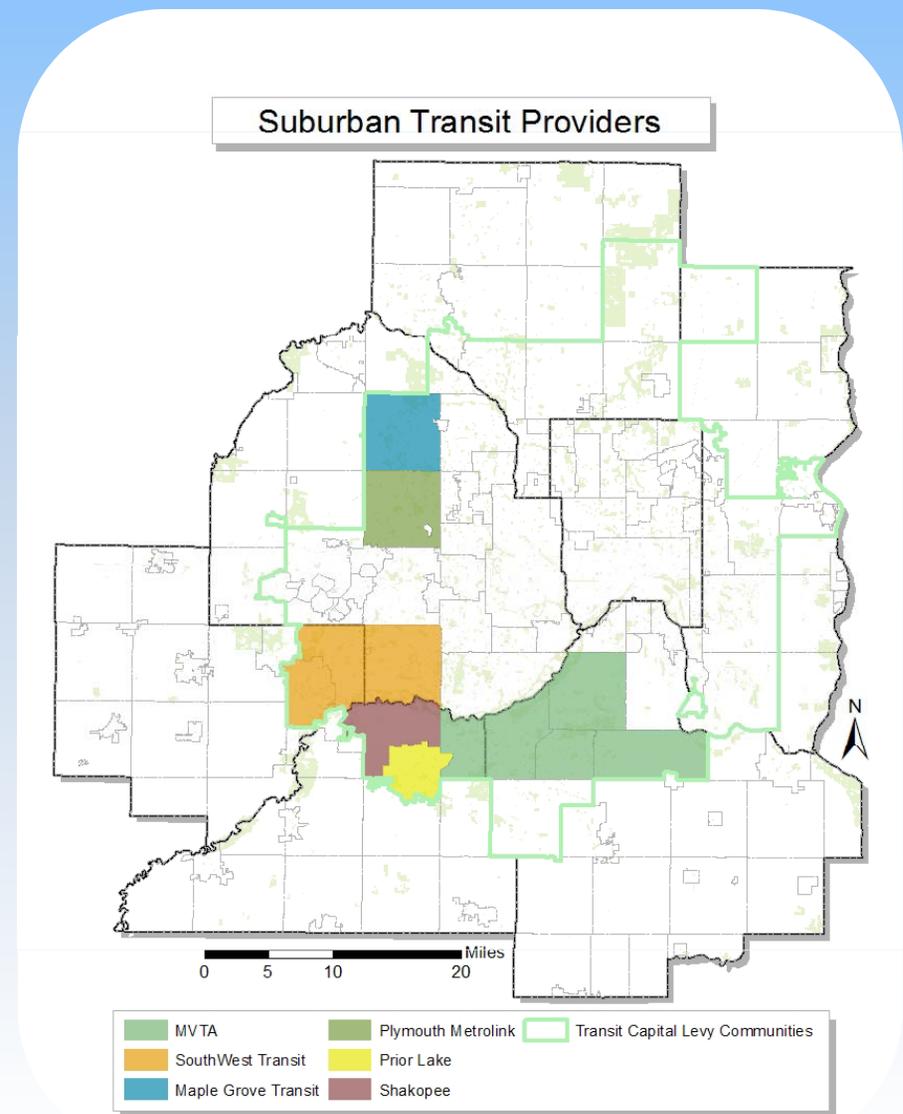
Metro Mobility/ADA

- ADA requires transit service for persons who cannot use regular system due to disabilities
- Door through door dial-a-ride service for eligible persons in locations & times comparable to regular route local service.
- 2009 ridership: 1.45 M
2010 est. ridership: 1.52 M
+25% 2000 through 2010



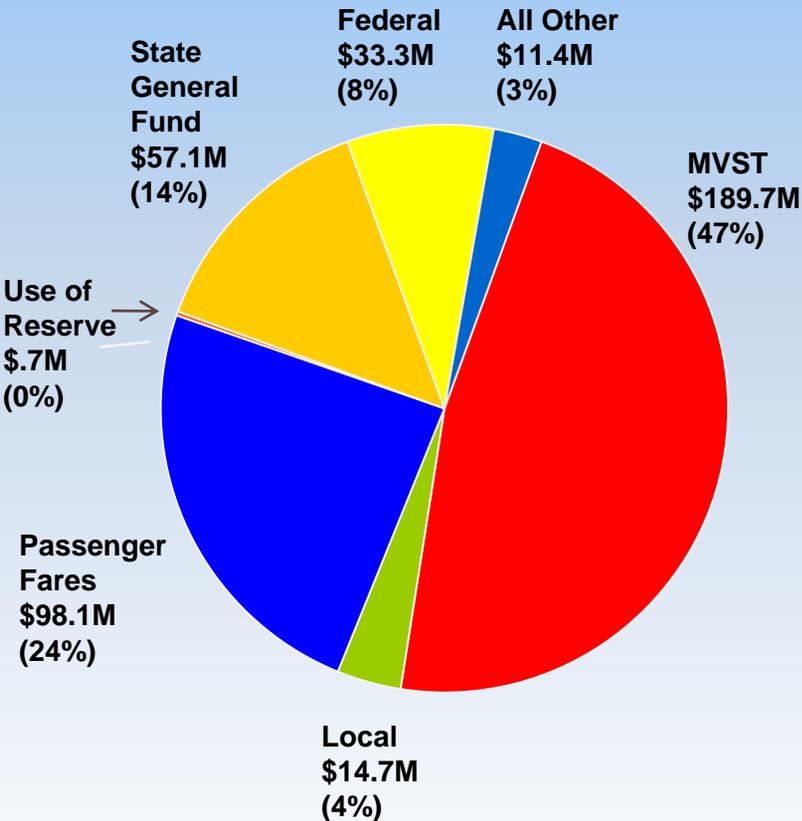
Suburban Transit Providers (Opt Outs)

- 12 communities control their own transit service
- Service provided through contracts
- Variety of bus sizes & service types
- 4.8 M rides in 2009 +49% since 2000

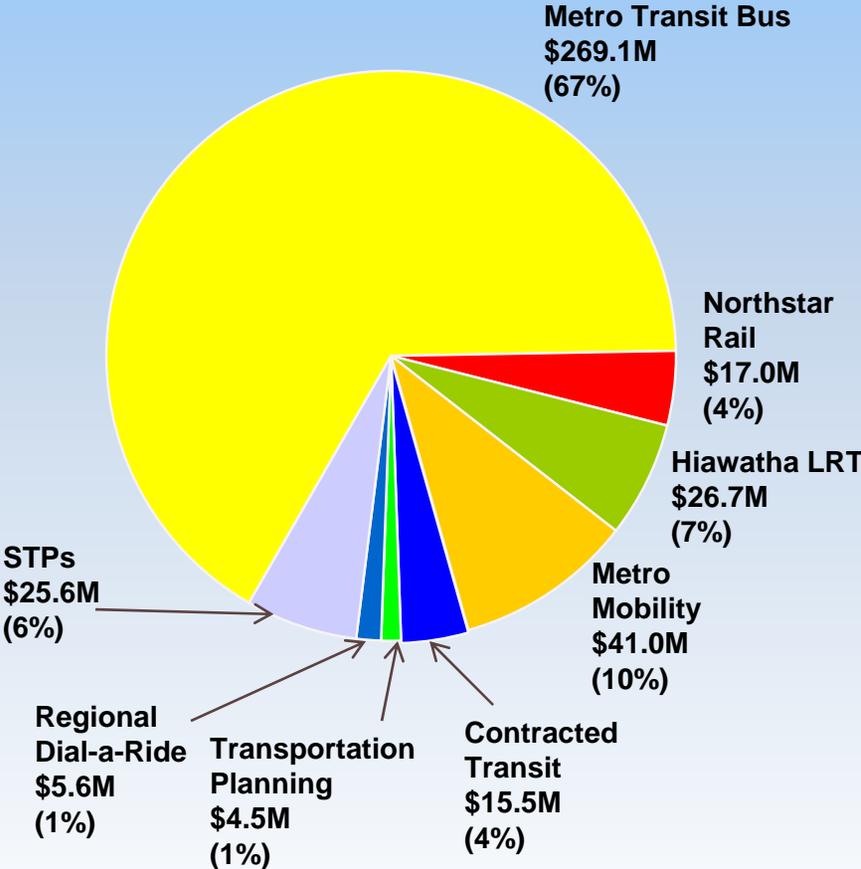


Metro Area Transit CY 2011 Operating Budget: \$405.0M

Revenue



Expenses



Transit Capital Funding Sources

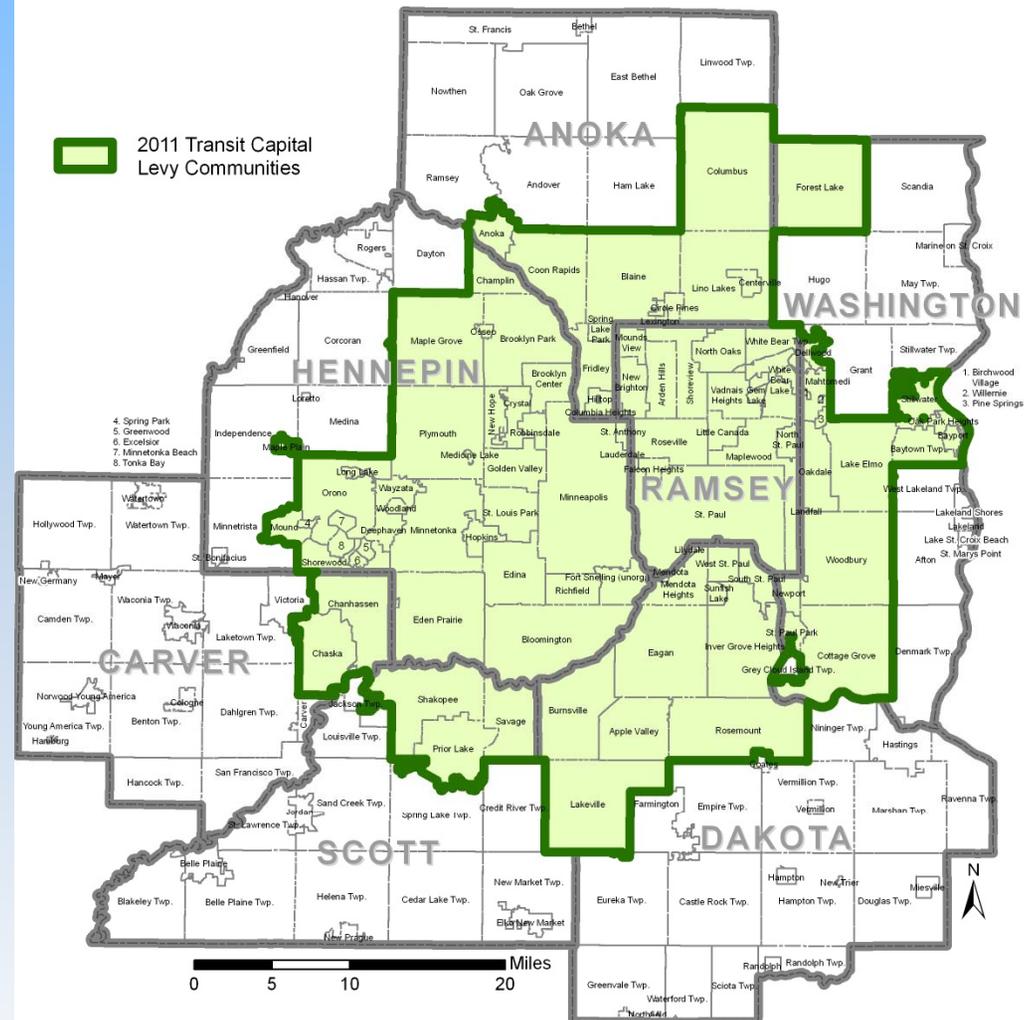
- State Bonds
- Regional Transit Capital
- Federal Funds
- CTIB Sales Tax
- Regional Railroad Authorities/Other Local

Regional Transit Capital

- Source of capital funds for basic transit system
- Legislature authorizes the sale of bonds
- Debt service paid with property taxes levied by Council
- Levy paid by Transit Capital Levy Communities

Transit Capital Levy Communities

Seven County Metro Area
Jan 2011

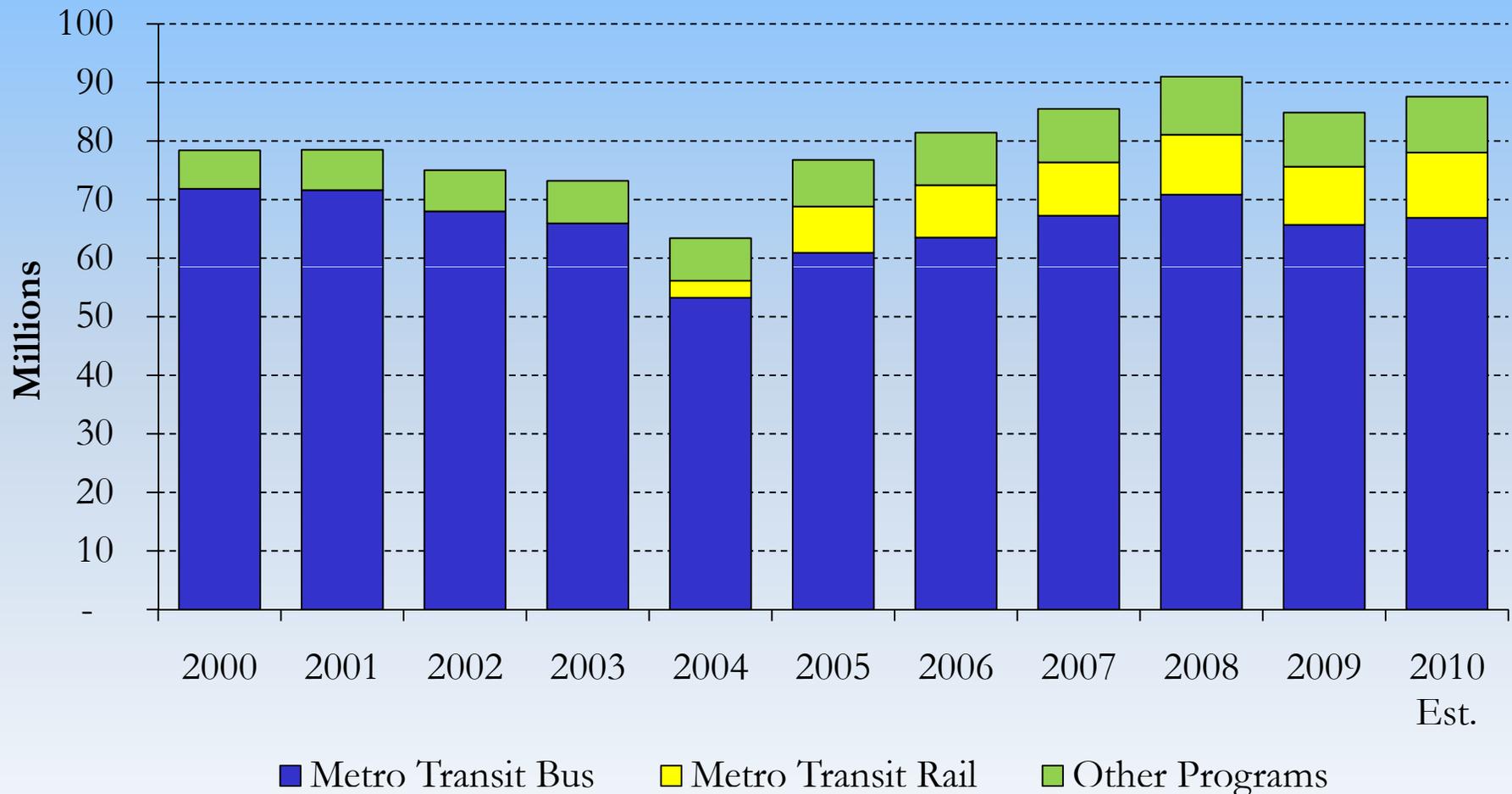


The Transit Taxing District was statutorily established (Minn. Stat. 473.446) in 2001 as the area of all taxable properties to be assessed for transit and paratransit capital.

Transit Capital Levy Communities include all the communities in the Transit Taxing District AND communities that have come to an agreement with the Metropolitan Council to levy in their community for transit capital.

In 2009, Lakeville was added to the Transit Capital Levy Communities. Forest Lake and Columbus were added in 2010. Maple Plain in 2011.

Transit Ridership



Questions?