

CHAPTER 7: IMPACTS

The projects included in the SIP will have considerable impacts on Metro Transit operations – increased ridership, a larger operating budget, additional bus fleet and garage needs, additional operators and other support staff, customer facilities and expansion of complementary ADA paratransit service offered by Metro Mobility.

A. Ridership and Resources

SIP projects are projected to generate 28.7 million new rides per year when fully implemented. This represents an approximately 42 percent increase over current annual Metro Transit ridership. The average marginal subsidy per passenger for these projects would be \$2.35, which will contribute to favorable overall route subsidies. Table 7 shows the annual resources required by improvement phase. Appendix J shows the annual ridership and resource requirements for each proposed service improvement.

Table 7: Additional Annual Ridership and Resources by Implementation Phase

Phase	New Buses	New Annual Rides	Additional Annual Service Hours	Additional Annual Operating Cost	Additional Annual Subsidy
2015-2017	66	11,160,324	411,849	\$46,538,915	\$33,856,126
2018-2020	69	8,957,329	292,709	\$33,076,066	\$23,335,966
2021-2030	26	8,570,557	165,362	\$18,685,869	\$10,156,121
Total	161	28,688,210	869,919	\$98,300,850	\$67,348,214

B. Fleet and Garage Needs

As shown in Table 7, the projects prioritized for implementation in the SIP will require an additional 161 peak buses. Allowing for a standard spare ratio of 20 percent, Metro Transit would have to increase its fleet by 194 buses by 2030, including a mix of standard 40-foot buses, 60-foot articulated buses and coach buses. The exact requirements will be determined as individual improvements are implemented.

Given that regional bus storage and maintenance capabilities are already near capacity, the additional buses required by SIP projects will require the expansion of garage capacity. This plan does not project the capital cost for additional buses or capital and operating costs for additional bus storage and maintenance facilities.

C. Workforce Requirements

New bus operators and support staff will be required as new service identified in the SIP is implemented. Based on the number of additional annual service hours and bus vehicle miles, a total of 965 additional full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) are projected to be required to support the full prioritized SIP by 2030. This includes an estimated 589 new FTE bus operators, 217 new FTE mechanics, and 159 additional support staff.

D. Customer and Operating Facilities

The additional service in the SIP will impact customer and operating facilities as well as garage facilities. New bus stops and customer waiting shelters will be needed to accommodate the additional riders and bus service included in the plan. Some SIP improvements call for the construction of new park-and-ride facilities or transit centers prior to implementation. All new park-and-ride facilities are identified in the Metropolitan Council Park & Ride Plan.

To manage the operation of additional service, other support facilities may need to be updated or expanded. These facilities include Metro Transit Police facilities, the Bus Maintenance and Overhaul Base, as well as the Transit Control Center. Update or expansion needs for these facilities will be reviewed as needed.

E. ADA Impacts on Metro Mobility

Improvements that propose new all-day service to areas not currently served by transit or served by rush-hour-only transit, or projects that increase the span of service, may have an impact on regional dial-a-ride services such as Metro Mobility and Transit Link.

Per Federal requirements, Metro Mobility paratransit must be provided for origins and destinations within a corridor three-fourths of a mile on either side of each fixed route for the same hours and days that the fixed route operates. This requirement will apply to new suburban local routes in areas not already served by transit. The specific impacts on Metro Mobility service will be determined as individual projects are implemented.