

CHAPTER 9: MOVING FORWARD

The Metropolitan Council will be asked to approve the Service Improvement Plan in April 2015. It will be revised and new projects will be added every four to five years to reflect changing demographics, new development patterns and travel demand patterns. The next step toward implementation of the improvements included in the SIP is to secure the additional operating funds needed.

The projects in the SIP are intended to be a starting point for the discussion of how to grow the regional local and express route network. However, assuming operating funds are identified there are also other factors that need to be taken into consideration before the decision to implement a particular service improvement is made:

- Geographic balance – consider the location of other recent and planned service improvements throughout the region, including opening dates for transitways
- Project readiness – has the area developed as anticipated, land-use densities increase as projected, are projects that were expected to be developed underway or complete
- Route planning details – develop a schedule, review route planning and operating logistics, routing and bus stops have been vetted with stakeholders
- Title VI review – per federal law, a service equity analysis will be done for all routes considered to be a major service change