



## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**MEETING DATE:** May 16, 2022  
**PREPARED BY:** Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator  
**AGENDA ITEM:** New express bus service Route 784

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**PREVIOUS ACTIONS:**

On November 15, 2021, the City Council approved the Maple Grove Transit 2022 Operating and Capital Improvement Program budgets.

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**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:**

Motion that the Maple Grove City Council approve Maple Grove Transit's new express bus service Route 784 effective August 22, 2022.

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**COMMENTS:**

Over the past few years, Maple Grove Transit (MGT) has received numerous requests to have an express bus route serve the eastern part of downtown Minneapolis. Key destinations include Wells Fargo, Thrivent Financial, Hennepin County Medical Center, U.S. Bank Stadium, and the Mills District.

The current express routes serving downtown Minneapolis required commuters to walk six to eight blocks to get to these destinations. Prior to the pandemic, ridership demand and operations logistics just did not allow MGT to expand to this area. However, with recent changes in mobility habits and patterns, MGT has the resources and flexibility to create a new route to serve the eastern part of downtown Minneapolis. The continued suspension of Routes 780, 782, and 783 has helped provide the financial and operational flexibility to start a new route.

The proposed new service would be called Route 784 and be effective August 22. The new route would originate at the Maple Grove Transit, and have six inbound and six outbound express trips.

To accomplish this proposed service change, the current Route 781 trips would be restructured in terms of trip times and total number of trips offered. However, the proposed Route 781 service plan matches well to the current demand. The proposal includes Route 785 and 789 trips, but the Route 780, 782, and 783 remain suspended.

MGT is currently seeking public comment on this proposal, and so far, the vast majority of the feedback has been quite positive in favor of the new route. MGT will continue to seek public comments until May 23, so it is possible minor changes to the service plan could be made based on feedback received.

Attachment A is the notice sent out to seek public comment, which includes the downtown Minneapolis map for the proposed new Route 784. It also shows all the proposed trip times by route. Attachment B is a summary of public comments received through May 11, 2022.

Metro Transit needs notification to plan for the new route by May 26 in order to implement it on August 22, 2022. The proposed service changes can be accommodated in the adopted 2022 MGT operating budget. With the return to the office work setting happening now, MGT feels that this new route will help increase ridership as it serves a popular destination area of downtown Minneapolis.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Attachment A: Proposed Route 784 downtown Minneapolis map and trip times**

**Attachment B: Summary of Route 784 public comments**