

Disrupting Delays: How to Survive and Thrive in Major Freeway Construction Using Transit

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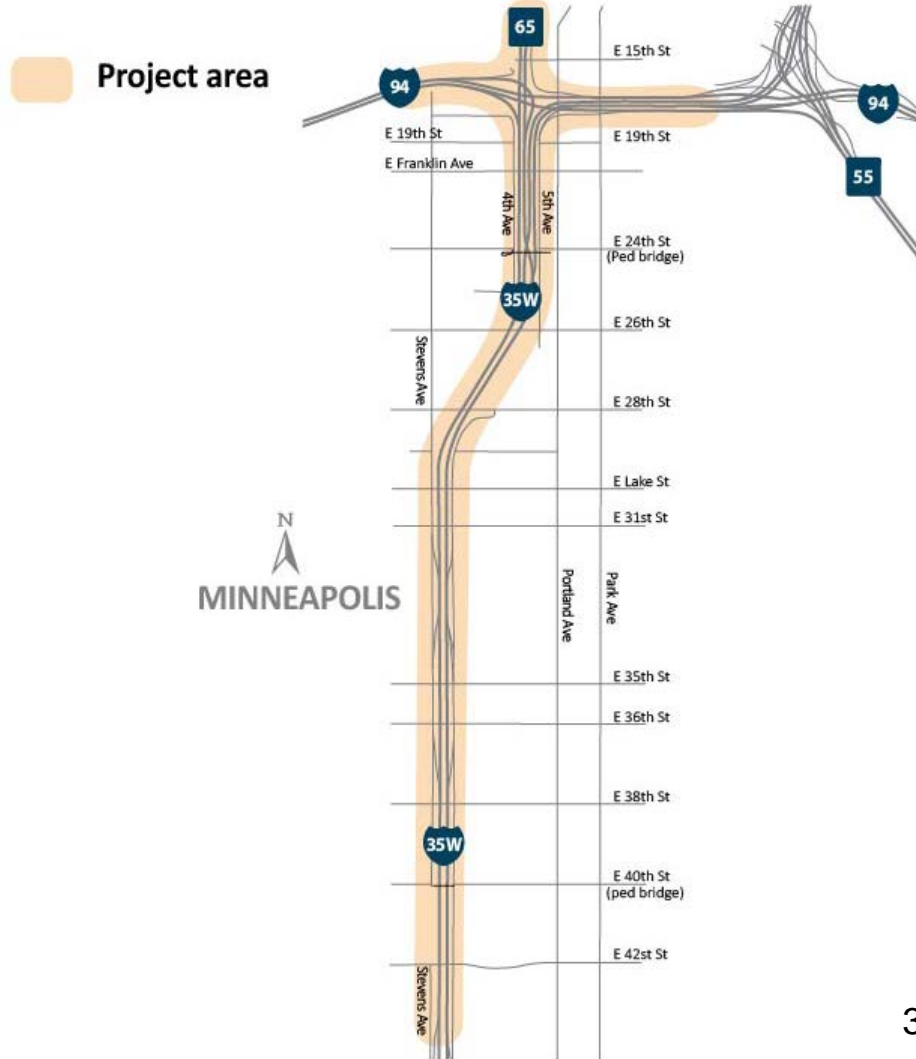
Metro Transit at a Glance

- 15th largest in U.S.
- 7 counties, 90 cities
- 129 bus routes
- 2 light rail lines
- 1 commuter rail line
- 900 buses, 91 LRVs
- 3,200 employees
- 270,000 daily rides



APTA's 2016 Transit System of the Year

35W@94: Downtown to Crosstown Project



- Summer 2017 to Fall 2021
- 2.5 miles of Interstate 35W
- 198,500 daily traffic count
- Project budget: \$239 million
- Major transit corridor
 - Over 500 daily bus trips
 - 14,000 daily rides
- Future Orange Line BRT corridor

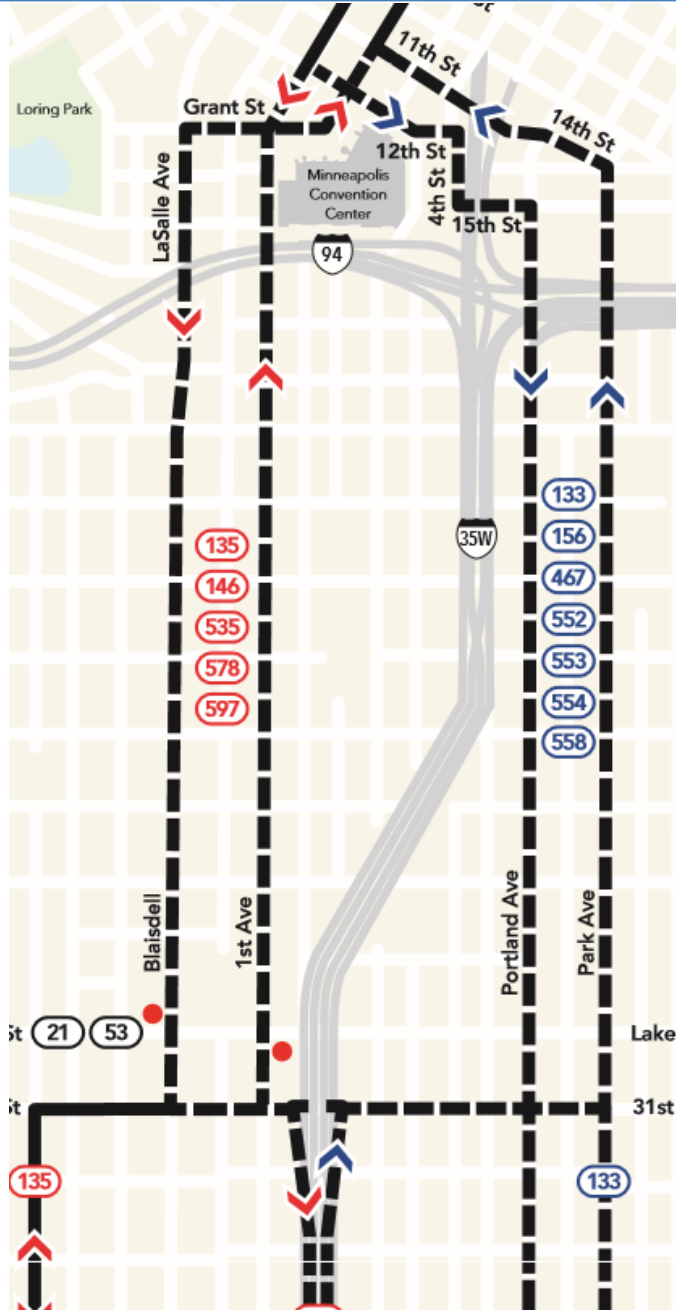
Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination

- Funding partnership with state DOT
- Early coordination with partners on detours and transit advantages
- Employer outreach and transit pass promotion



The Great Detour: June to December 2018

- Direct interstate access to/from downtown Minneapolis **closed**
- Ramps open for transit-only access to local streets
- Local street features:
 - Peak-direction transit lanes
 - Queue jump at key intersection with local stop for neighborhood access
 - Added left turn lanes



Transit Service Expansion

- On 10 commuter routes, trips added serving all work shifts starting 6-9am and ending 3-6pm
- Significant enhancement of Route 535 (Orange Line precursor)
 - Weekday: frequency improved to 10" peak, 15" off-peak
 - Weekend: New service with 30" frequency



Transit Impact Mitigation

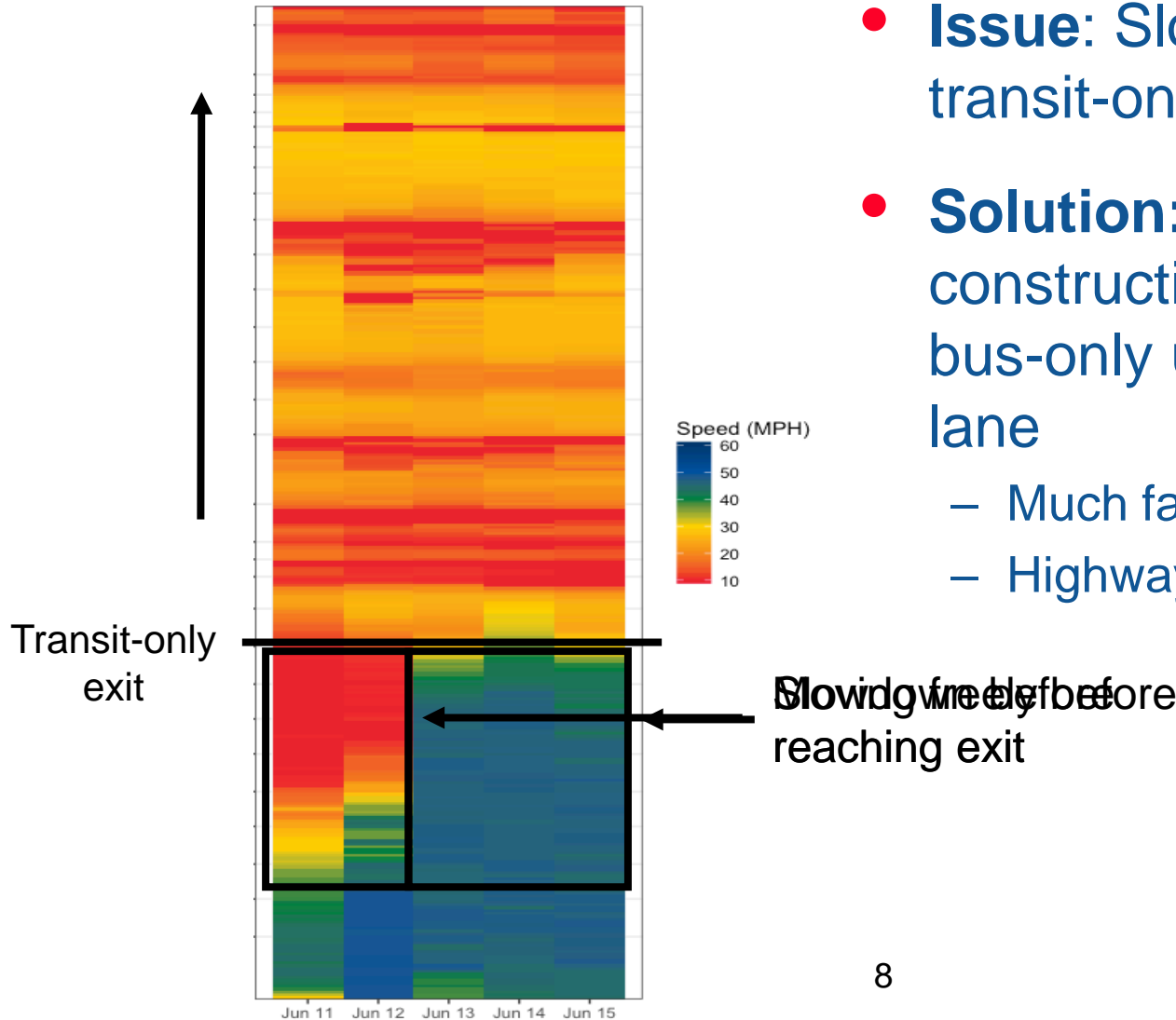
- Investment in reliability
 - Additional scheduled travel time
 - Additional non-revenue time
 - Extra scheduled and standby buses
- Directed riders to park and rides with extra capacity
 - METRO Blue Line LRT
- Operational analytics
 - Ridership
 - Travel time/reliability
 - Delay “hot spots”



Problem-Solving Using Data & Collaboration

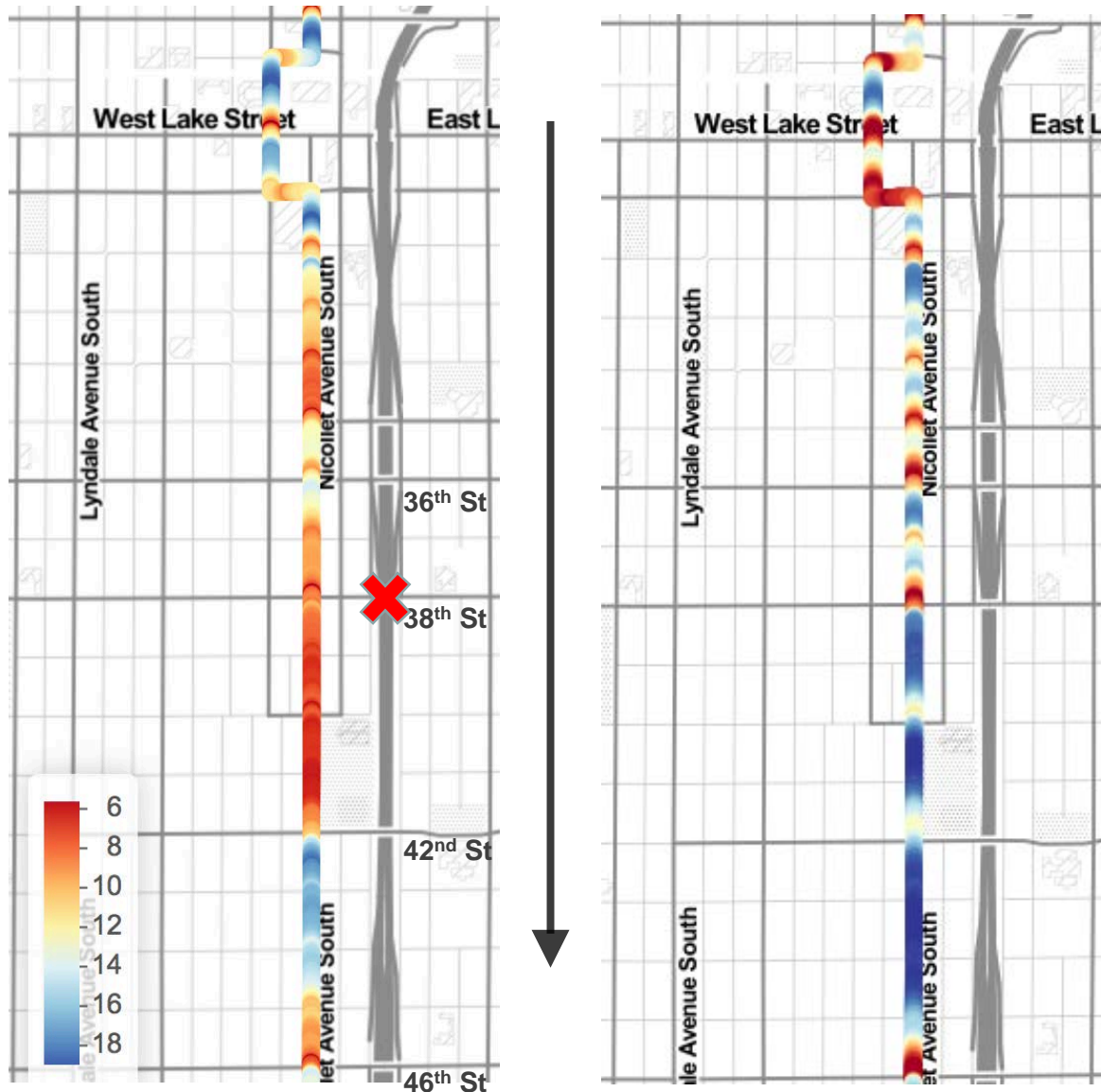
Speed - Inbound AM Peak

Routes 146, 535, 578, and 597



- **Issue:** Slow approach to transit-only exit
- **Solution:** Adjust construction barrels to allow bus-only use of shoulder lane
 - Much faster after June 13
 - Highway patrol enforcement

Identifying changing impacts to local routes



- Route 18 Nicollet
 - Bridge closure diverted traffic
- PM Peak
 - During closure (left): <8 mph
 - After closure (right): 18-24 mph

2018 Results/Lessons Learned

- Major detours increased transit travel times
 - SOV impacts were not as great as anticipated
- Service reliability high where resources were invested
 - 35W corridor routes
 - Local routes with well-anticipated impacts
- Ridership response mixed
 - Stop closures, increased transit travel times and minimal SOV impacts may have dampened ridership
 - Strong increase on some routes responding to added options
 - Growth on Blue Line LRT

2019-20 Strategies

- Service reliability – focus on local routes
 - Travel time to/from garages
 - Added resources for impacted local routes
 - Develop further transit advantages with project partners
- Maintain successful commuter/express additions
 - Maintain stronger services, reduce underperforming trips
- Maintain weekday Route 535/pre-Orange Line service
 - 10-15 minute weekday frequency

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