

**CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. 20-

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ROBERT STREET/RICE STREET BRT LINE
DESIGNATION AND SELECTION FOR FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the Robert Street/Rice Street corridor has been designated by the Metropolitan Council as one of eleven corridors to be considered for a future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route; and

WHEREAS, this corridor includes many areas of concentrated poverty which is reflected in the State and Federal designation of Opportunity Zones including both sides of Robert Street within West St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, in 2019-20 the City of West St. Paul has approved 1,045 multi-family housing units along the Robert Street Corridor of which 70% are affordable housing units; and

WHEREAS, within this corridor more than 50% of residents identify as persons of color; and

WHEREAS, transit service on Robert and Rice streets is currently not adequate including that existing service does not reliably reach important destinations such as grocery stores and large employers; and

WHEREAS, construction disruption could be minimized and cost efficiencies could be gained if coordinated with Rice Street reconstruction which will occur in stages between 2022 and 2024, Robert Street reconstruction in St. Paul between 2024 and 2025 and downtown St. Paul Robert Street reconstruction for the Rush Line between 2024 and 2026; and

WHEREAS, this route is an important corridor for both jobs and social services including the main service hubs for both Ramsey and Dakota Counties and multiple employers on both Robert and Rice streets; and

WHEREAS, selection of the Robert/Rice corridor addresses current inequity in transit service as the only BRT line planned to date that serves counties other than Hennepin or Ramsey and the only BRT line planned to date is not focused directly on Hennepin County, and serves at least four suburban communities with the potential to serve a fifth which is more than any of the other ten route options; and

WHEREAS, the Robert/Rice corridor integrates seamlessly with the rest of the regional transit network;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the West St. Paul City Council that the Metropolitan Council and its transit planners and transit partners are hereby urged to support the Robert Street/Rice Street transit corridor as the next Bus Rapid Transit corridor.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, this 12th day of October 2020.

Attest:

David J. Napier, Mayor

Shirley R Buecksler, City Clerk