Historical Transit Routes - Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

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Metadata created using Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines

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Section 1: Overview

Originator: Metropolitan Council

Title: Historical Transit Routes - Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Abstract: The Historical Transit Routes layer contains streetcar, horsecar, ferry, 1948 bus and steampower routes in the Twin Cities seven county metropolitan area. One shape and one corresponding record exists for each dated route segment.

The line work for the dataset was developed by referencing the Metropolitan Council's functional class road dataset.

Attributes include type, corridor, year start, year end, year restart and private right-of-way.

Purpose: To identify all locations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area where horsecars, streetcars, ferries, steam powered and 1948 bus routes traveled.

Time Period of Content Date: 11/01/2007

Currentness Reference: Routing information is accurate to reflect knowledge of transit history and referencing the book Isaacs A. & Diers J.W. 2007. Twin City Lines. The Streetcar Era in Minneapolis and St. Paul. University of Minnesota Press.

Attributes randomly checked by Metropolitan Council staff.

Progress: In work

Maintenance and Update Frequency: As needed

Spatial Extent of Data: Historical extent of streetcar routes in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Bounding Coordinates:
-94.012
-92.732
45.415
44.471

Place Keywords: Twin Cities, Anoka County, Carver County, Dakota County, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Scott County, Washington County

Theme Keywords: historical, historical transit routes, streetcar, horsecar, steampower, ferry, transit, buses, routes, streets, roads, transportation

Theme Keyword Thesaurus: None

Access Constraints: None. This dataset is public domain under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13). If the dataset is not available from the Online Linkage in Section 6, please contact the Distribution Contact Person.

Use Constraints: None. This dataset is public domain under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13).

Contact Person Information:

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Browse Graphic: Click to view a data sample.

Associated Data Sets: Historical Transit Routes, Transit Routes, Hi-Frequency Transit Service Network, transit segments, Transit Stops

Section 2: Data Quality

Attribute Accuracy: TYPE, CORRIDOR, YR_START, YR_END1, YR_START2 and PRIV_ROW were derived by using information provided in the book Isaacs A. & Diers J.W. 2007. Twin City Lines. The Streetcar Era in Minneapolis and St. Paul. University of Minnesota Press.
Attributes randomly checked by Metropolitan Council GIS staff.

Logical Consistency: This dataset contains one record and one polyLine shape for each dated route segment in the historical transit system. In most cases, several of the individual line shapes overlap each other, and remain as overlapping components of the polyLine. This can present problems when splitting out the individual components of the polyLine during editing processes, such as splitting or calculating length.

Web page https://resources.gisdata.mn.gov/pub/gdrs/data/pub/us_mn_state_metc/trans_historical_transit_routes/metadata/metadata.html, as the Wayback Machine captured it on 2025-04-13

Completeness: Entire seven county transit area is covered.

Horizontal Positional Accuracy: Positional accuracy varies throughout the dataset. Most line work was developed referencing the Metropolitan Council's Functional Class Road layer.

Text below taken from Functional Class Road metadata:

There are differing degrees of positional accuracy throughout the file. TLG adjusts the positional accuracy of the data to available sources known to have a greater degrees of accuracy then those used to generate the existing data. However, in all cases (including instances where COGO line work has been the reference) TLG generalizes the street segments to at least 4 feet in order to greatly reduce the number of vertices - thus reducing unnecessary file size and allowing for faster analysis.

TLG's goal is to have 95% of roads located to within the approximate center of digital right-of-way data or pavement centerlines provided from counties, where such digital data is available. In other areas, 95% of roads are intended to be within ten meters of the road or right-of-way center.

Lineage: This dataset was created from scratch.
The historical transit routes dataset was defined with Met Council-defined functional class roads. See the metadata for the Bus Segments dataset for more information.

See the metadata for the TLG Street Centerline layer for source information.

Section 3: Spatial Data Organization (not used in this metadata)

Section 4: Coordinate System

Horizontal Coordinate Scheme: Universal Transverse Mercator

UTM Zone Number: 15

Horizontal Datum: NAD83

Horizontal Units: meters

Vertical Datum:

Vertical Units:

Depth Datum:

Depth Units:

Section 5: Attributes

Overview: LINE ATTRIBUTES:

TYPE: The type of service provided. Attributes include transit
1948 Bus Route, Cable Car, Ferry, Freight, Horsecar, Steam Power,
Stillwater Streetcar and Streetcar

CORRIDOR: The name of the streetcar or horsecar line

YR_START1: The year the transit segment began operation.

YR_END1: The year the transit segment terminated operation.

YR_START2: The year transit service was restarted on the segment.

PRIV_ROW: Indicates whether the service operated on private right-of-way.

Detailed Citation:

Table Detail:

Section 6: Distribution

Publisher: Metropolitan Council

Publication Date: periodically revised

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Distributor's Data Set Identifier: HistoricalTransitRoutes

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Ordering Instructions: See Online Linkage Below

Online Linkage: Download Page

Section 7: Metadata Reference

Metadata Date: 11/01/2007

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Metadata Standard Name: Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines

Metadata Standard Version: 1.2

Metadata Standard Online Linkage: http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/standards/mgmg/metadata.htm

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Web page https://resources.gisdata.mn.gov/pub/gdrs/data/pub/us_mn_state_metc/trans_historical_transit_routes/metadata/metadata.html, as the Wayback Machine captured it on 2025-04-13