



Legislative Task Force on Aging

Regional data and transportation resources for seniors



December 12, 2023



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Regional Demographics



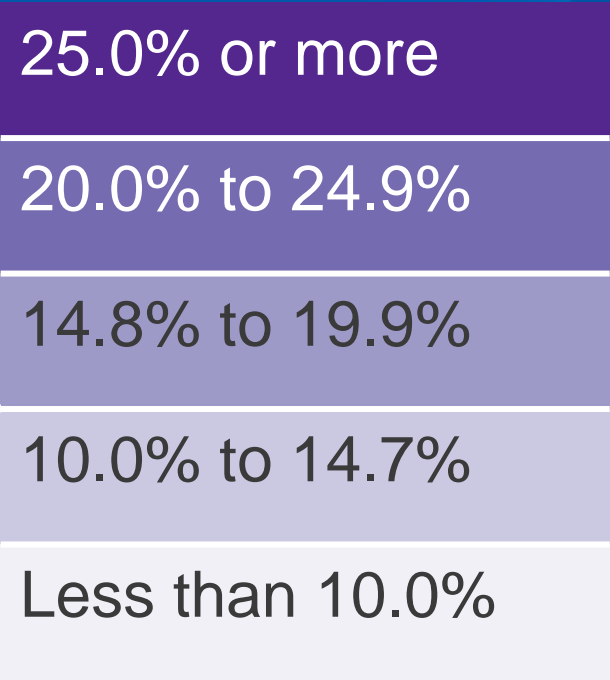
Regional demographics

- **The 7-county metropolitan region has an estimated 3,197,231 people, who live in:**
 - 141 cities
 - 40 townships
 - Fort Snelling Unorganized Territory
- Census estimates that 15.7% of the region is 65 years old or older

Among older adults in the region (age 65+)....

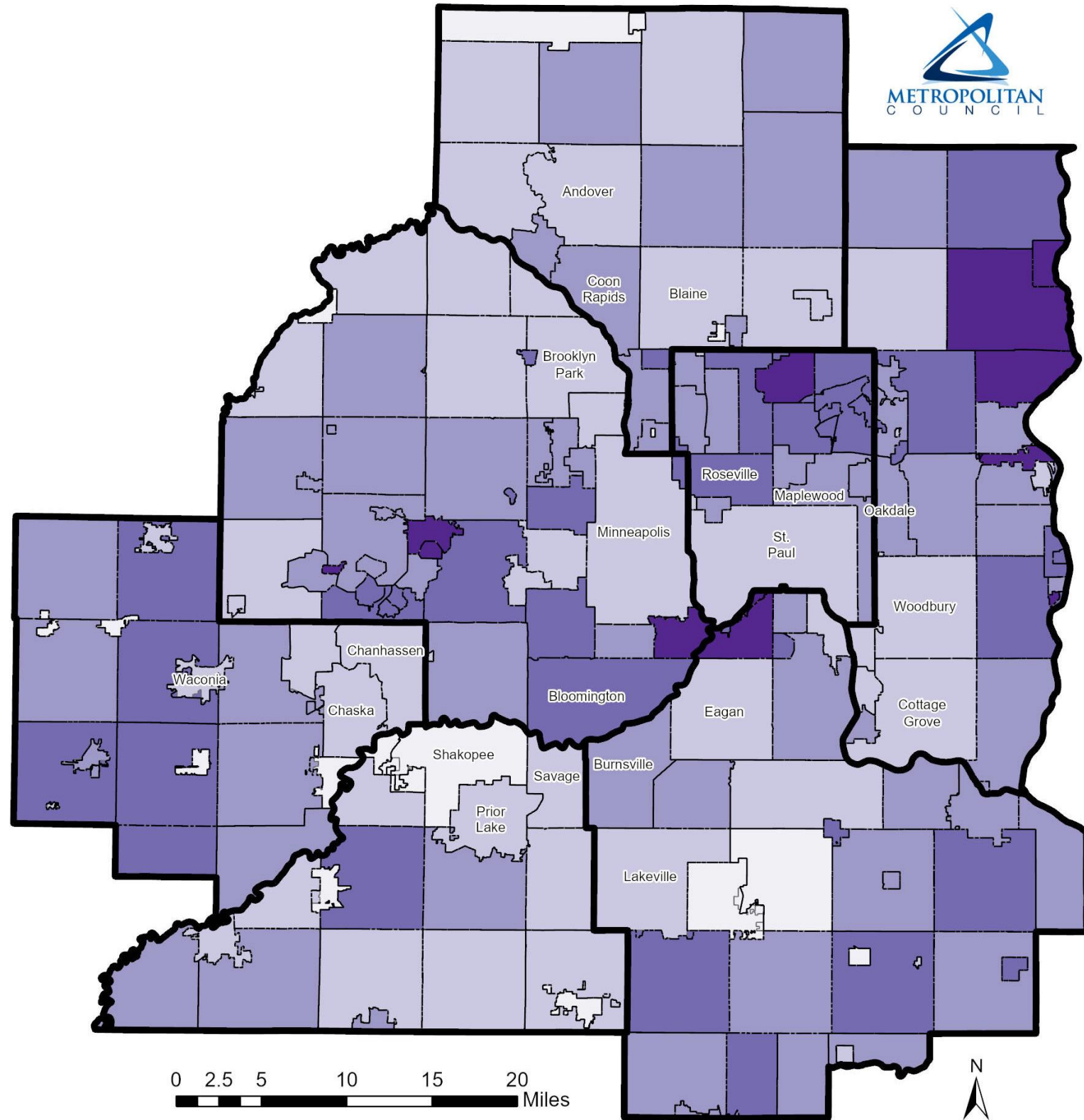
- 8.5% have no vehicle at home
- 30.8% have some disability
- 3.6% report speaking English less than “very well”
- 19.9% are employed
- 2.3% of workers commute via public transportation
- 17.9% have an income less than 185% of the federal poverty threshold
- 31.5% live in households whose housing costs are at least 30% of total income
- While only 12% identify as a person of color, the older adults of the coming decades are much more diverse with respect to race and ethnicity: 17.6% of people age 55-64 and 27.5% of people age 45-54 identify as a person of color.

Share of population age 65+ (cities/townships)



Twin Cities region

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census (Demographic & Housing Characteristics File). The three most populous cities in each county are labeled.



Share of population age 65+ (census tracts)

25.0% or more

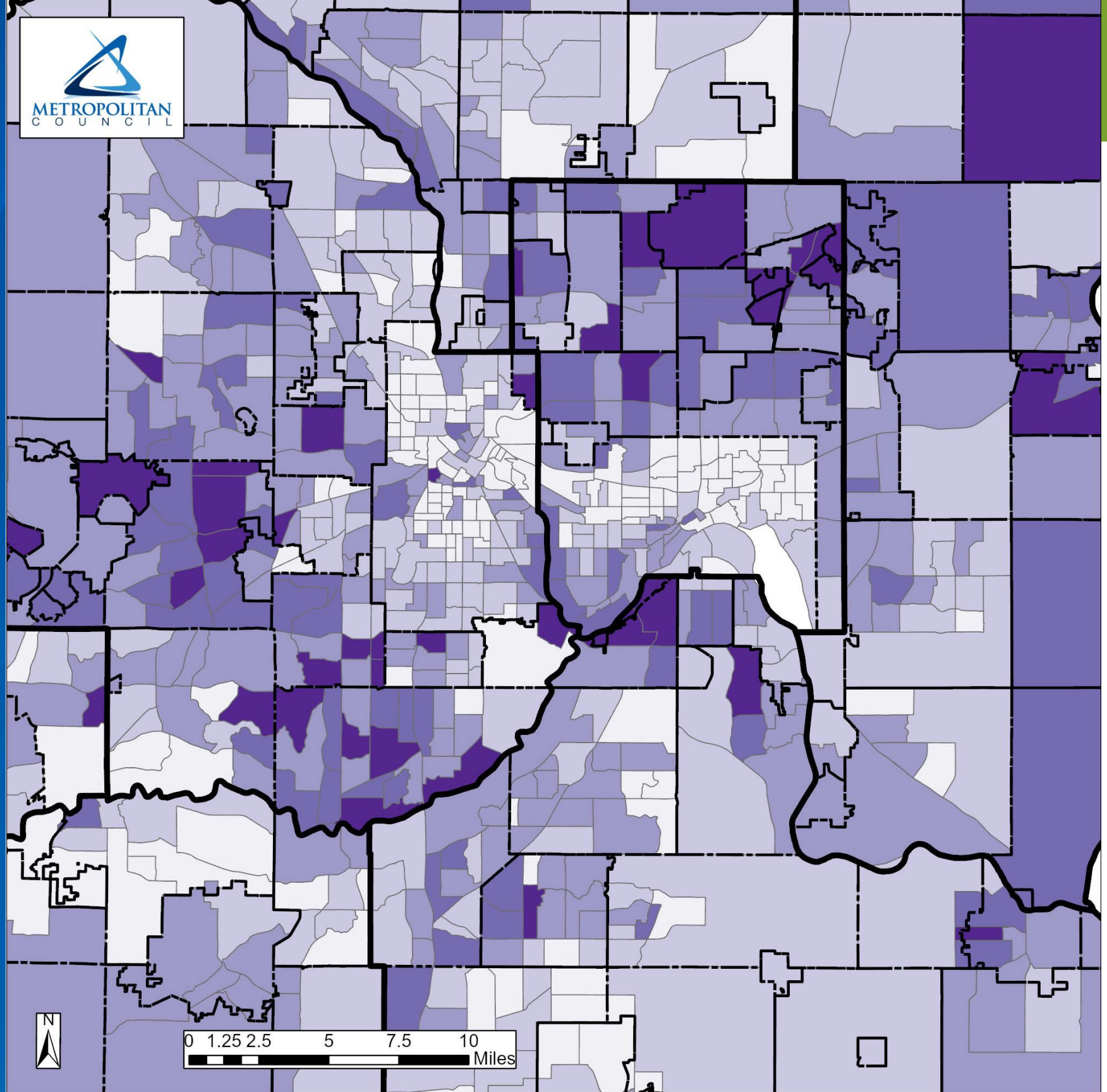
20.0% to 24.9%

14.8% to 19.9%

10.0% to 14.7%

Less than 10.0%

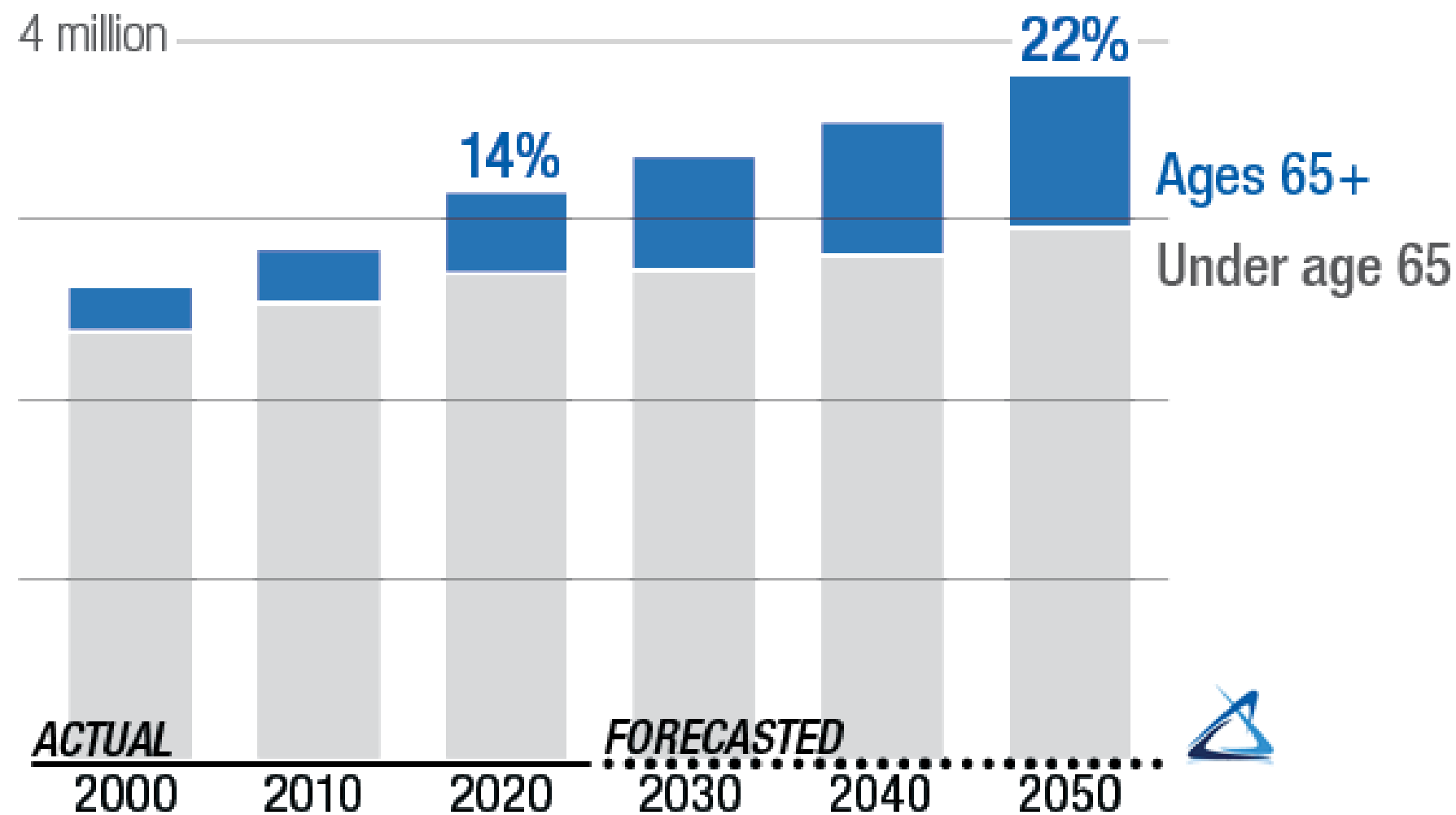
Twin Cities region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census (Demographic & Housing Characteristics File)

Forecasted regional population growth and changes

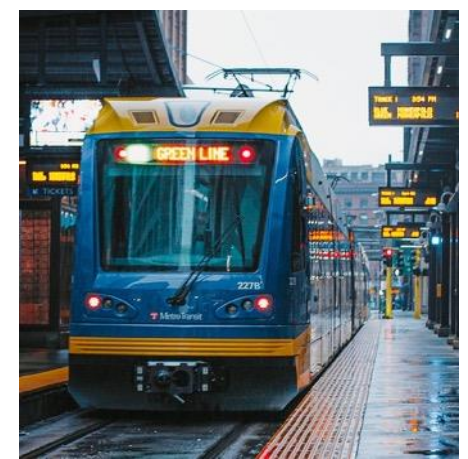
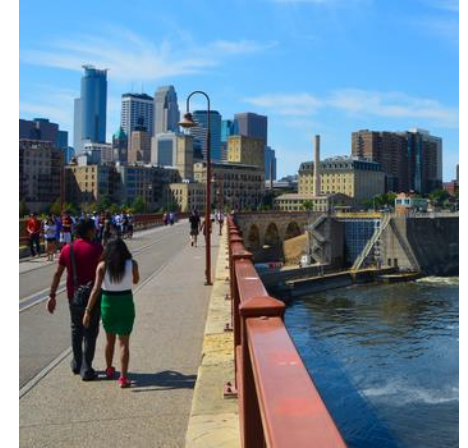
Population growth by under or older than age 65+



Source: Metropolitan Council's regional forecast (April 2023).

Regional data key take aways

1. Our population is growing older. One-seventh of the region's residents are at least 65 years old.
2. In 51 cities and townships, older adults are already 20% of the population or more.
3. The older adult population is predominantly white, while nearly half of children under 5 are people of color.



Snapshot: Older Adult Travel Behavior

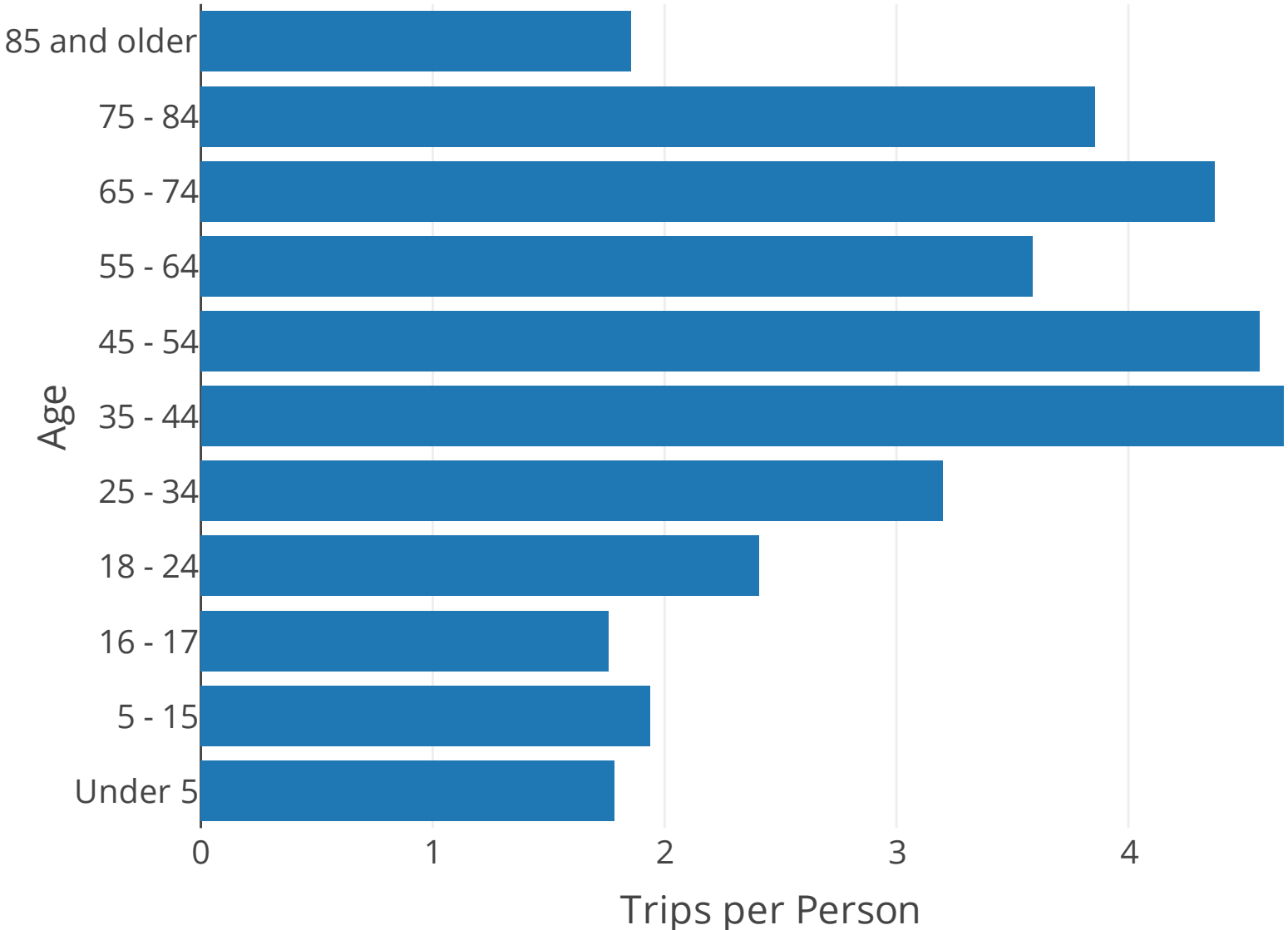


Council research on travel behavior

- Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) is a regional study of household travel patterns, characteristics, and demographics.
 - TBI participants use a smartphone application or online form to record the trips they make.
 - In 2021 the TBI sampled 7,950 households comprised of 16,150 persons making 345,000 trips.
- Transit On-Board Survey is a system-wide study of all transit usage patterns, characteristics, and demographics of riders.
 - Surveyors sample riders on Metro Transit, regional provider, and University routes to achieve a representative sample of transit use.
 - The On-Board Survey collected data from 23,000 weekday riders and 7,400 weekend riders.
- Both surveys are used to inform regional planning as inputs to the travel demand model and used to understand regional trends and dynamics by the Metropolitan Transportation Services, Community Development, Metro Transit, metro-area cities and counties, researchers at the University of Minnesota, and more.

Most adults travel at similar rates

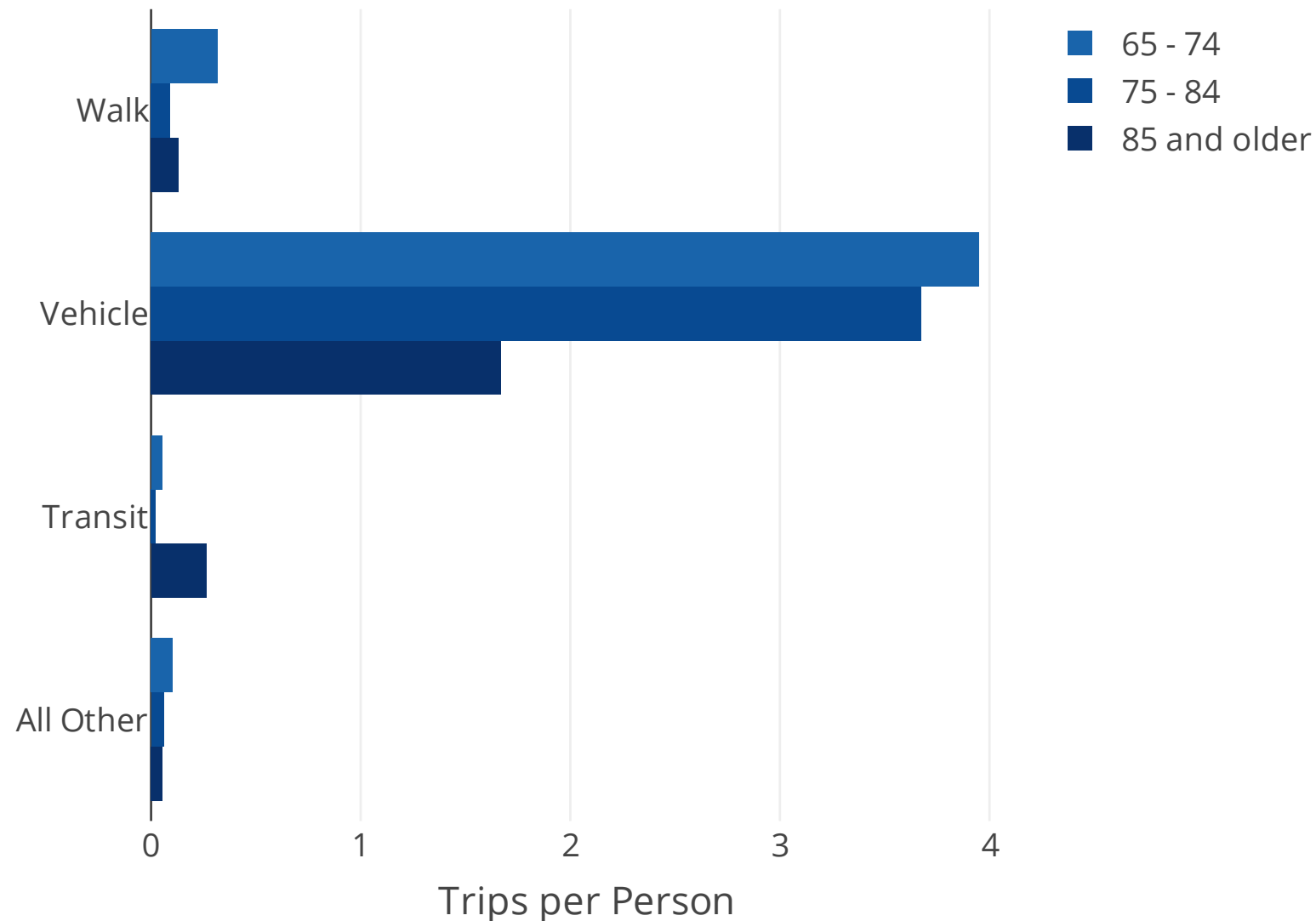
TBI Household Trip per Person (non-Transit)



- As a group, older adults make similar numbers of trips as other groups until age 85 or older
- Older adults (65-84) take slightly more daily trips than adults ages 55-64

Older adults travel by many modes

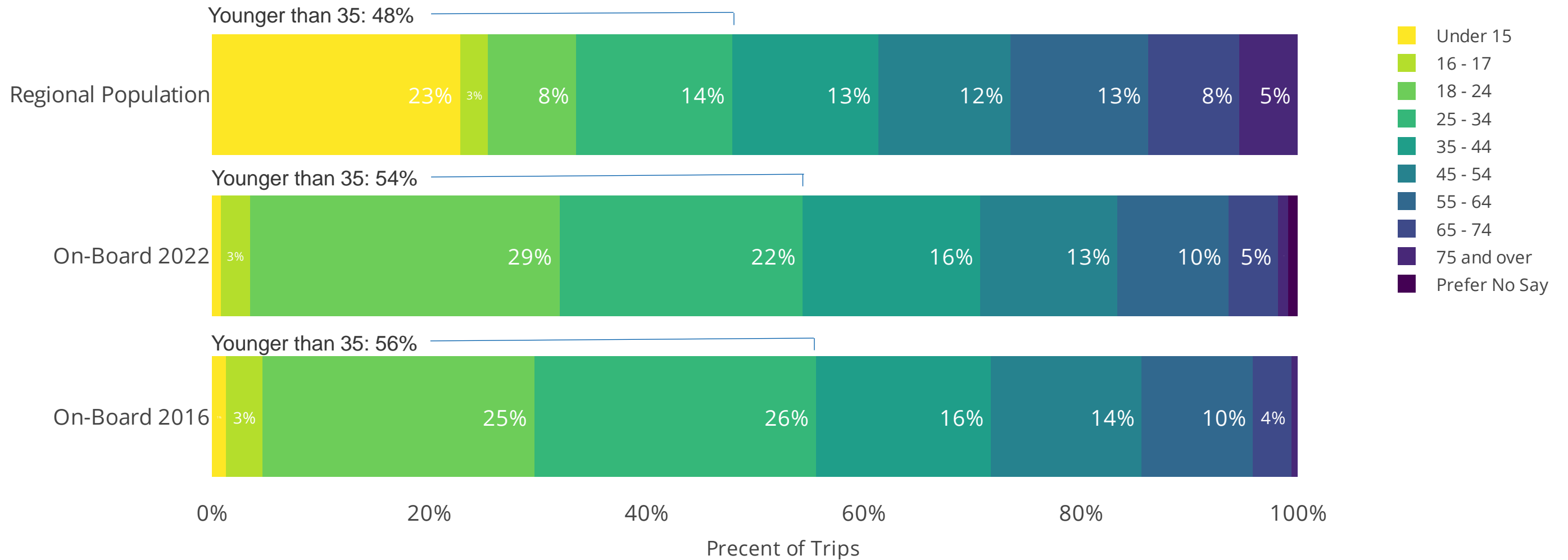
TBI Household Trips per Person (Ages 65+)



- Walking for transportation continues for all older adult age groups
- Older adults most likely to drive for travel at all ages
- Adults ages 85 or older have increased transit mode share compared to adults ages 65-84

Metro Transit data on rider age comparisons

Smaller share of children, larger share of young adults on board compared to the regional population

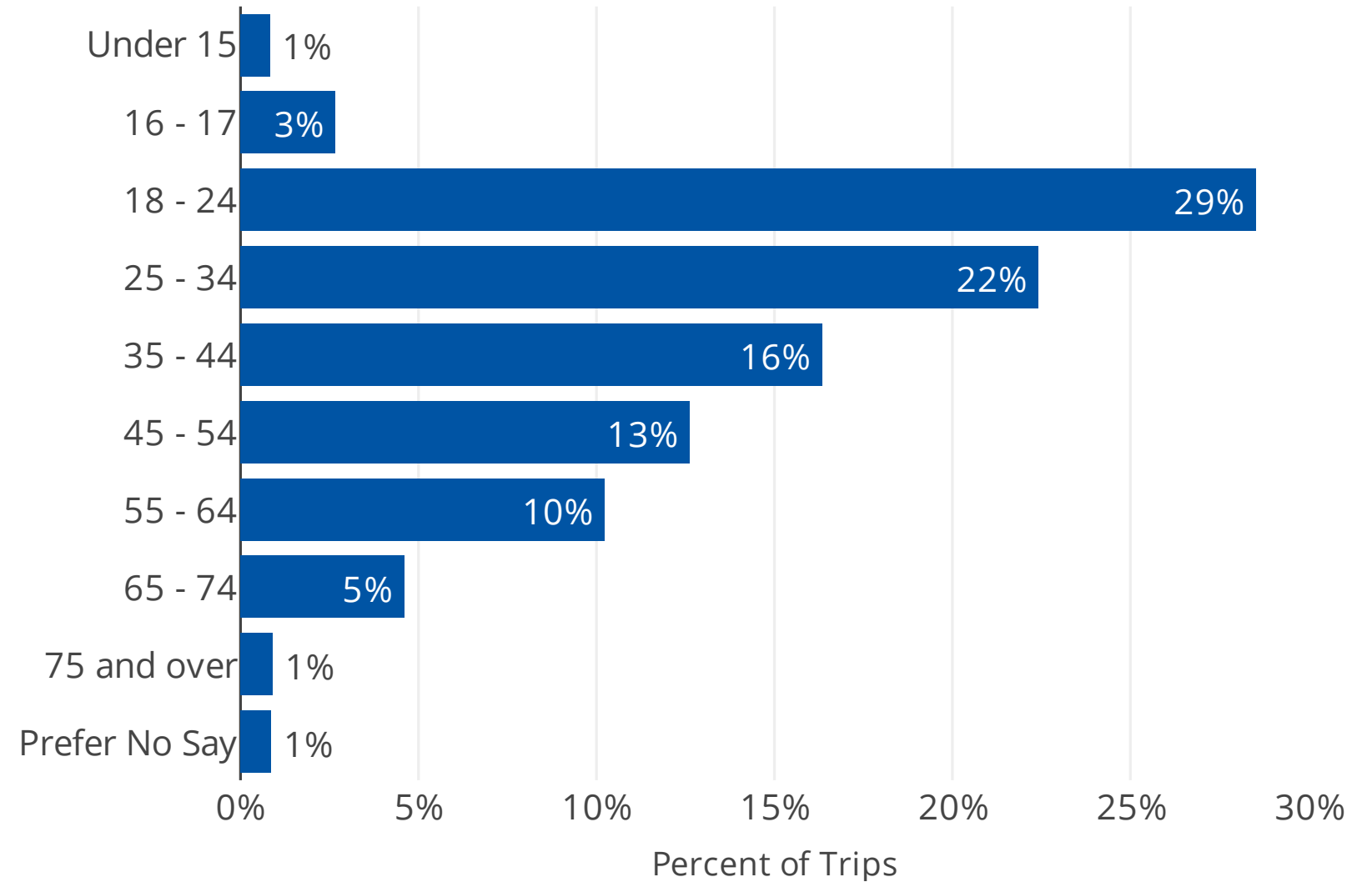


The 'under 15' and '75 or over' age groups each consist of about 1% of transit rides each. On-Board 2022 had a 'Prefer not to answer' option that approximately 1% of people chose. Regional Population is from 2017-2021 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) for Hennepin, Anoka, Dakota, Ramsey, Scott, Carver, and Washington counties.

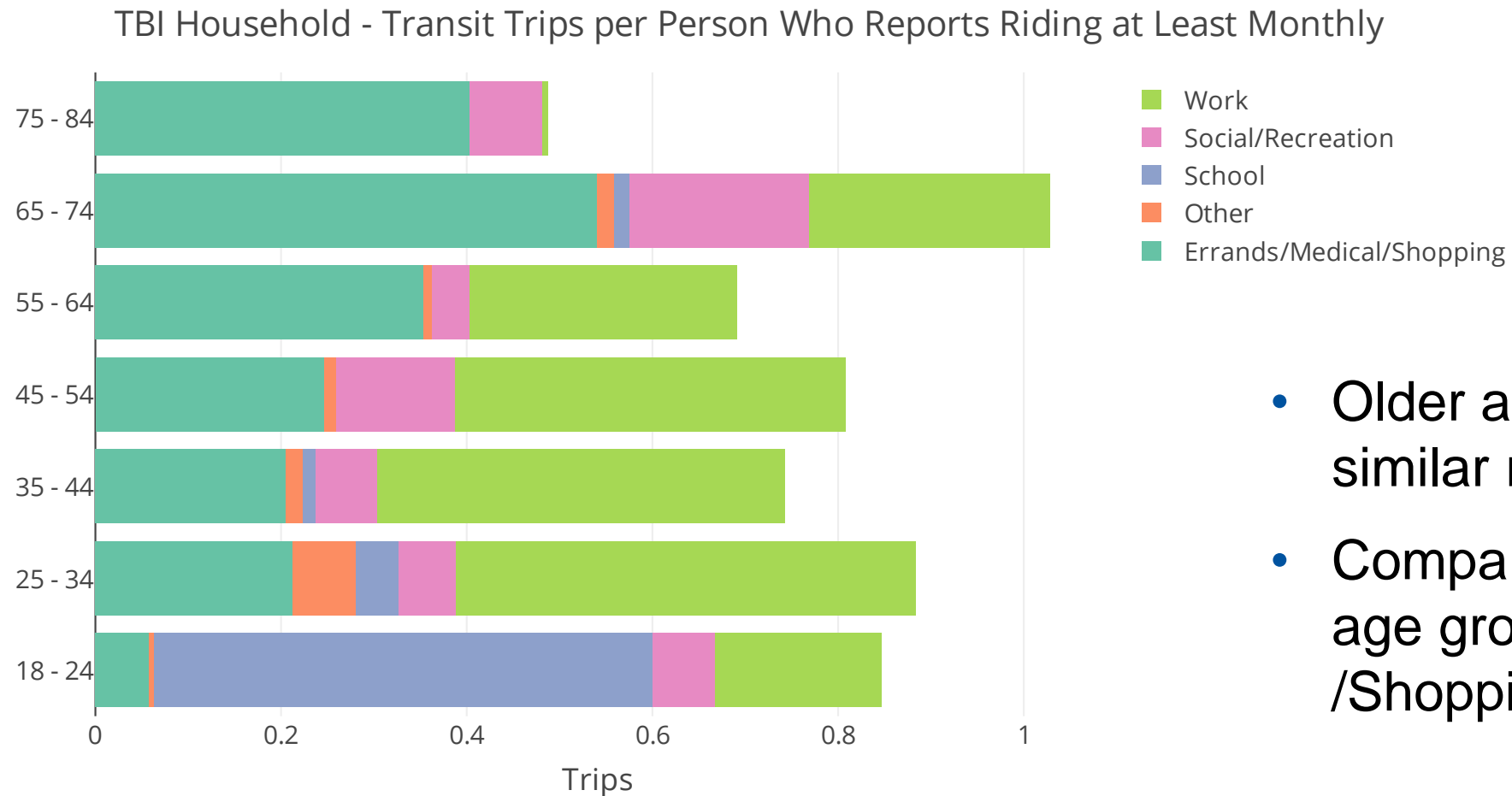
Transit riders by age group



TBI On-Board Survey



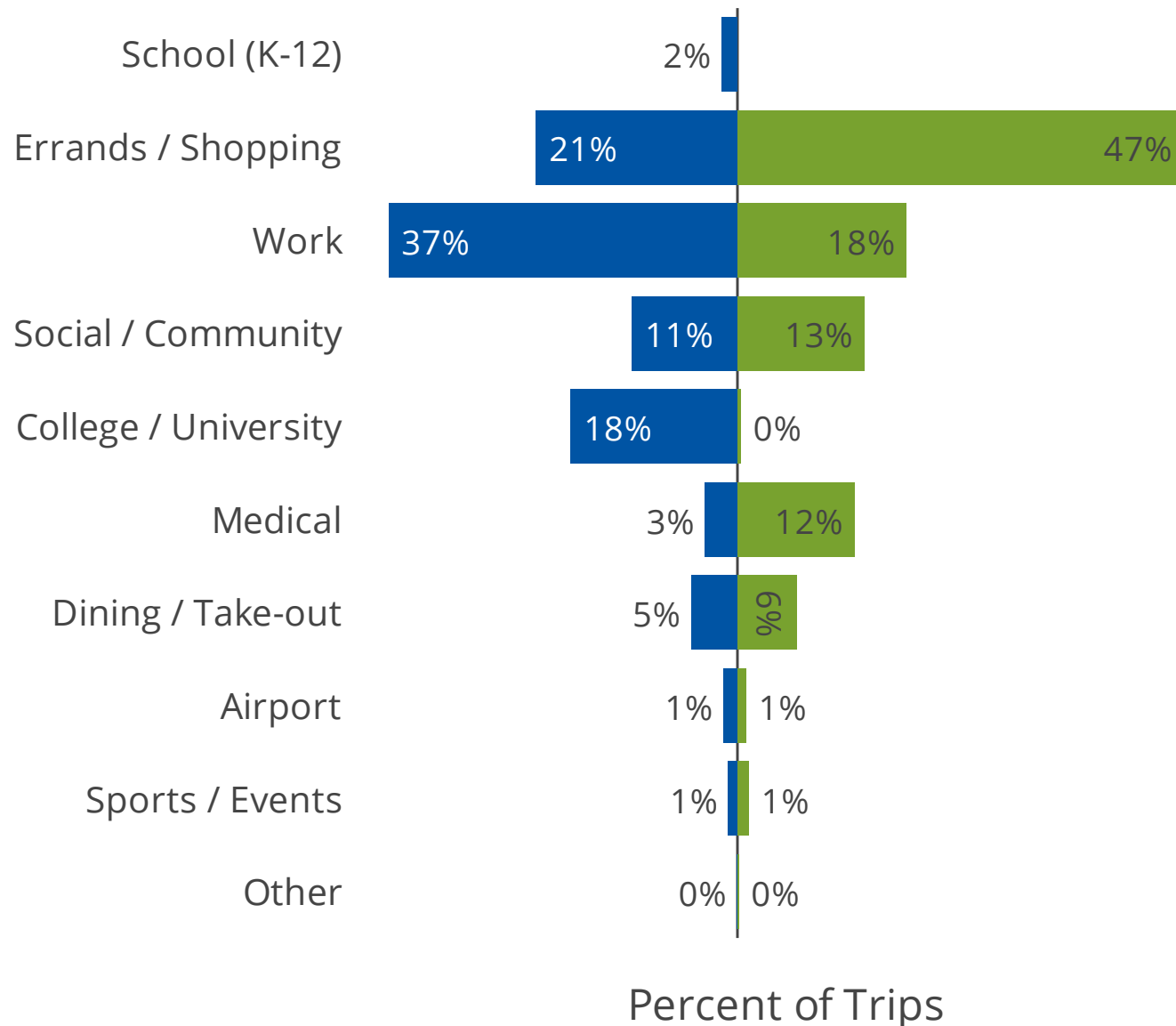
Transit trips rates are consistent by age



- Older adults who use transit travel at similar rates to other age groups
- Compared to other age groups, older age groups take more Errands/Medical/Shopping trips.

Trip purposes for older adults on transit

TBI On-Board Survey



■ Age 65 +
■ Under 65

Compared to younger age groups, older adults (65+) have trip purposes reflecting a:

- Greater share of trips for errands/shopping, medical appointments
- Similar share for social/community, dining, airport, sports/events
- Smaller share of trips for commuting, school, college

Commute transit trips for adults ages 65+ remains high- 1 of 6 trips and the second largest category of trips taken by older adults

Metropolitan Council Transportation Resources for seniors



Metro Mobility Program

- A shared ride, public transportation service for certified riders who are unable to use the regular fixed-route system due to a disability or health condition.
- Some service guaranteed as a civil right under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Program regulated by the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) and state
- MN Statutory requirements found in 473.386
- Trips provided for any purpose
- 2022 Ridership: 1,972,948 (on track for 2M+ in 2023)
- ~\$100 million annual operating budget; transitioning to state forecasted program for SFY26



Customer Relations

Customer Profile

- Expecting over 2 million rides in 2023, approaching 90% of pre-pandemic peak ridership (2019)
- 35,000 certified eligible customers; 19,000 “active” riders
- ~25% certified with conditional eligibility
- 30% of trips require use of lift
- Guests and Personal Care Attendants (PCA)
- Rides booked through contracted reservations (phone or email) or through our on-line booking system



Certification Process and Eligibility Criteria

1. Certification questionnaire form
2. Professional verification form by a licensed health care professional
3. Sign/submit application forms
4. Application review within 21 days of application receipt
5. In-person assessment (may be necessary depending on application content)
6. Appeal process/options available

Eligibility guidance. May be eligible if:

- You are not physically able to get to or from a bus in an area where regular-route buses operate because of your disability or health condition.
- You are not able to determine how to use the regular-route bus system.
- You are not able to get on or get off a regular-route bus.

(Illustrative examples above. Eligibility determined through federal criteria and professional evaluation and assessment)

Transit Link

Transit Link is a general public shared-ride public transportation service in the region:

- Where regular route transit service is infrequent or unavailable
- For trips that can't be accomplished on regular transit routes alone.

Operates 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday through Friday

Regular coordination with local governments and agencies to help meet community needs, such as regular (standing order) service between common community destinations and housing

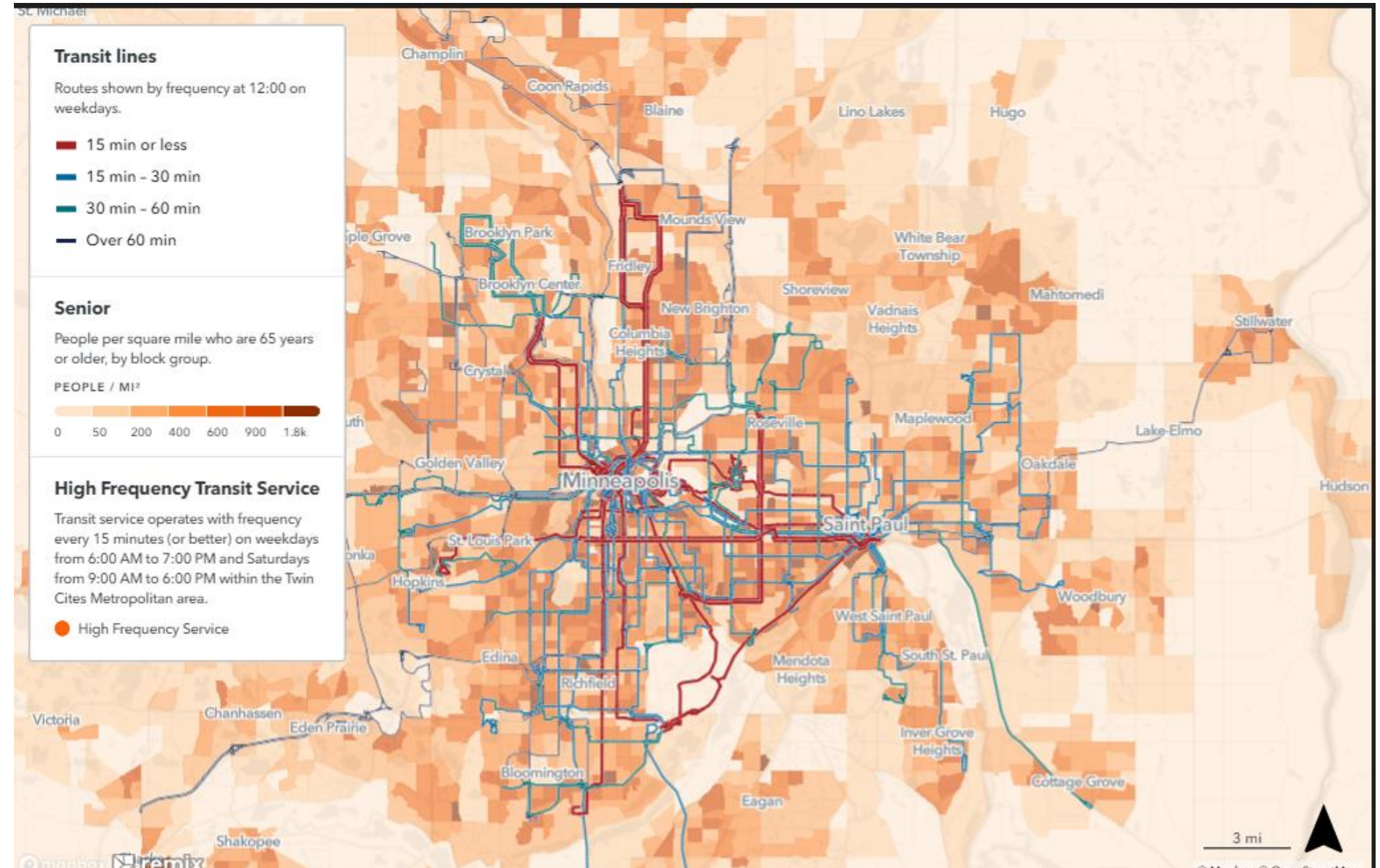
Customers trips may transfer with other transit services, where available

Destinations within 2 miles of service areas



Metro Transit

- Metro Transit operates fixed route bus, light rail, and commuter rail
- People ages 65+ have access to discounted fares
- Buses and trains are designed with a wide range of mobility needs in mind





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