

# NORTH DOWNTOWN BRT ROUTE OPTION

A Blue Line alternative route connecting Warman Road and 33rd Street to Downtown via 3rd Avenue and 2nd Avenue has been suggested. This memo provides a description and analysis of this routing.

The recommended North Downtown Blue Line routing, as defined in the Growth Plan and early work done for the BRT functional plan, follows Warman Road, 33rd Street, Idylwyld Drive and 25th Street to 1st or 3rd Avenue Downtown. Stations would be located at 33rd Street and Quebec Avenue; Idylwyld Drive and 33rd Street; Idylwyld Drive and 29th Street; and 25th Street and Ontario Avenue. This option serves high transit trip generators such as the Saskatchewan Polytechnic, and supports the City of Saskatoon's Growth Plan Long-Term Corridor Planning, Imagine Idylwyld, and Complete Streets initiatives.

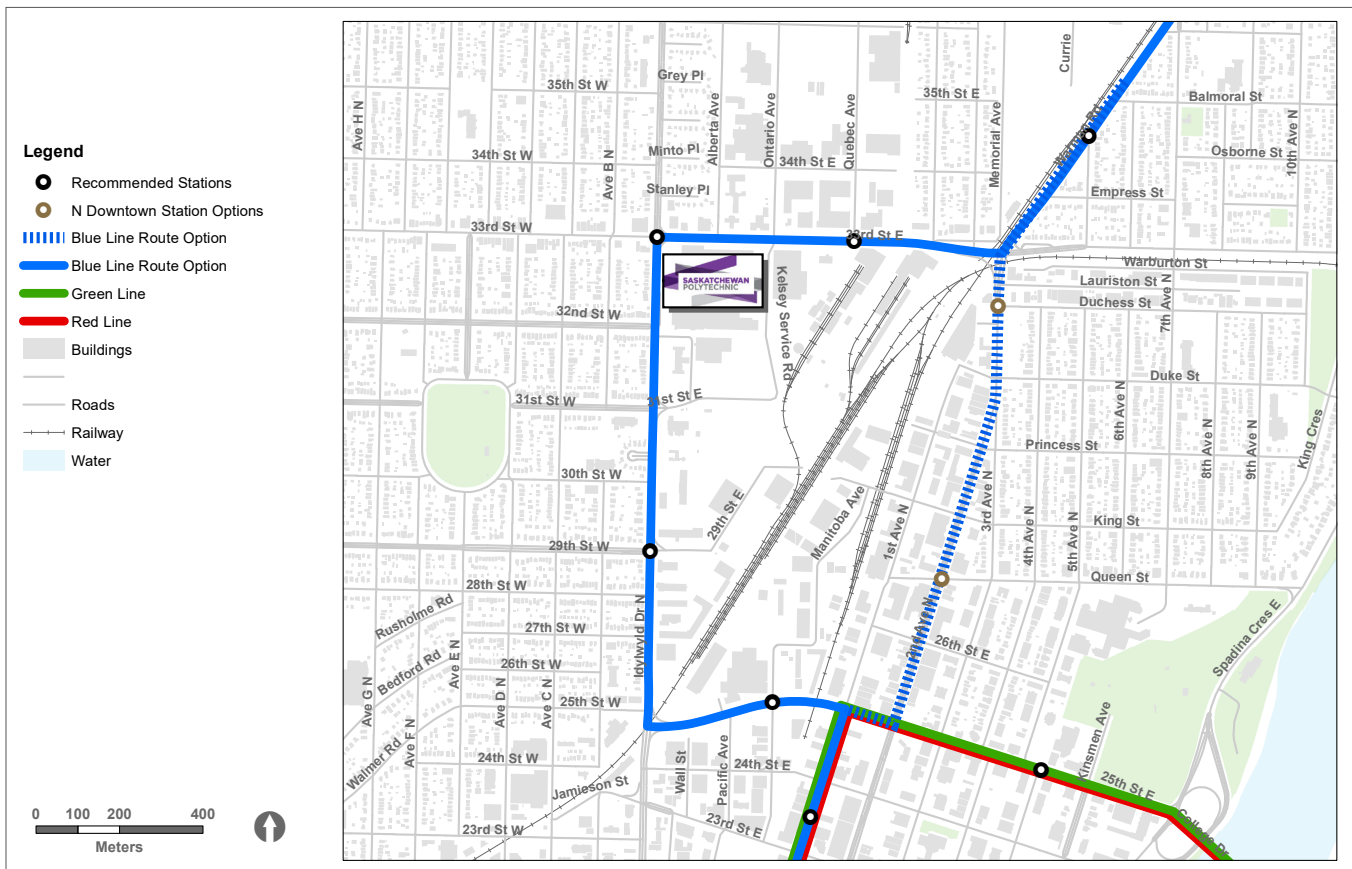


Figure 1. North Downtown Route Options

A Blue Line alternative route connecting Warman Road and 33rd Street to Downtown via 3rd Avenue and 2nd Avenue and 2nd Avenue and Queen Street. It has been suggested that this option would provide better access to the North Downtown industrial area.

Both Blue Line route options and stations are illustrated in Figure 1.

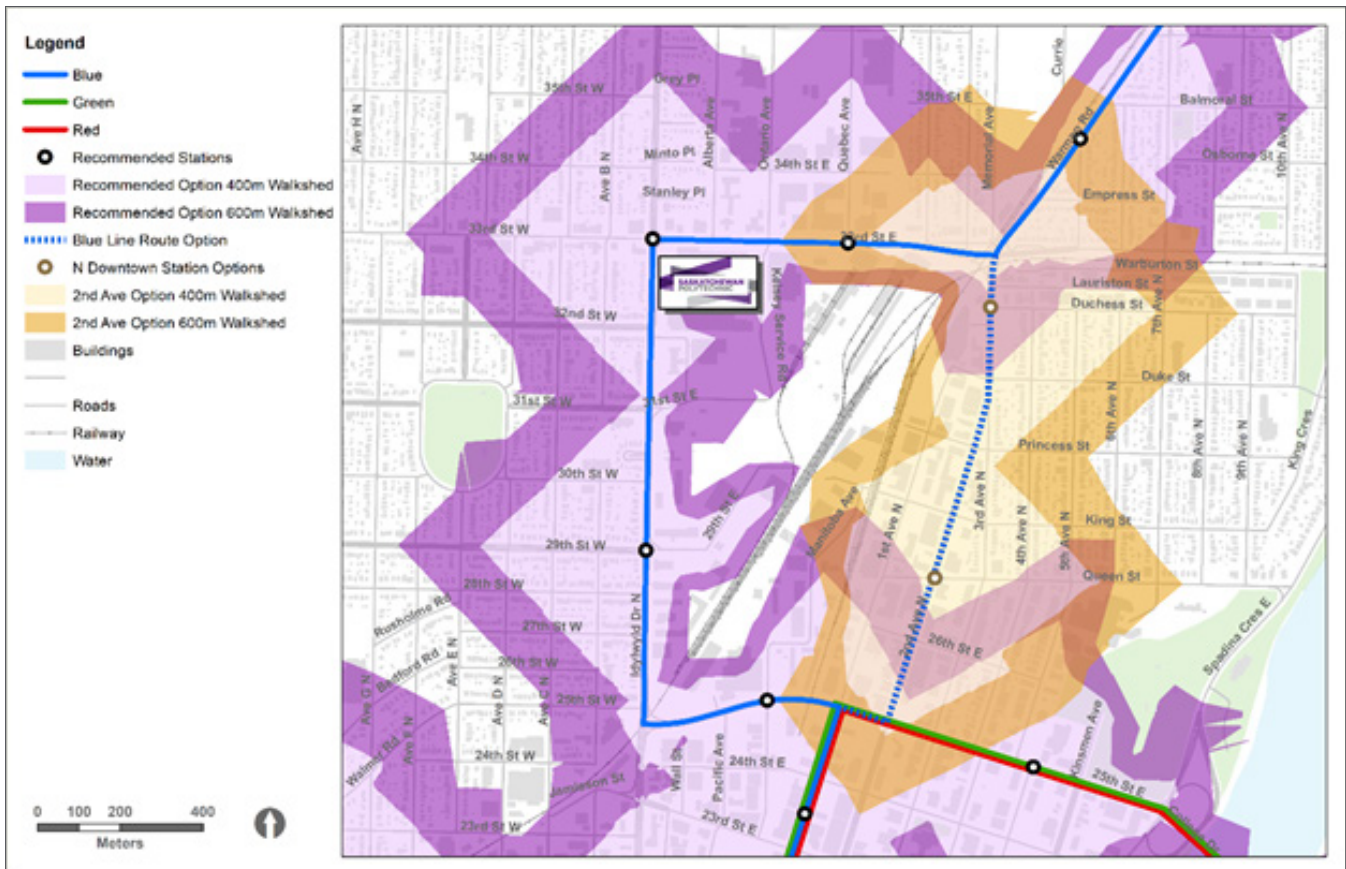


Figure 2. Walkshed analysis of both the Warman to 33rd to Idylwyld option (purple) and Warman to 2nd Avenue Option (yellow).

A walkshed analysis was performed for both options (see Figure 2). A walkshed is the geographical catchment based on the pedestrian walking network and distances passengers are typically willing to walk. For bus and bus rapid transit planning a walkshed of 400m to 600m (a five to seven minute walk for the average person) are typically used to assess corridor and station locations.

The walkshed around the 3rd Avenue and Duchess Street station shows that the closest Saskatchewan Polytechnic entrance is approximately 850m, as shown in Figure 3. The existing rail lines and industrial lands east of 2nd and 3rd Avenues create a barrier effect and limit connectivity with Idylwyld Drive and the Polytechnic.

A walkshed analysis of the 33rd Street and Idylwyld Drive stations, Figure 4, shows that all Saskatchewan Polytechnic building entrances are well within a 400m walking distance. As well, the Growth Plan identified Idylwyld Drive North as a corridor for future development intensification. The implementation of BRT along Idylwyld Drive would support this planning initiative.

The recommended Warman Road, 33rd Street and Idylwyld Drive Blue Line route provides superior service to the 14,000 students and 1,700 staff at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic, and supports the current and future development along Idylwyld Drive North. The North Downtown area will be well served by local bus routes that offer several transfer points to the Blue, Red, and Green Line BRTs.

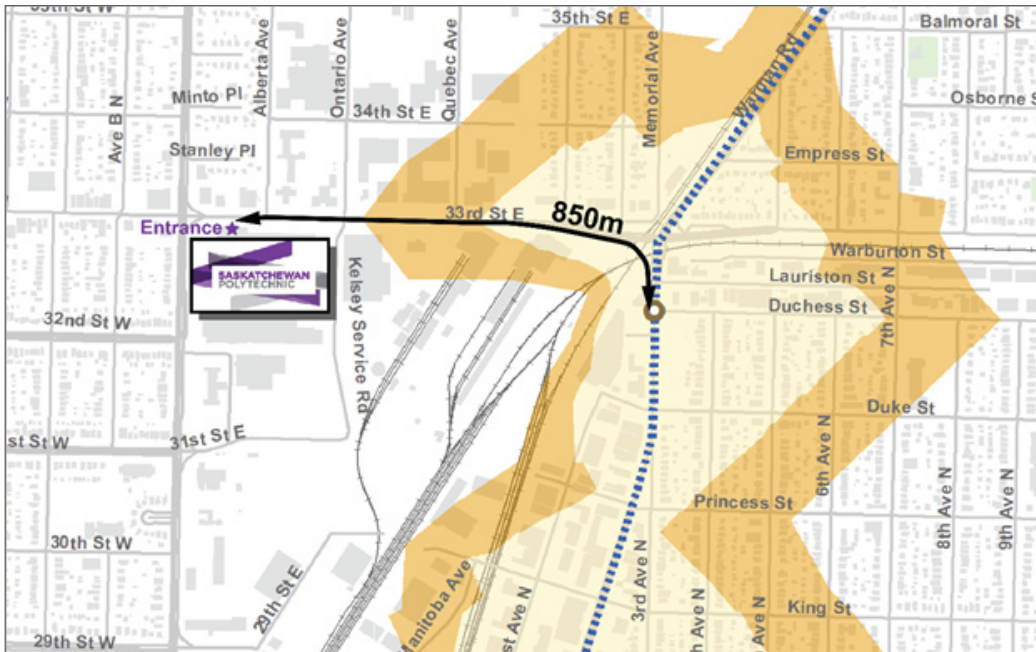


Figure 3. Walkshed from the 2nd Avenue and Duchess Street station to Saskatchewan Polytechnic

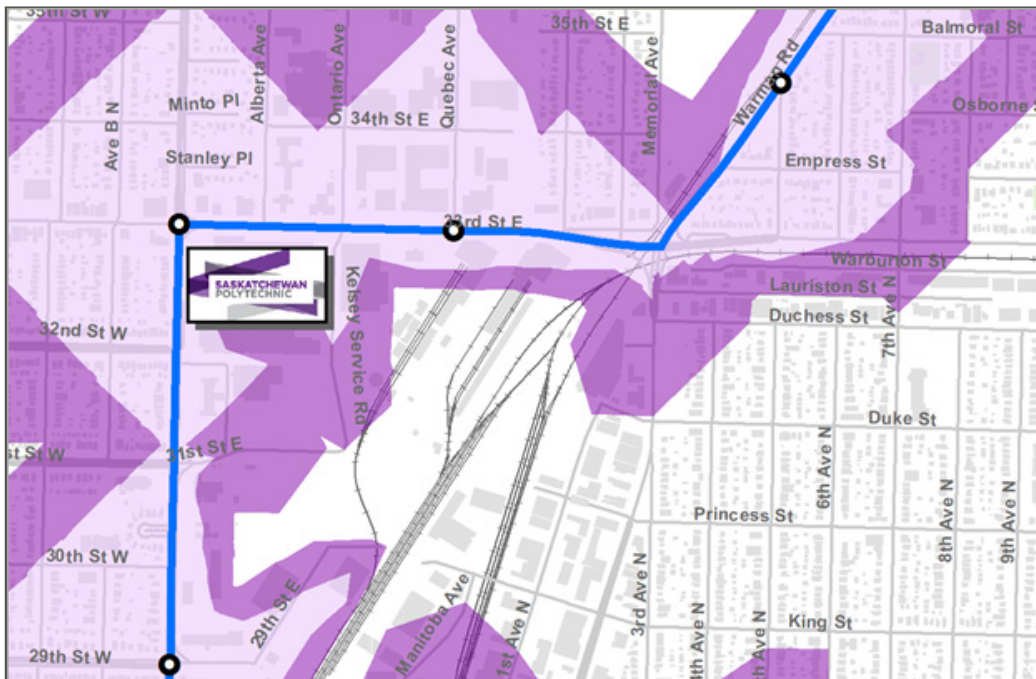


Figure 4. Walkshed from the 33rd Street and Idylwyld Drive station to Saskatchewan Polytechnic