



# BRT Route Modification Study Update







Metropolitan Council Committee of the Whole | June 7, 2023

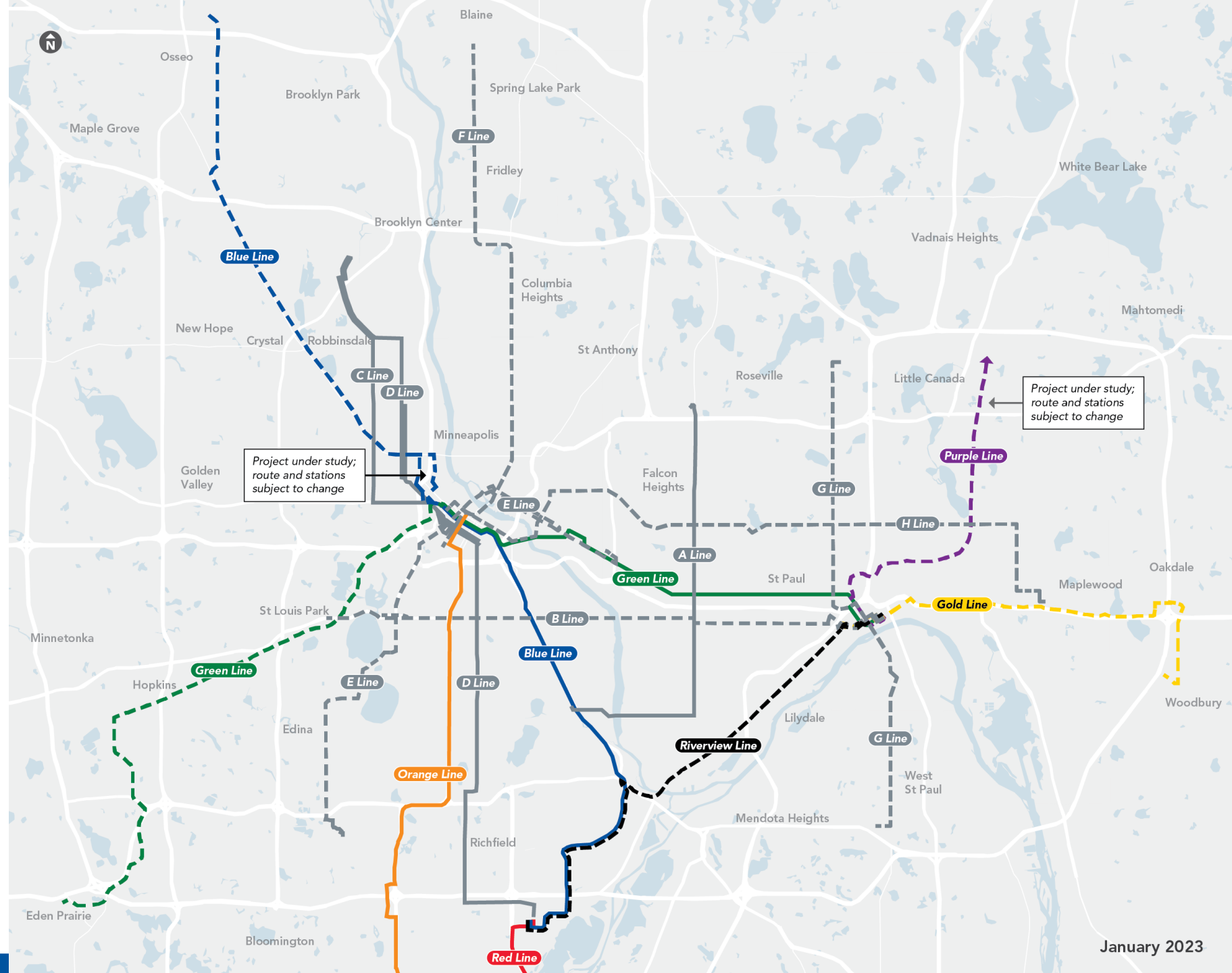
# Future Transit

## Current METRO network

-  A Line
-  Green Line
-  C Line
-  Orange Line
-  D Line
-  Red Line
-  Blue Line

## Planned METRO network

-  Planned BRT
-  Gold Line
-  Purple Line  
*Project under study; route and stations subject to change.*
-  Green Line Extension
-  Blue Line Extension  
*Project under study; route and stations subject to change.*
-  Riverview Line



# Major Historic Project Milestones

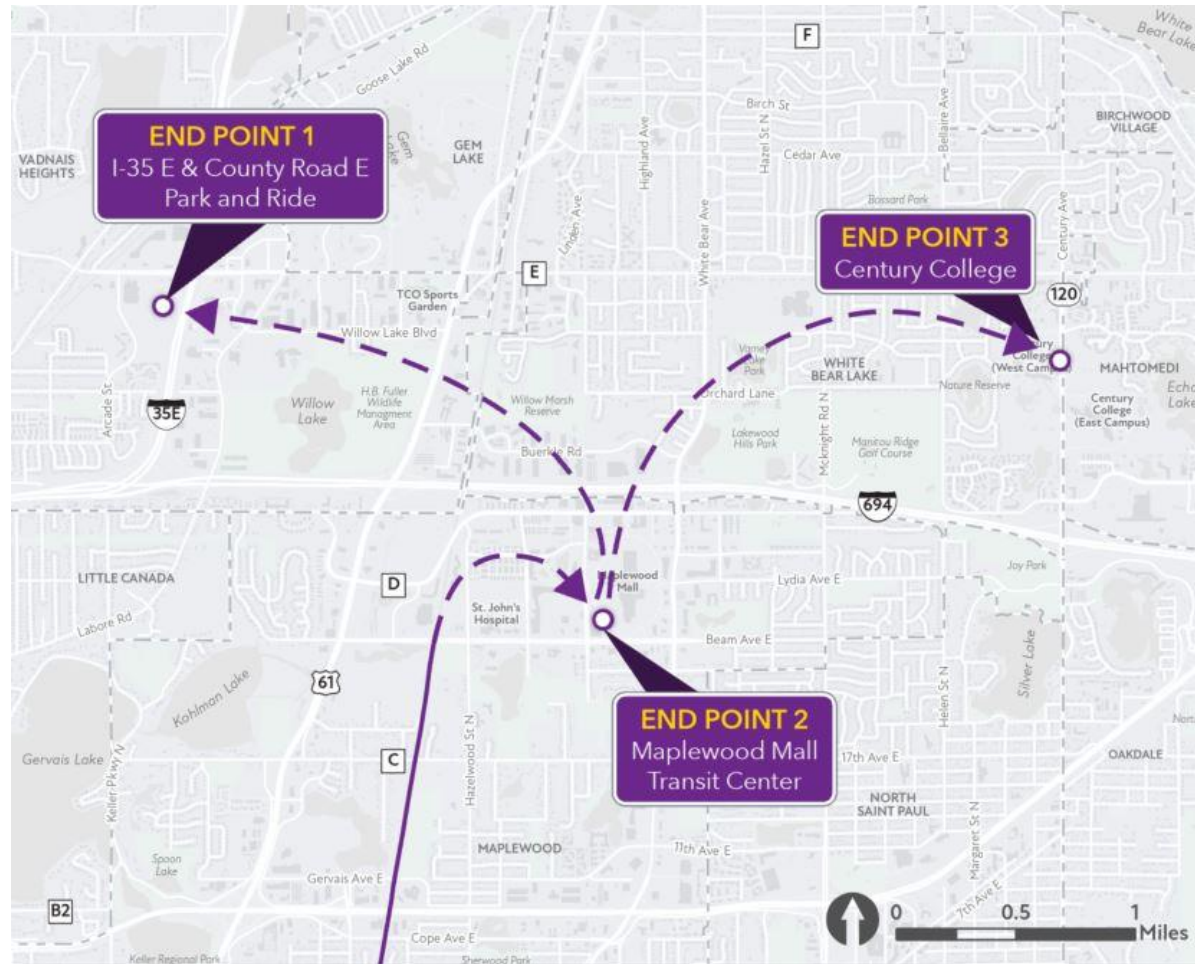
- **1999:** Rush Line Corridor Task Force Formed
- **May 2017:** Locally Preferred Alternative Selected
- **Spring 2020:** Preliminary Design Plan Municipal Approval Resolutions
- **2021:** Environmental Assessment (May) and Environmental Decisions (October & December) Published
- **December 9, 2021:** Federal Transit Administration Grants Entry into the Project Development Phase of the Capital Investment Grant Program as a New Starts Project
  - Planning to Request a PD Phase Extension from FTA this summer

# BRT Route Modification Study (RMS) Phase I

**Definition:** In response to a March 2022 White Bear Lake City Council Resolution, the Purple Line Corridor Management Committee gave direction to study the feasibility of modifying the BRT route to route and terminate outside of the City of White Bear Lake.

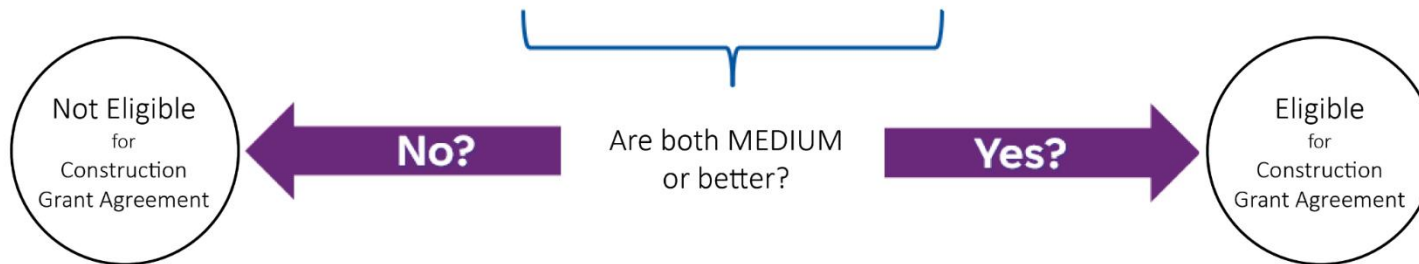
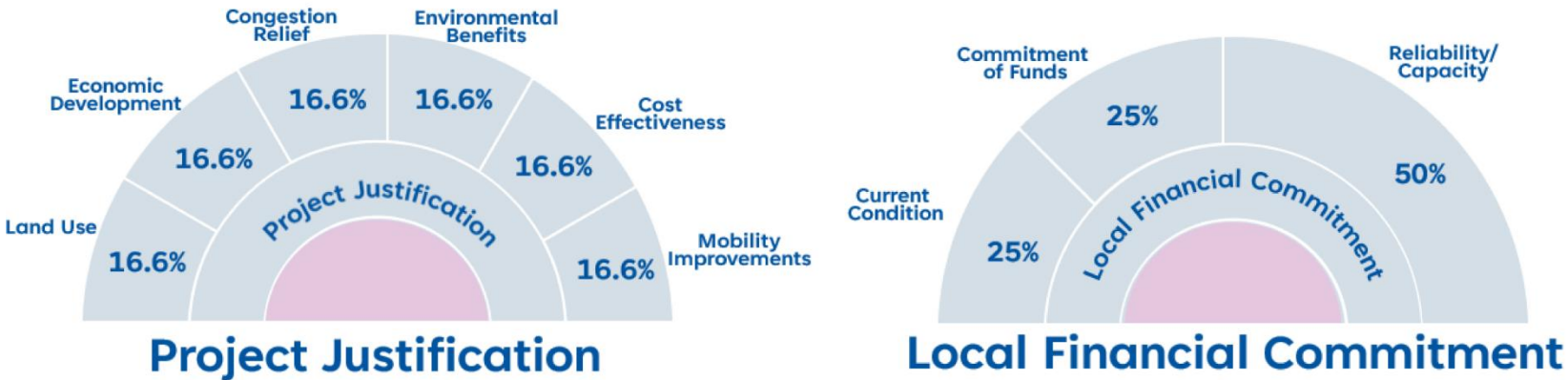
**Goal:** To develop and evaluate multiple alternate northern terminus station locations and routing options consistent with the project's purpose and need.

# BRT RMS Phase I End Point & Routing Options













- 1A – via Willow Lake Blvd
- 1B – via Co. Rd. E
- 2A – via Co. Rd. D
- 2B – via St. Johns Blvd
- 2C – via St. Johns Blvd/Beam Ave
- 2D – via Beam Ave
- 3A – via (2A)
- 3B – via (2B)
- 3C – via (2C)
- 3D – via (2D)

# Project Rating Determines Federal Funding Eligibility



- Ridership, VMT and costs currently drive the project justification rating
- Potential changes include:
  - Rating Breakpoints
  - Criteria Weighting
  - Criteria

# Federal Eligibility Projection Summary

Option	FTA Eligible?
1A – via Willow Lake Blvd	
1B – via Co. Rd. E	
2A – via Co. Rd. D	
2B – via St. Johns Blvd	
2C – via St. Johns Blvd/Beam Ave	
2D – via Beam Ave	
3A – via (2A)	
3B – via (2B)	
3C – via (2C)	
3D – via (2D)	

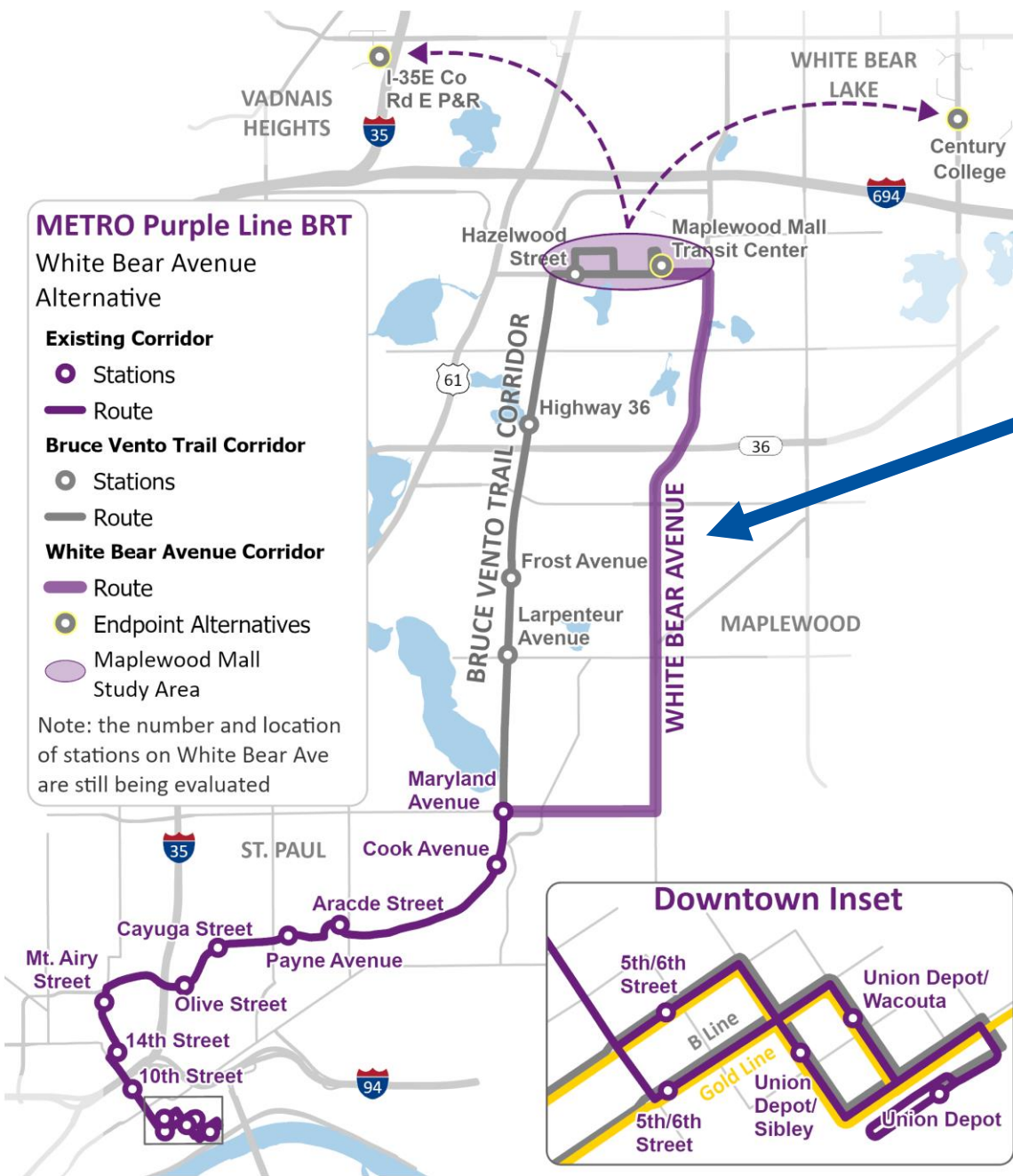
- Under current program criteria, only a Purple Line ending at the Maplewood Mall Transit Center would likely be eligible for future federal funds.
- Does not mean there are not needs for transit service improvements to the other locations.

# BRT Route Modification Study Phase II

- **Definition:** In response to the March 2023 Ramsey County Letter to the City of Maplewood, the Purple Line Corridor Management Committee gave direction to study the feasibility of modifying the BRT route to operate on Maryland Avenue and White Bear Avenue in dedicated lanes with lane reconfiguration.
- **Goal:** To develop and evaluate the new routing alternative up to a level sufficient for comparison to the BRT line/regional trail colocation alternative to inform a recommendation on final alignment and northern terminus station (revised Locally Preferred Alternative)



# White Bear Avenue Study Area

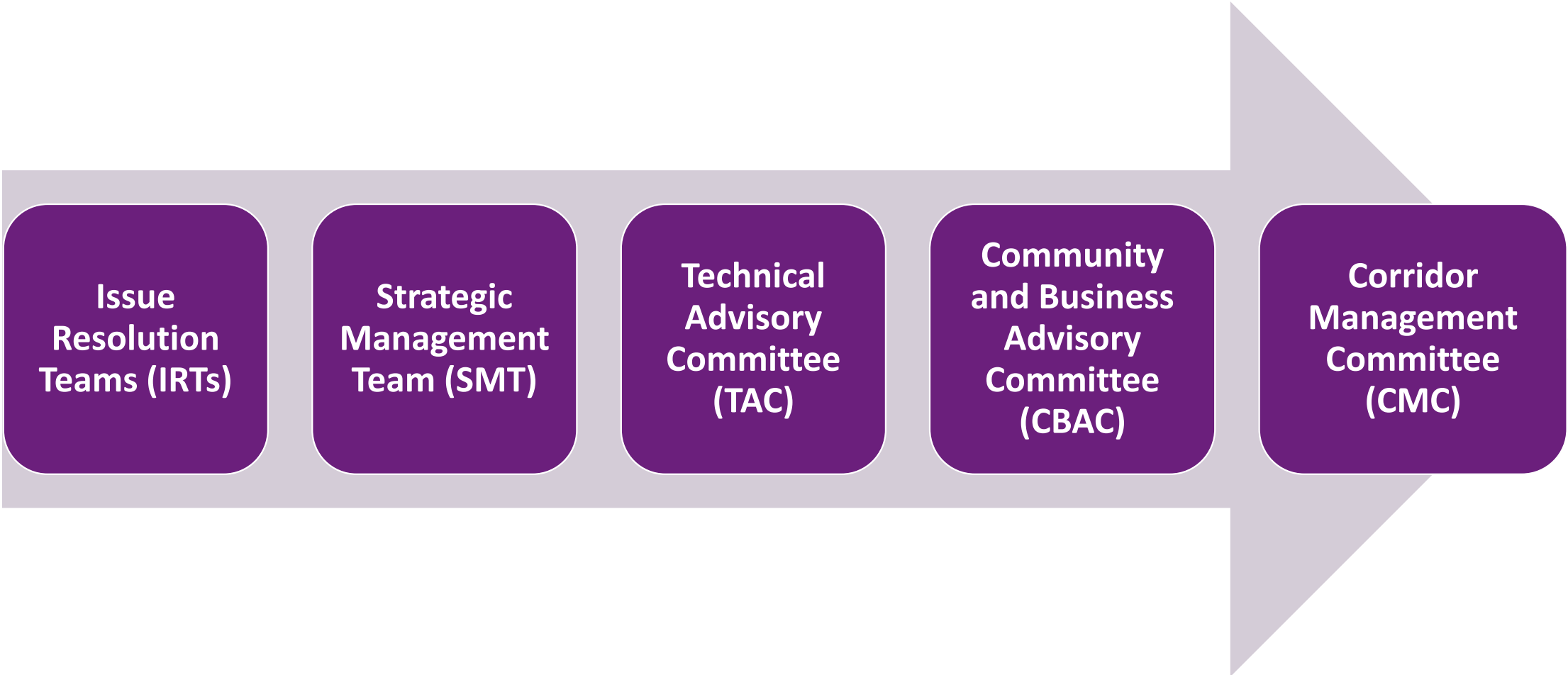


- Study area is between Johnson Parkway and Maplewood Mall Transit Center/St. John's Hospital
- Extensions to Vadnais Heights or Century College may be studied after the initial evaluation is complete
- Identify preferred alignment, guideway configurations and station locations

# Compliance with Environmental Review Process

- An Environmental Assessment (EA) and an environmental decision (Finding of No Significant Impact or FONSI) were published for the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) collocating the BRT route with the Bruce Vento Regional Trail.
- A modified BRT routing on Maryland and White Bear Avenues will need to be compared against the collocation routing for consistency with the project's purpose and need, and changes to community benefits and environmental impacts.
- If a routing using Maryland and White Bear Avenues is recommended as the revised LPA, then a supplemental EA will likely be needed. A supplemental EA would likely take approximately 12 months to complete from the time of a revised LPA decision.
- Route Modification Study Phase II will document the evaluation between Bruce Vento Trail and Maryland/White Bear Avenue alignments for later inclusion in a supplemental EA
  - Includes reports such as traffic, social, land use, environmental impacts, etc.

# Stakeholder Coordination & Decision Making



# Evaluation Process Steps



# Reviewing Existing Conditions & Corridor Characteristics

- Existing conditions will set the foundation of the study. This includes:
  - Traffic counts, land use, crash data, demographic data, existing transit locations, existing parking, bike/walkshed, and economic data.
  - Best route for transitioning to Maryland Ave and ending at Maplewood Mall Transit Center
  - Identification of potential station locations
  - Develop a mutual understanding of traffic analysis and any design or location-specific issues and constraints with Stakeholders
  - Engagement with the community to understand challenges and opportunities
- **Anticipated Schedule:** May 2023 – August 2023 (~4 months)
- **CMC Focus:** September 2023
  - Review of existing conditions
  - Recap of summer engagement
  - Concurrence on proposed station locations

# Development of Maryland and White Bear Ave Design Options



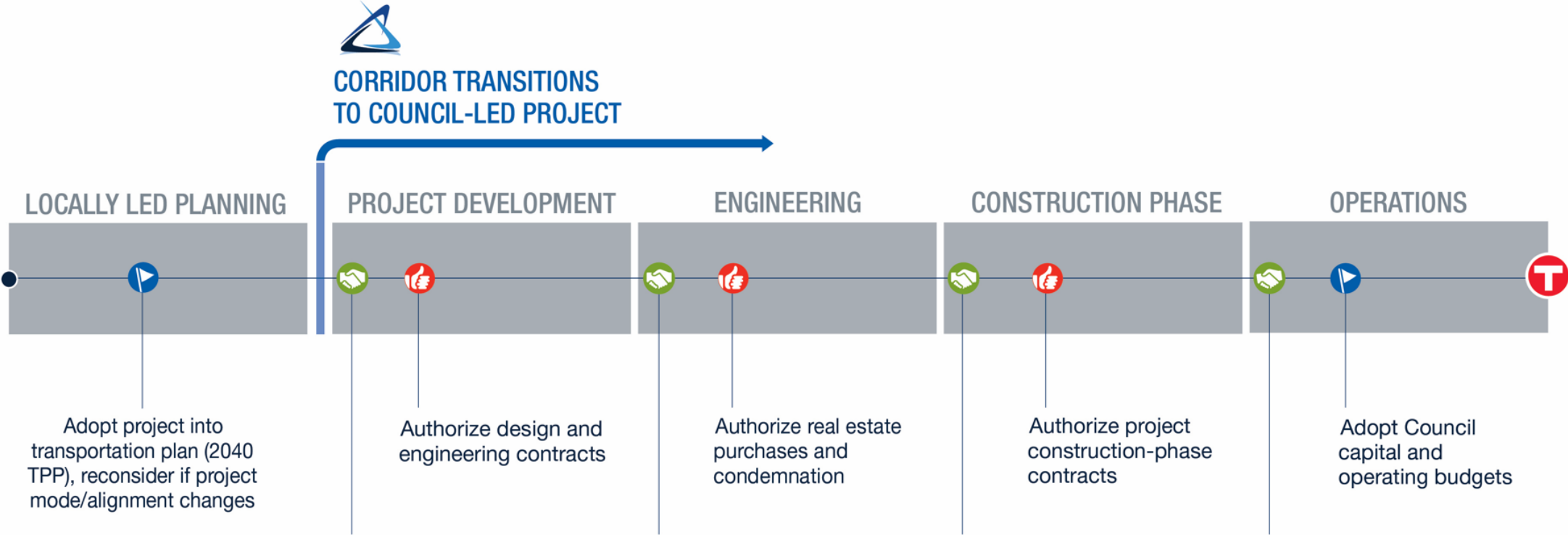
## Initial Development of Cross-Section Design Options along Maryland and White Bear Ave

- Determine Guideway Concepts that includes but not limited to Side Running, Center Running, BAT Lanes, etc.
  - Development of evaluation criteria for screening cross-sections options
  - Development of roadway cross-sections for right of way changes that considers:
    - Guideway Configurations, Safety and Access Management, Pedestrian Space
  - Select leading concepts for detailed screening analysis
- **Anticipated Schedule:** July 2023 – October 2023 (~ 4 months)
  - **CMC Focus:** Nov. 2023 – Concurrence on Most Promising Design Options

# Met Council Actions on Project to Date

- **August 2021:** Project Development Phase Capital Grant Agreement; MnDOT Cooperation Agreement
- **September 2021:** MnDOT Master Funding Agreement
- **November 2021:** MnDOT Subordinate Funding Agreement #1
- **February 2022:** Engineering & Project Management Consultant Contract
- **March 2022:** Field Work Rights of Entry Resolution
- **July 2022:** Environmental & Peer Review Consultant Contract
- **October 2022:** MnDOT Subordinate Funding Agreement #2

# Application of Transitway Advancement Policy



**AUTHORIZE AGREEMENTS WITH FUNDING PARTNERS FOR EACH PROJECT PHASE**



**RMS Phase II**



# Council Actions and Transitway Advancement Policy

- November 2023 – Amend Capital Grant Agreement for Extended Project Development Phase
- Summer 2024 – Amend Consultant Contracts
- Fall 2024 – Amend Transportation Policy Plan
- Updates on Enterprise Risks
  - Council wide effort underway – Consultant On-Board to develop process
  - 2023 Legislative Session has changed/mitigated several key risks

# Approach to Public Outreach & Engagement

- Informational Sessions
- Business / Stakeholder Group Meetings
- In-Person and Virtual Open Houses
- Pop-Up Events, Door Knocking, Bus Canvassing
- Interactive map
- Social Media, Digital/Print/Radio Advertisements, Postcards





# Project Staff out in the Corridor Communities

- 5/1: Ramsey County Service Center (Table)
- 5/2, 5/23: Hayden Heights Library (Table)
- 5/9, 5/30: Harmony Learning Center (Table)
- 5/10: Johnson Senior High School (Table)
- 5/10: Maplewood Mall Transit Center (Canvassing)
- 5/11, 5/18: Route 80 or Route 64 Bus (Canvassing)
- 5/13: Big Red Barn Spring Folk Arts & Crafts Fair (Table)
- 5/16, 5/31, 6/21: Aldrich Arena Farmer's Market (Table)
- 5/27: BVT Area – West Side of Trail, near Frost (Canvassing)
- 6/3 & 6/4: Train Days at Union Depot (Community Event)
- 6/7, 7/5, 8/2: St. Paul Farmers Market (Table)
- 6/10: BVT Area – East Side of Larpenteur (Canvassing)
- 6/14, 7/26, 8/23: Summer Event – Maplewood
- 6/23: BVT Area – West/East Side of Frost
- 6/26: Ramsey County Service Center (Maplewood)

# Contact Us

For more information:

[www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project](http://www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project)

[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @PurpleLineBRT

Nick Thompson

Executive Director (interim)

(612) 349-7507

[nick.thompson@metrotransit.org](mailto:nick.thompson@metrotransit.org)

Craig Lamothe

Project Manager

(651) 602-1978

[craig.lamothe@metrotransit.org](mailto:craig.lamothe@metrotransit.org)