

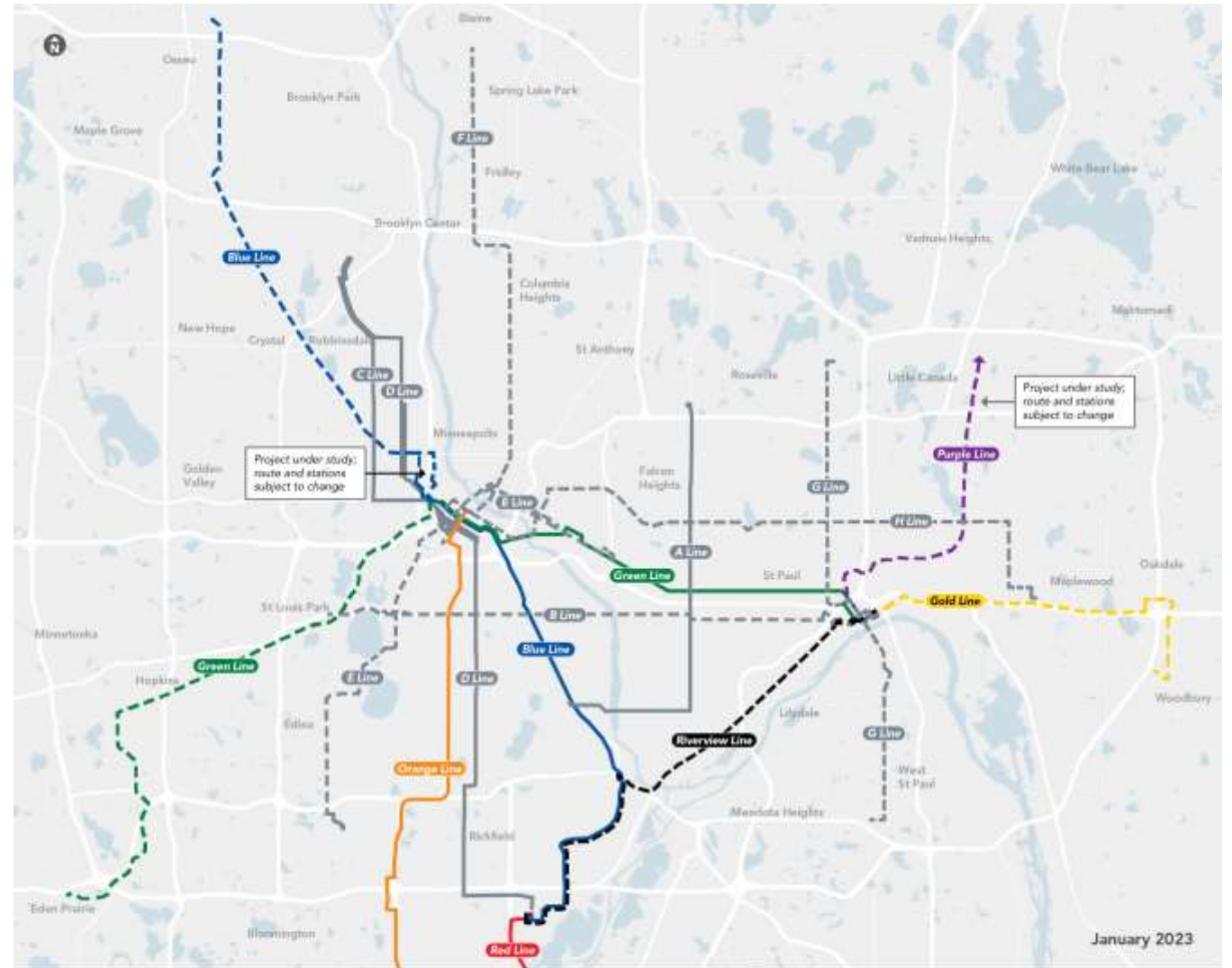


**Transitways Quarterly Update  
Metropolitan Council  
March 22, 2023**

# METRO Network

## Quarterly Update on:

- Gold Line BRT
- Green Line Extension LRT
- Purple Line BRT
- Blue Line Extension LRT



### Current METRO network

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

### Planned METRO network

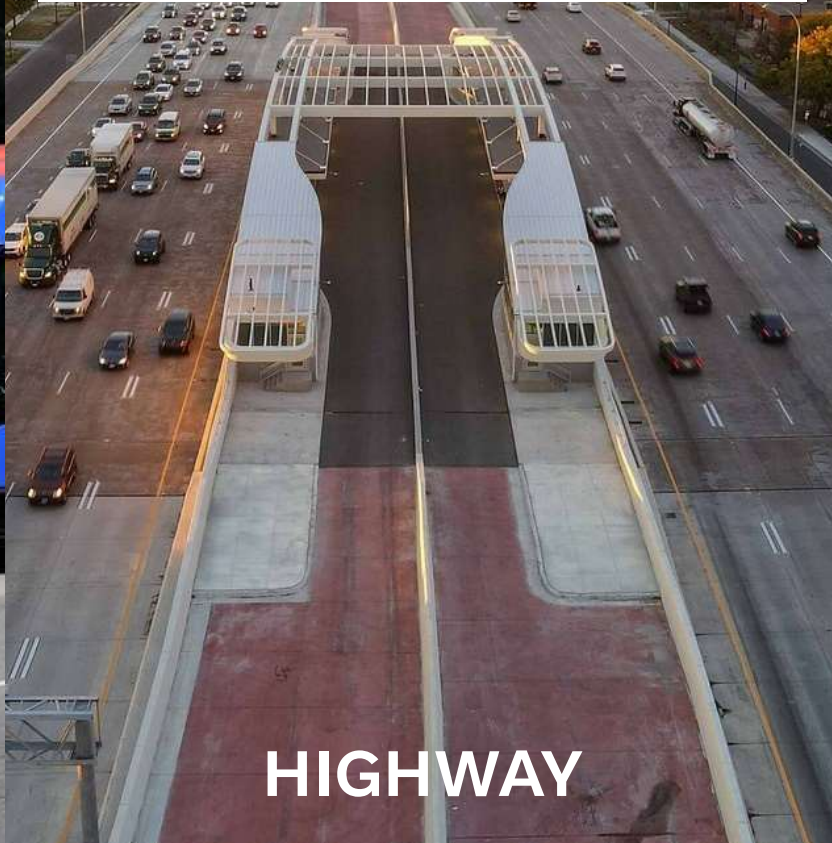
- - - Planned BRT
- - - Gold Line
- - - Purple Line  
Project under study; route and stations subject to change
- - - Green Line Extension
- - - Blue Line Extension  
Project under study; route and stations subject to change
- - - Riverview Line

- Lettered lines (A Line, C Line)
- Mix of state/federal funds, potential FTA Small Starts
- Primarily in mixed traffic, some bus-only lanes



**ARTERIAL**

- Orange Line & Red Line
- FTA Small Starts
- Local County sponsor/funding
- Primarily HOV/HOT lanes



**HIGHWAY**

- Gold Line & Purple Line
- FTA New Starts
- Local County sponsor/funding
- Exclusive BRT guideway



**GUIDEWAY**

## Three varieties of BRT, one METRO system



**METRO Arterial BRT:  
Turning early success  
into a network & program**



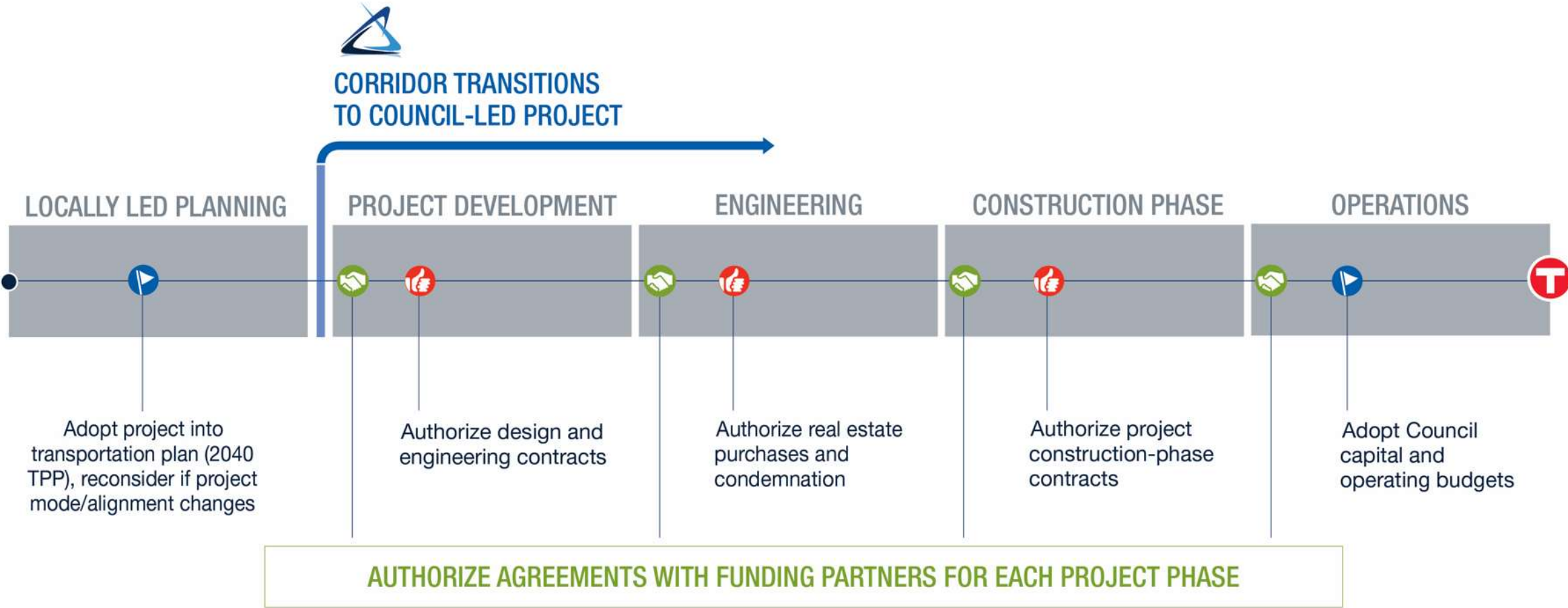
**METRO Orange Line:  
Context-sensitive &  
decades in the making**



**METRO Gold Line:  
Leveling up for a  
premium experience**

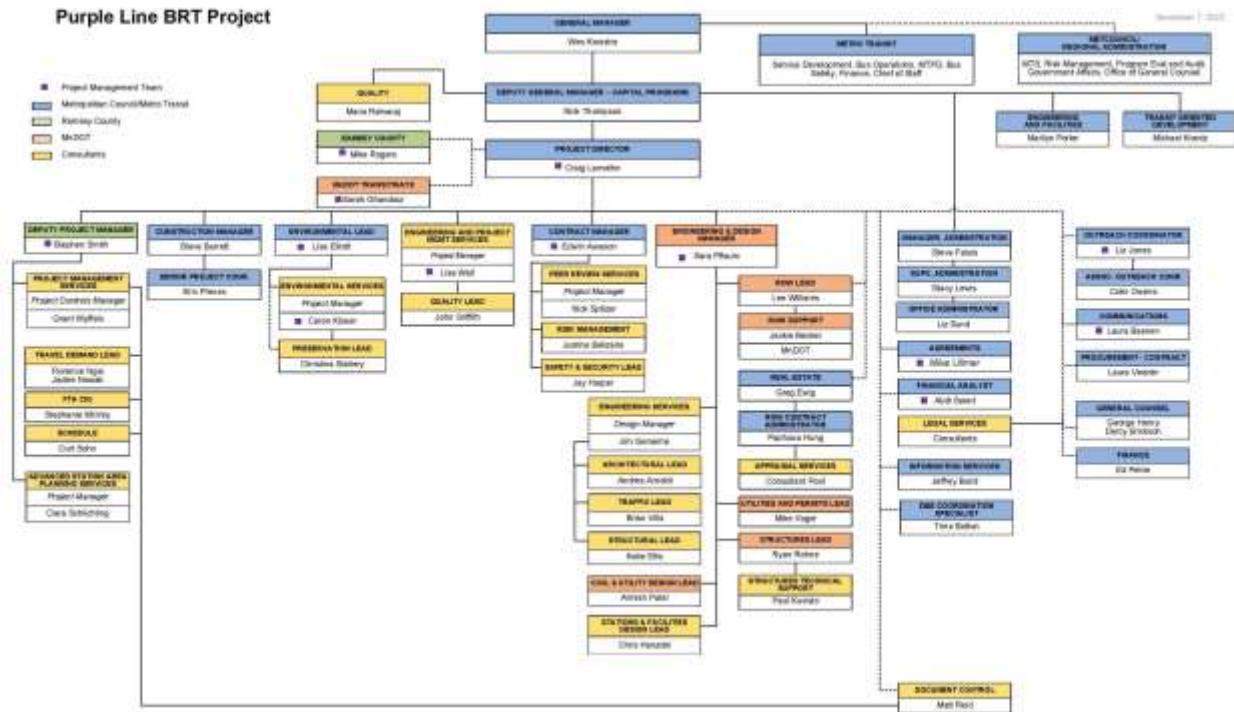
## **Three stories**

# Transitways: Major Phases



# Project Organization

- Organized on Project Office Concept
- Lead by Project Director for each project
- Staff from Metro Transit, County, MnDOT and project consultants co-located in project office
- Council/County Governance structures exist for each project to provide Policy Input and approve project changes



# Engagement framework

- Outreach coordinators dedicated to each project
  - Engagement planned with project leadership
  - Feedback brought to design, engineering and environmental meetings to ensure decisions are influenced by our riders and stakeholders
  - Proactive approach taken to anticipate and address construction issues as they emerge
- Engage early and often
  - Ensure stakeholders are aware of project details and are involved through all project stages
  - Ensure projects are aware of community issues



*Gold Line tabling at Safe Summer Nights in St. Paul*

# Engagement approach

- Strategies designed to hear diverse perspectives
  - Public meetings hosted by the project team, project newsletters, social media, etc.
  - Community partnerships, door-knocking, relationship building, pop-ups, attending events hosted by community (going to where people are)
- Develop ongoing, working relationships with project neighbors and surrounding community
- Goal of bringing greater understanding of our work, and decision-making processes



*Hwy 62 tunnel construction walking tour*



*Community engagement designed by youth at Juxtaposition Arts*



## Engagement impact & results

- 2022: About 750 meetings and events with public stakeholders reaching over 10,000 people directly across the four project
- Adjustments made because of feedback:
  - Purple Line: Arcade Station details
  - Blue Line Extension: routing options on 21<sup>st</sup> Street or between Target Field and West Broadway
  - Green Line Extension and Gold Line: greater awareness of construction impacts and close coordination with project neighbors



*Blue Line Extension Minneapolis Community Workshop*

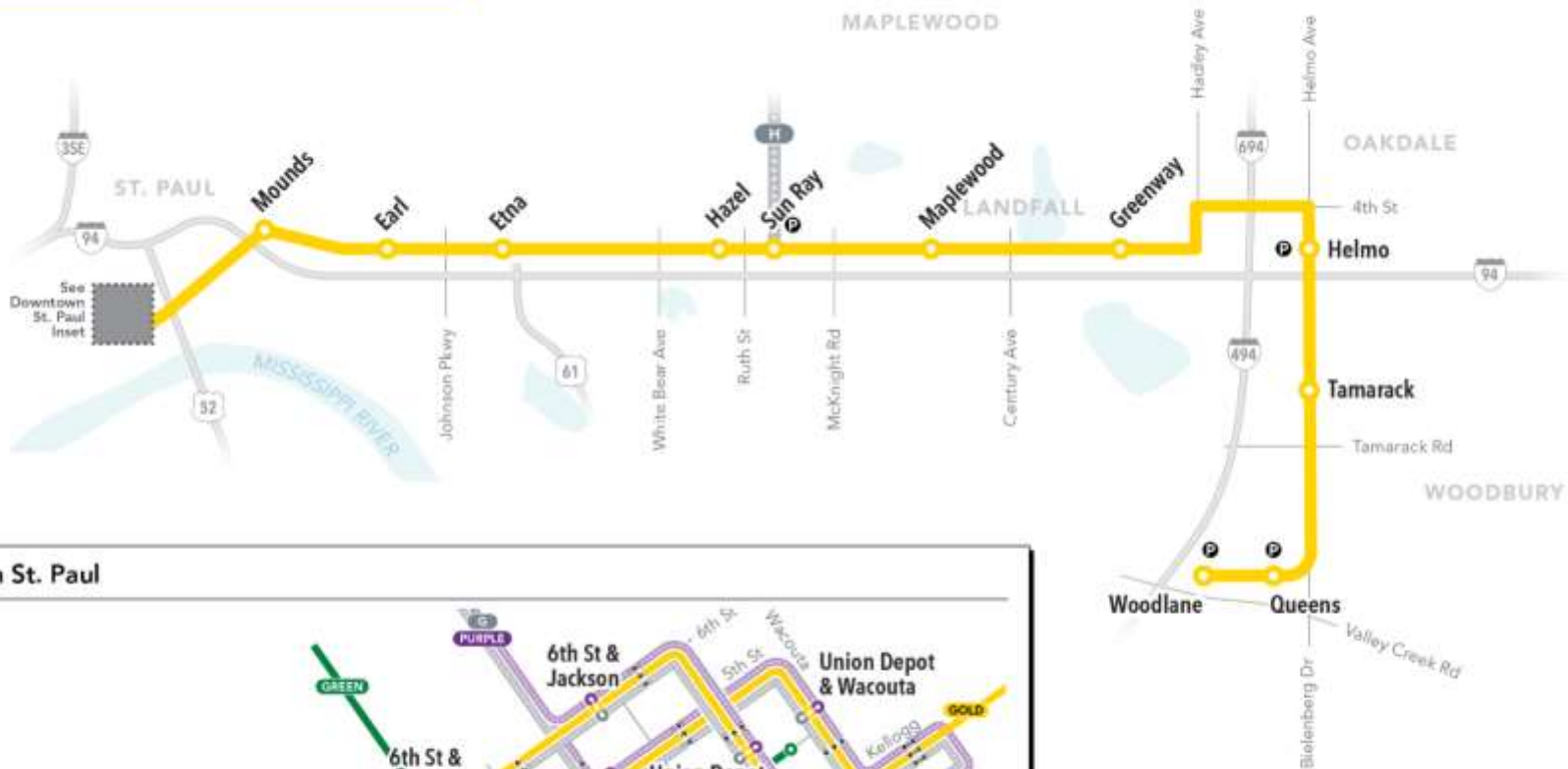


## Gold Line BRT

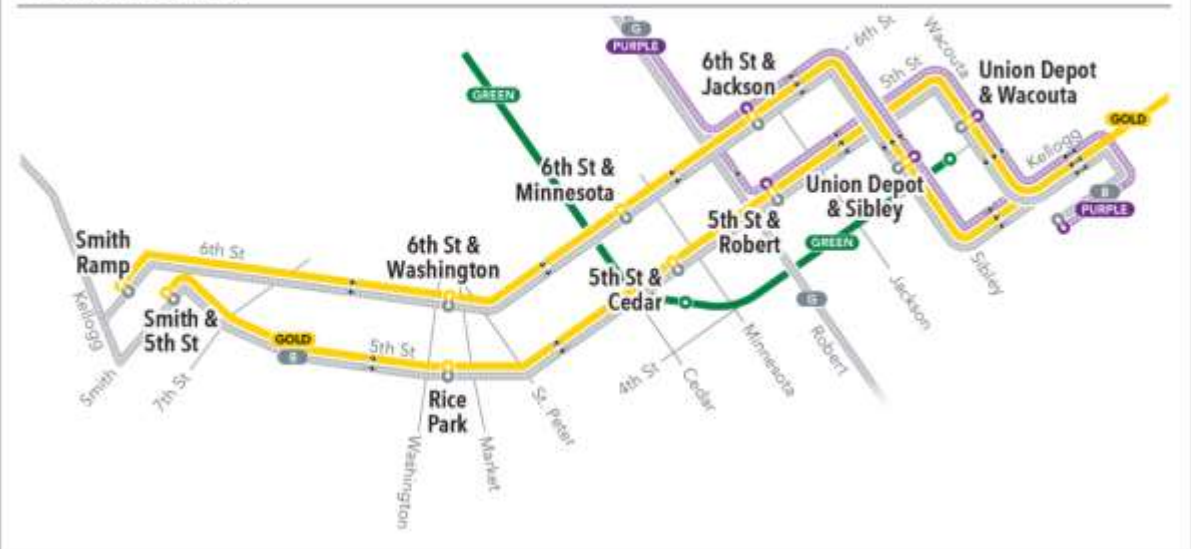
Alicia Vap (she/her) – Project Director



# Gold Line



## Downtown St. Paul



	METRO Gold Line (Bus Rapid Transit)
	Park & Ride Lot
<b>Current METRO lines</b>	
	Green Line (Light Rail)
<b>Planned METRO lines</b>	
	Purple Line (Bus Rapid Transit)
	B, G & H lines (Bus Rapid Transit)

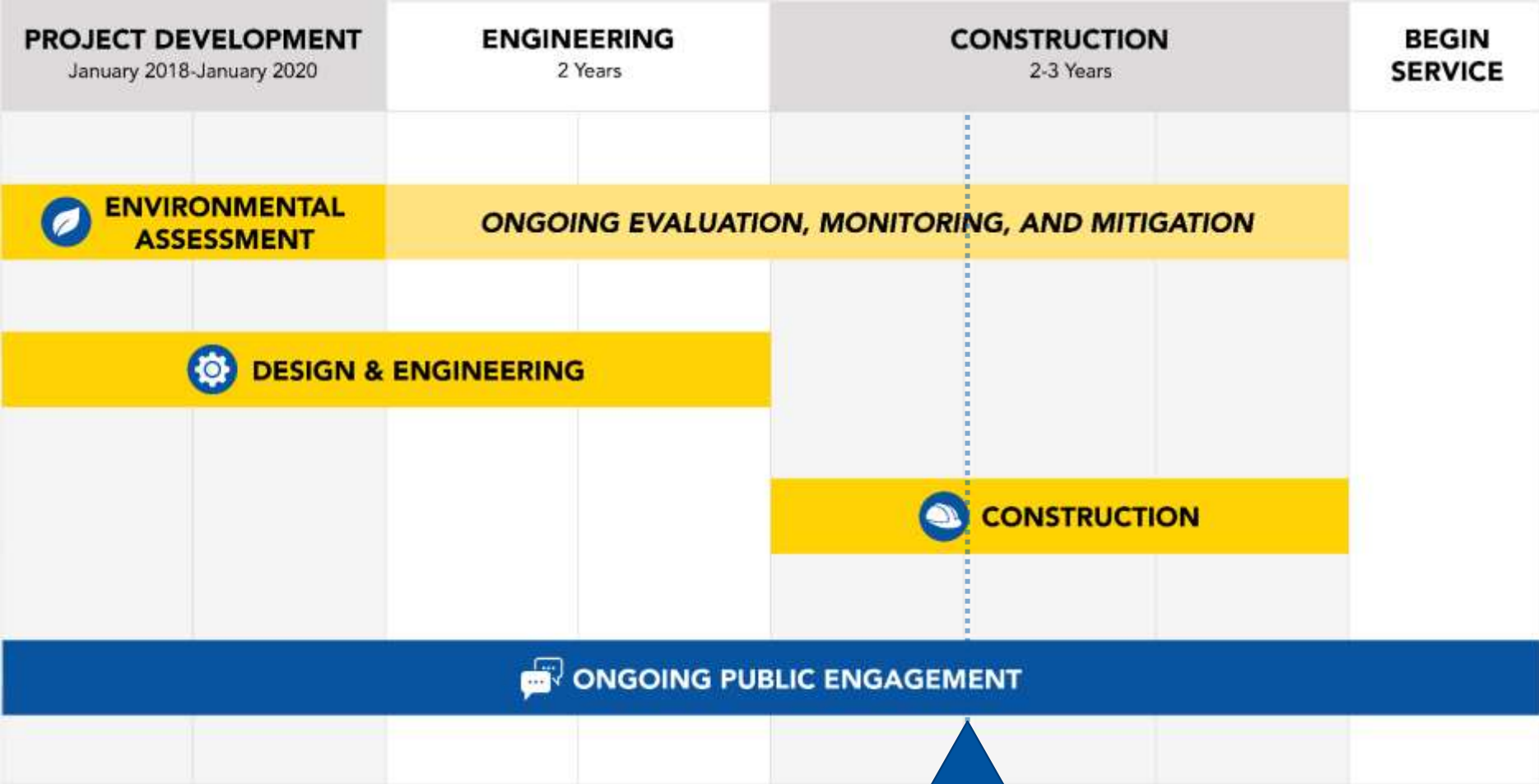
## Gold Line Overview:

- Frequent, all-day service operating primarily in bus-only lanes
- Budget: \$505.3 million
- 10-miles & 16 new stations
- 17 BRT-branded 60' buses (12 diesel, 5 electric)
- BRT upgrades to existing East Metro Garage in St. Paul
- 3 surface park-and-rides and 1 parking structure
- 8 grade-separated BRT crossings
- Metropolitan Council Districts 11, 12, and 13

## Gold Line BRT Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount
Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)	\$6,000,000
State of MN	\$1,866,605
Regional Solicitation/STBG 2023: Bielenberg/Helmo Bridge	\$4,400,000
Regional Solicitation/STBG 2024: Downtown St Paul Modernization	\$7,000,000
Regional Solicitation/STBG 2024/2025: Century Greenway Trail	\$825,865
Regional Solicitation/STBG 2024/2025: Maple Ped Bridge	\$1,000,000
MnDOT - Maple Ped Bridge	\$527,860
Washington County	\$120,325,390
Ramsey County	\$120,515,140
State of MN 2021 allocation for 4th Street Bridge	\$3,500,000
FTA	\$239,345,549
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$505,306,409</b>

# Overall Gold Line BRT Project Schedule



March 2023

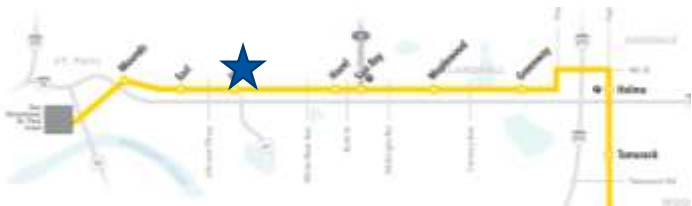
## DBE Goals & Achievements

- Eight professional services contracts with DBE commitments ranging from 10% to 23%
- Two construction contracts with DBE commitments of 11.62% and 17.11%
- All consultant and contractors are continuing to report per contract requirements
- Consultants are generally meeting or exceeding their commitments

# Gold Line BRT - Bridge Construction



Etna Bridge



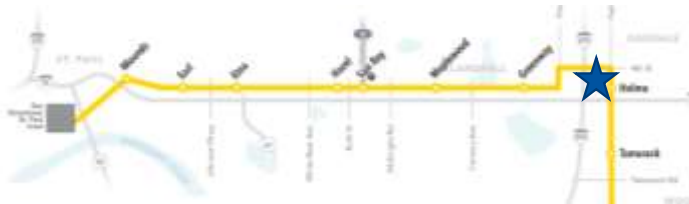
Bielenberg Bridge



# Gold Line BRT Construction Activities



Building demolition - Oakdale



6th & Minnesota,  
Downtown St. Paul





# Gold Line BRT - Woodlane Park and Ride



- New 3-level structured parking, 520 parking spaces, bus operator facilities, facility storage
- Designed to meet Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines (B3)

# Gold Line BRT – Station Renderings



Maplewood Station



Union Depot & Wacouta Station

## 2023 Look Ahead

- Full Funding Grant Agreement
- Title and possession of all needed right of way parcels
- Close out RTMC Early Utility Contract
- Major civil construction continues
- Community engagement continues
- Woodlane Park and Ride contract procurement and award
- Project Landscaping contract procurement and award



## 2023 Anticipated Council Actions

- Woodlane Park and Ride contract award – May/June
- Project Landscaping contract award – Late Fall
- MnDOT 2024 Subordinate Funding Agreement – October/November
- Potential Right of Way Acquisition Authorizations (parcels over \$1 M)



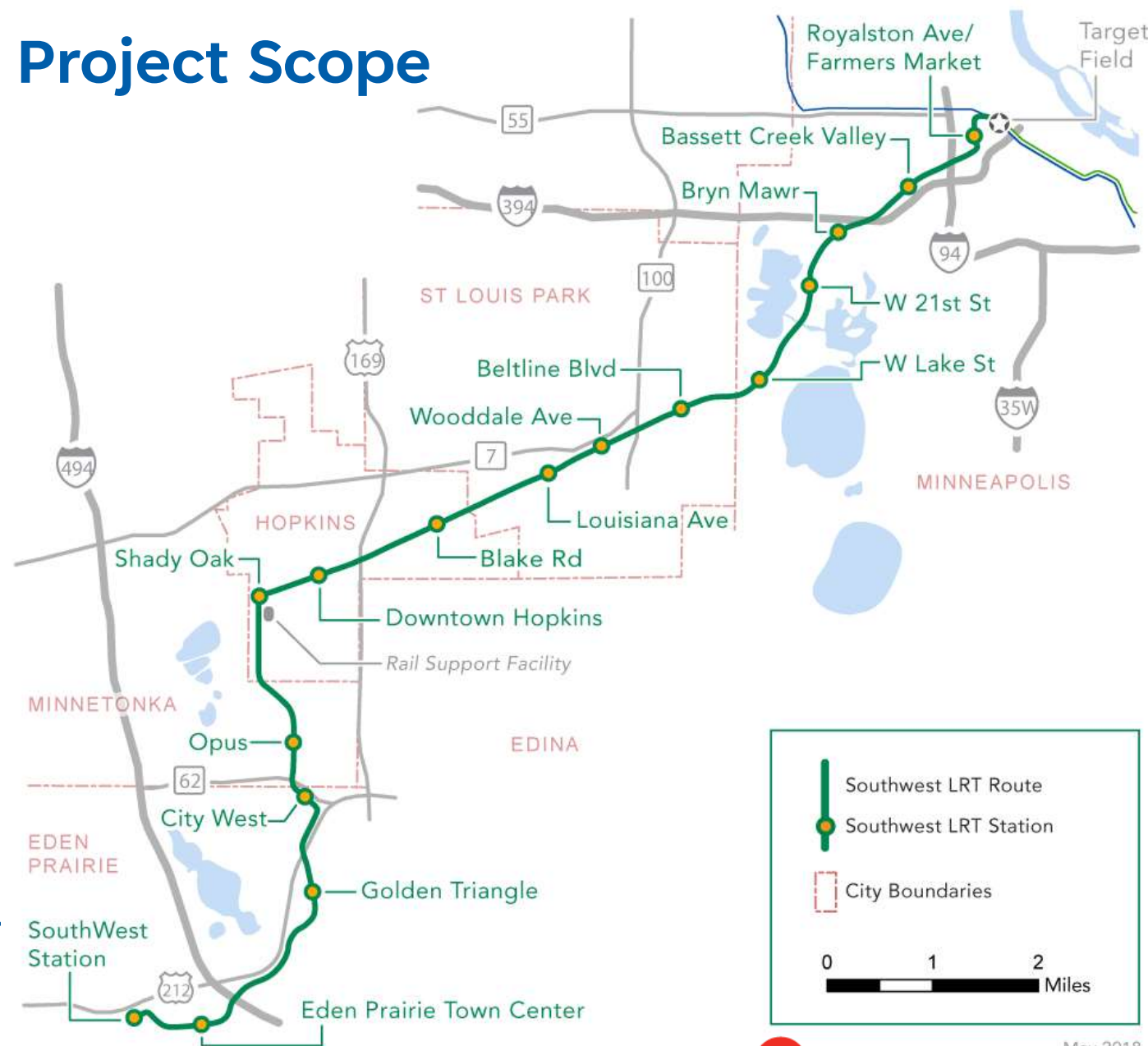
## Green Line Extension

Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager -  
Capital Projects



# METRO Green Line Extension Project Scope

- 16 new LRT stations
- 44 significant structures:
  - 29 new bridges: LRT, pedestrian, roadway, freight
  - 7 existing bridges with modifications
  - 6 pedestrian tunnels
  - 2 cut and cover LRT tunnels:
    - Highway 62: 582 feet
    - Kenilworth: 2,236 feet
- 15 at-grade LRT crossings; including 5 shared crossings with freight rail
- 121 retaining walls
- LRT track: 14.5 miles
- 7.8 mi shared LRT & freight rail corridor
- Freight rail reconstruction
- Trail reconstruction
- Council Districts 3, 5, 6 and 7



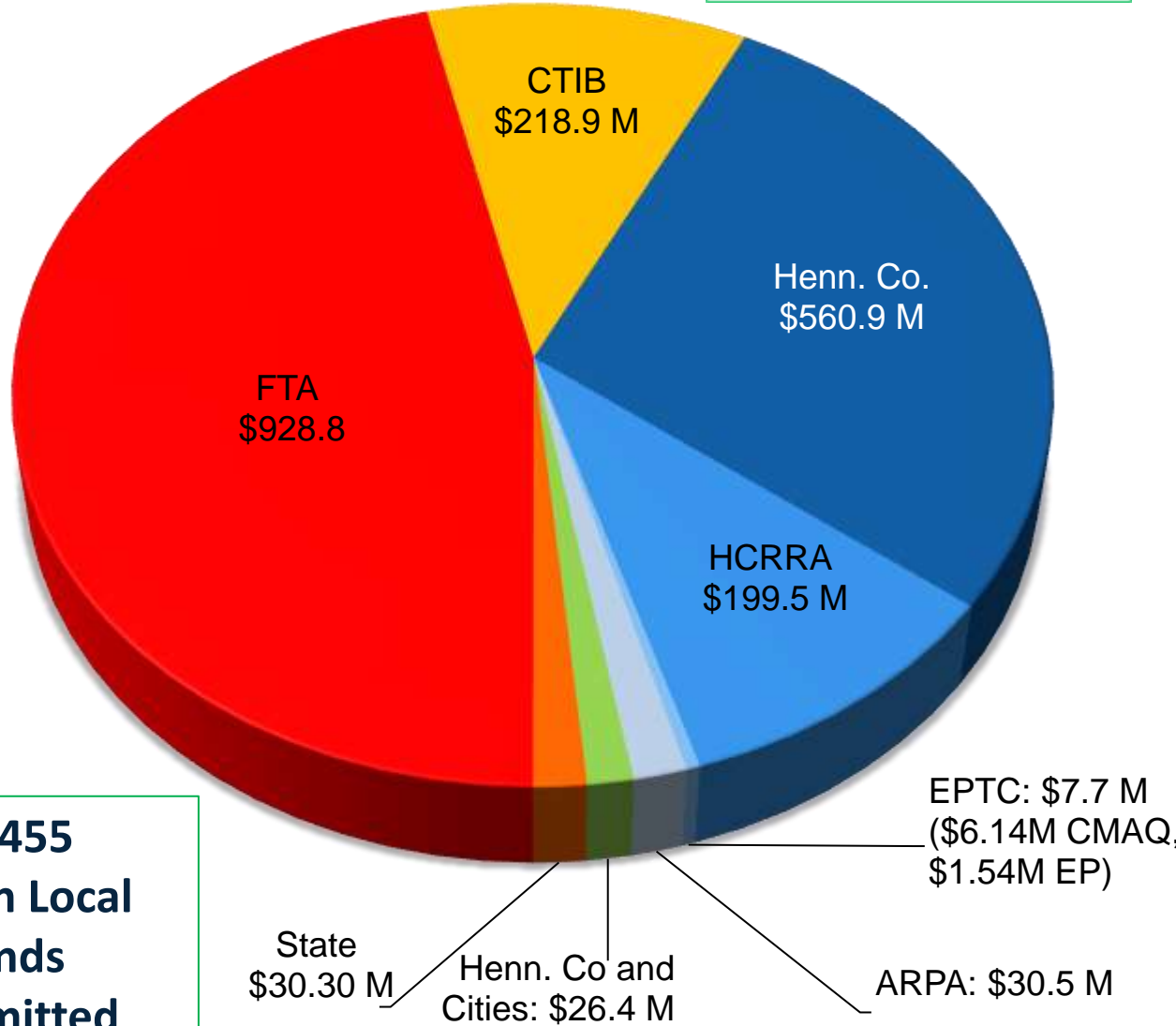
# Project Status and Funding

- Overall Project > 70% complete
  - Civil construction > 75% complete
  - Systems construction
    - ~10% complete - field work
    - ~50% complete - overall
- Revenue Operations: 2027
- Estimated remaining funding required: approximately \$270M
  - \$111M of federal funds have been identified and will be recognized after FTA approval

Non-FFGA  
\$380.9 M

**\$1.455 Billion Local Funds Committed including Non-FFGA Funding**

**\$2.384 Billion**



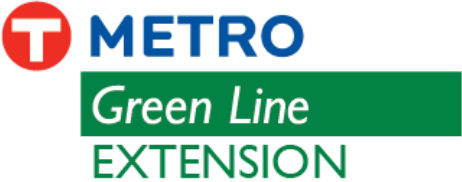
# DBE Achievement as of January 31, 2023

Service	Contract Amount	Billing to Date	\$ DBE to Date	% DBE to Date
Professional Services* 18% Goal	\$205,315,851	\$195,778,559	\$38,181,199	19.50%
Construction* 15% Goal	\$1,318,969,977	\$1,054,363,941	\$214,775,287	20.37%
	Contract Amount	Billing to Date	\$ DBE to Date	% DBE to Date
DBE Totals to Date (16% Goal)	\$1,524,285,828	\$1,250,142,500	\$252,956,486	20.23%

\*Totals include active and closed out contracts with DBE requirements

### Construction Workers Overall

- 3,981 individuals working on the project through February 2023
  - 3,226 reside in Minnesota
  - Employing folks from 80% of MN counties





# SouthWest Station, Eden Prairie



# Opus Station, Minnetonka



\$2+ Billion in permitted & planned community development along the corridor



# Downtown Hopkins Station



# Excelsior Boulevard LRT Bridge, Hopkins



# Kenilworth LRT Tunnel, Minneapolis



# 2023 Construction Snapshot

- Progress Civil construction of tunnel, stations, walls, bridges
  - Notable work: SouthWest Station Ramp, Excelsior Avenue Bridge, Kenilworth LRT Tunnel, Glenwood Avenue bridges
- Ramp up Systems construction
  - Notable work: Traction Power Substations and Signal Houses, Overhead Catenary System
- Rollout of 2023 construction season details to come this spring



# 2023 Anticipated Major Council Actions

- Address outstanding funding with project funding partners
- Upcoming Council Actions
  - Increase to Change Order Authority for the Civil Construction Contract (April)
  - Cost Estimating Consultant Contract Award (Q2)
  - Civil Construction, LMJV Settlement Agreement (Q3)
  - Systems Contract, APJV rebaseline schedule (Q3)



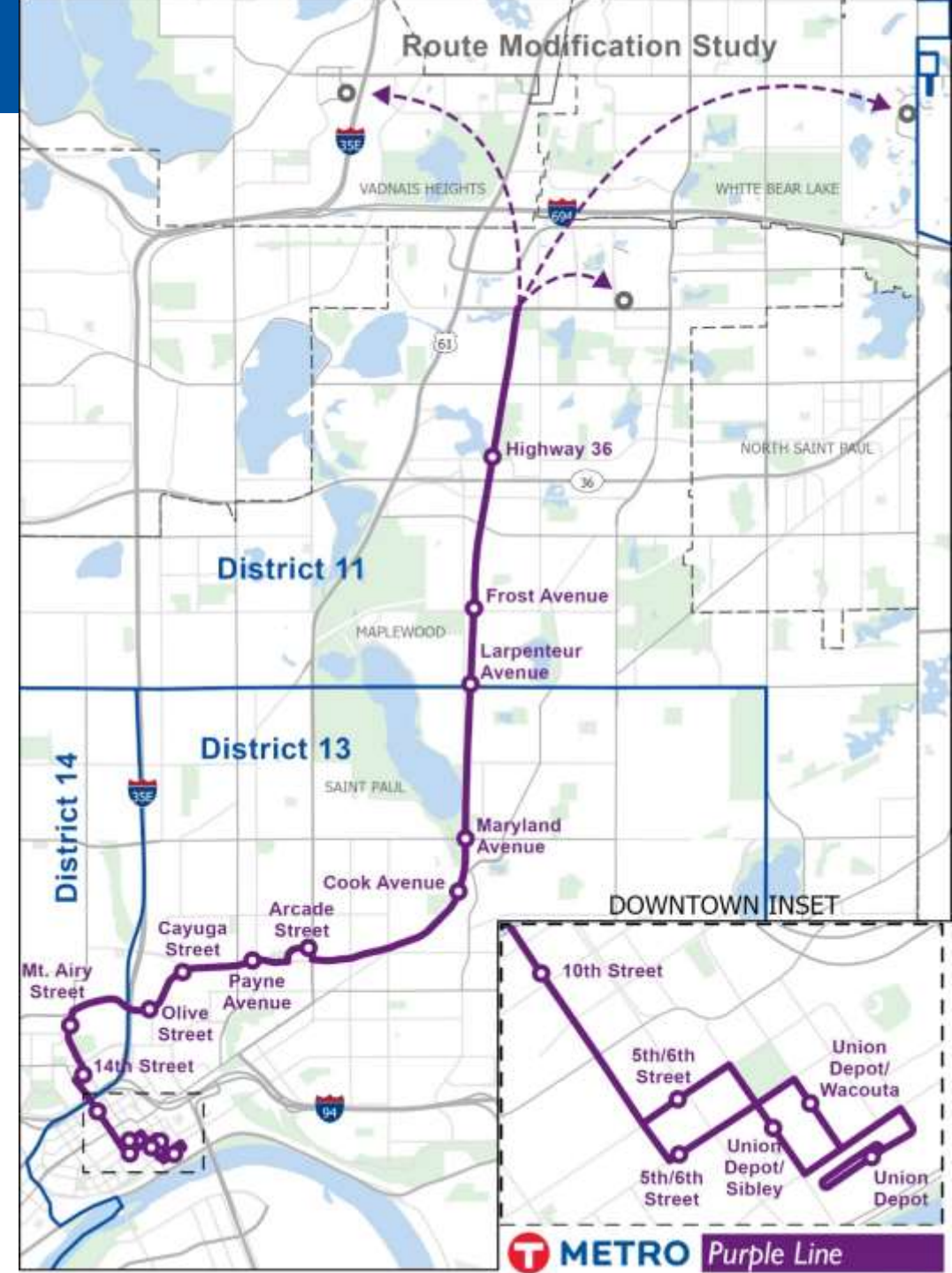
## Purple Line BRT

Craig Lamothe | Project Director



# Project Alignment

- Length: 9 to 14 Miles
  - 5 miles of exclusive BRT Guideway
  - About 2 miles of dedicated curb lanes (BAT lanes).
- Stations: 15 to 19
  - 4 downtown platforms built by METRO Gold Line
- Runs through:
  - 2 to 3 Municipalities
  - 3 Council Districts (11, 13, & 14)
- Endpoint and Arcade Street Station are being refined through the Route Modification Study.





## Purple Line BRT Overview

- Serving the Northeast Metro:
  - 51% BIPOC, 20% low-income, 12% zero car households
- Electric bus fleet
- Construction expected to start in 2025 with opening in 2027



10-15 minutes  
bus frequency



Connections  
to park-and-  
ride facilities



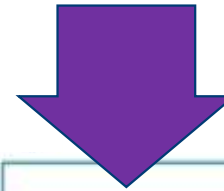
Access to key  
destinations  
and employers



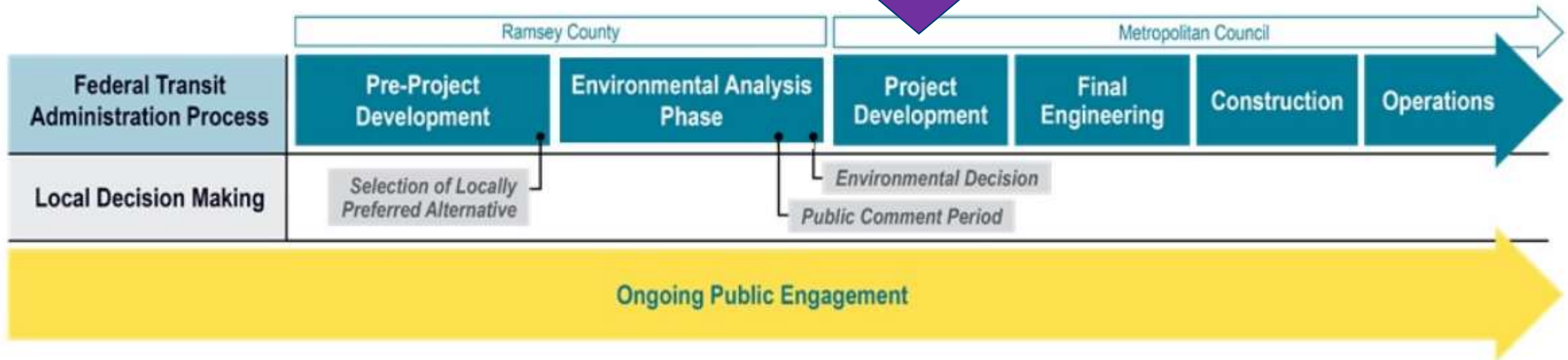
Travel within bus  
only lanes for  
most of the route

# Overall Project Schedule and Phases

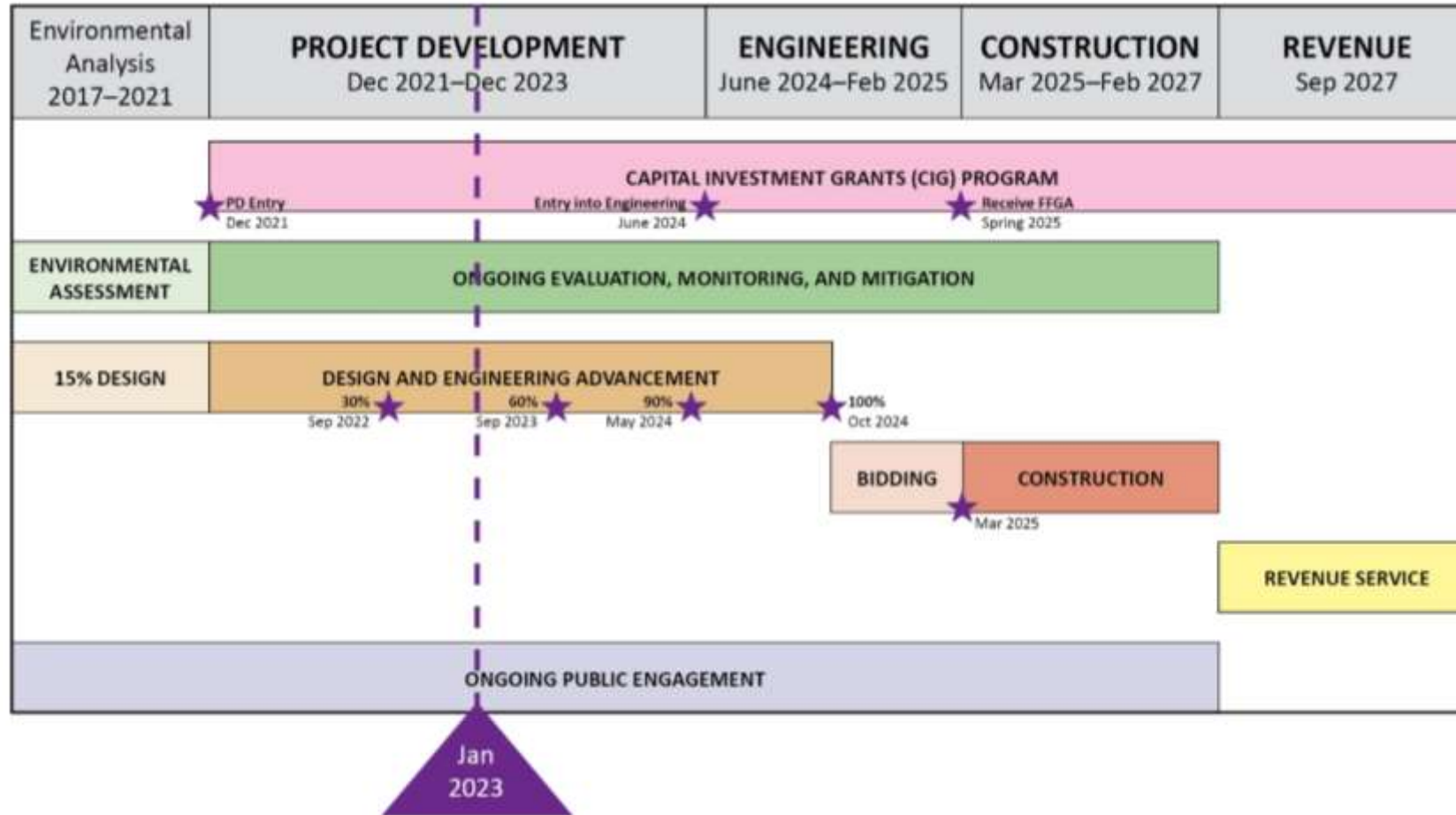
WE ARE HERE



## FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION PROCESS



# Project Status



## Route Modification Study (RMS)

- The Route Modification Study is in response to a White Bear Lake City Council resolution that requests the Purple Line not enter the city of White Bear Lake
- Initial screening to get to a short list of most promising route modifications
- Technical evaluation of the most promising route modifications
  - Consistency with the Purpose and Need
  - Evaluation criteria tied to the six project goals

## Focus on Improving the Project Rating

- Still very early in the federal process; No federal funding decisions or federal evaluation of the project have occurred
- Commitment of federal funding is at least 1 ½ years away
- Additional work is needed to position the project for a federally qualifying medium rating.
- Staff are evaluating potential:
  - Scope changes to lower capital costs;
  - Service plan adjustments to lower operating costs;
  - Transit network adjustments to increase ridership; and
  - Adjustments to non-ridership and non-cost related criteria.

# Project Funding

Overall Funding as of January 31, 2023

Estimate Total Cost	Amount Authorized	Source	Expenditures to Date	Percent Spent
\$444.5 Million	\$39.9 Million	Ramsey County	\$7.97 Million	20%

DBE Numbers as of January 31, 2023

Consultant Services Contract	DBE Goal	Billings to Date	DBE Dollars to Date	Percent DBE
Engineering & Project Management	22%	\$4.35 Million	\$0.98 Million	22.4%
Environmental & Peer Review	8%	\$0.15 Million	\$0.04 Million	25.3%

# Bruce Vento Trail after 10 years



View adjacent to Lake Phalen

# Engagement Events



Event with students at  
Century College

40



Eastside Freedom Library  
Pop-up



## 2023 Look Ahead

Milestone	Date
Public release of Route Modification Study (RMS)	April 2023
CMC Action on revised LPA from RMS	June 2023
<b>Council Concurrence on LPA</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
Submit Project Info for Rating by FTA	August 2023
60% Design Plans & Cost Estimate	September 2023
<b>Council Initiates TPP Amendment for revised LPA</b>	<b>Fall 2023; Winter 2024</b>



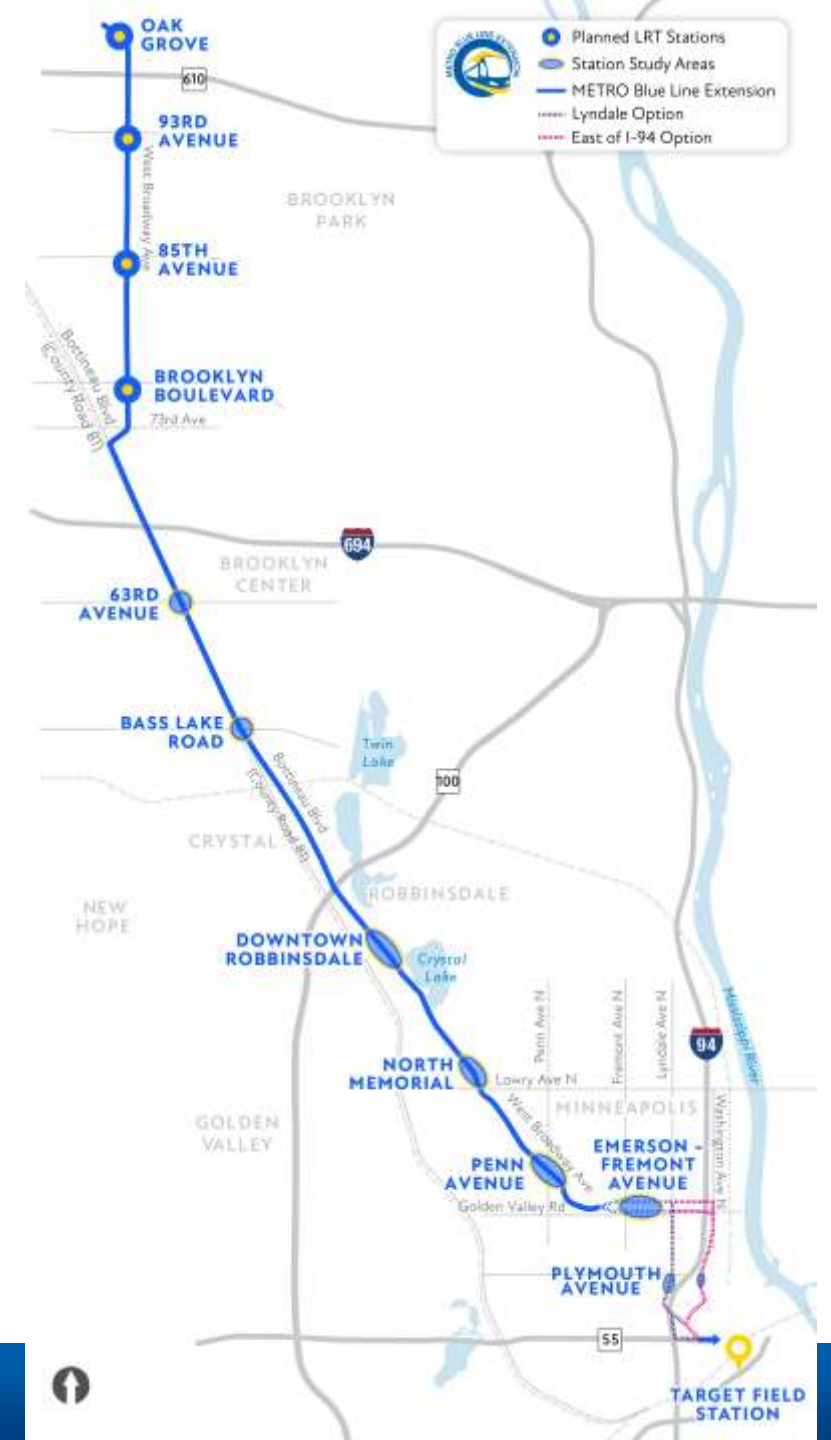
## Blue Line Extension LRT

Chris Beckwith (she/hers) – Project Director

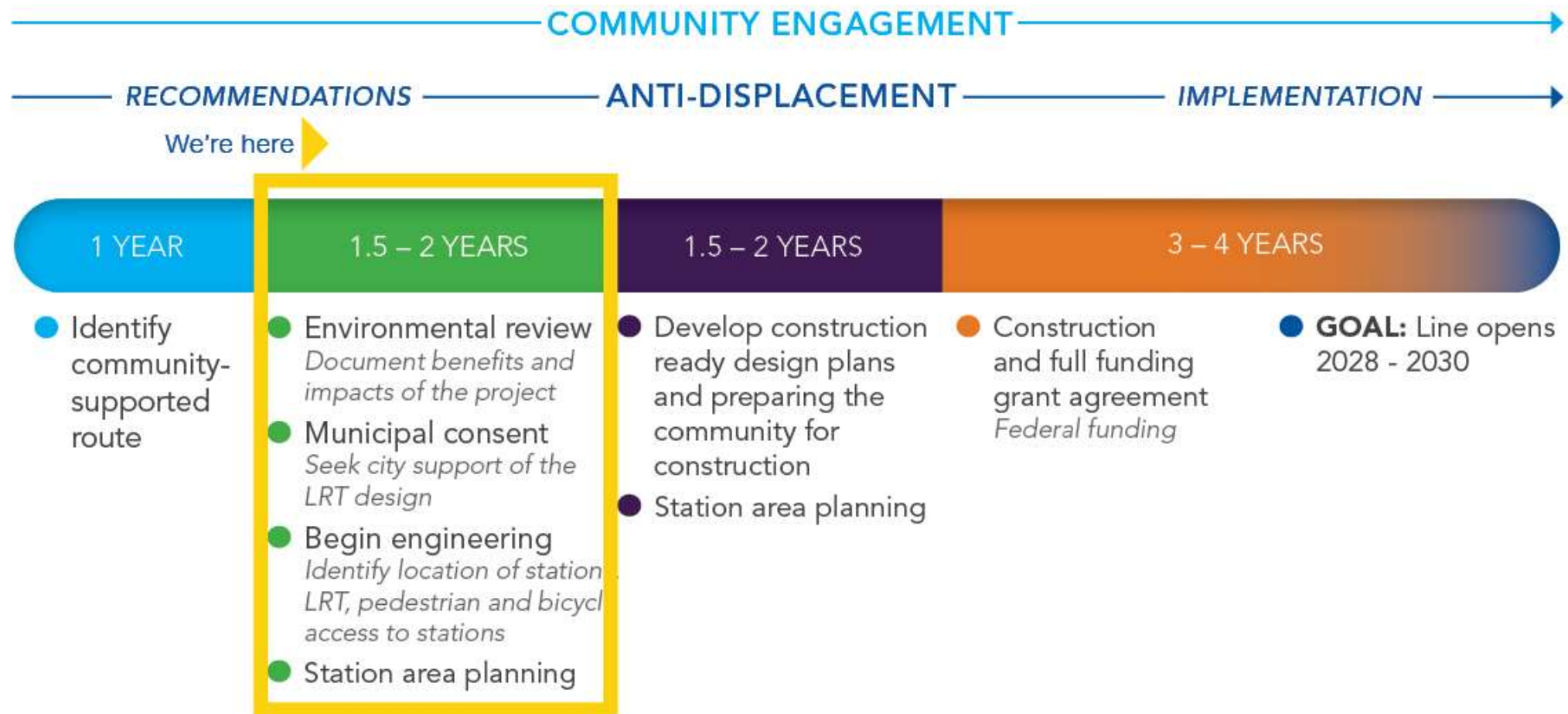


# Blue Line LRT Extension

- Located in Hennepin County directly connecting downtown Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park and communities in the northwest metro
- Supplemental Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process underway for modified route adopted in June 2022
- Public engagement ongoing, including an Anti-Displacement Workgroup
- Policy recommendation Summer 2023 for preferred route where Supplemental EIS includes more than one option



# Project Schedule



LRT projects are complex and unforeseen challenges arise. Schedules and timelines are subject to change.



# Status in FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program

- Current Phase: New Starts Engineering
  - Total Capital Cost: TBD
  - Total CIG Funding Request: TBD
  - Project Rating: TBD
- Next steps
  - Advancement of Environmental and Engineering to inform updated costs and schedule
  - Updated Request for Project Rating
  - Updated Risk Assessment



*February 2023 Crystal Open House to discuss Design Decisions required to publish the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS)*

# DBE Update

---

- Six professional services contracts with DBE commitments ranging from 12% to 19%
- All consultants are continuing to report DBE participation per contract requirements
- Consultants are meeting or exceeding the individual contract DBE goals
  - Average DBE goal on project of 18.6% (\$22.5M)
  - Average DBE participation of 20.4% (\$23.5M)



# Adapting our Approach



Blue Line staff meet with Lyn Park residents during a driveway meeting in July 2023. **Photo Credit: David Pierini, North News**



Community open houses promote great conversations between stakeholders and designers.



Anti-Displacement Workgroup continues ongoing collaboration to prepare for upcoming policy recommendations in the spring of 2023.



# 2023 Look-Ahead

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- Anti-Displacement Policy Recommendations – Spring 2023
- CMC Recommendation on preferred alignment route – Summer 2023
- 30% Design Completion for Municipal Consent – Fall 2023
- Publish Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement – Late 2023
- Municipal Consent – Q1 2024





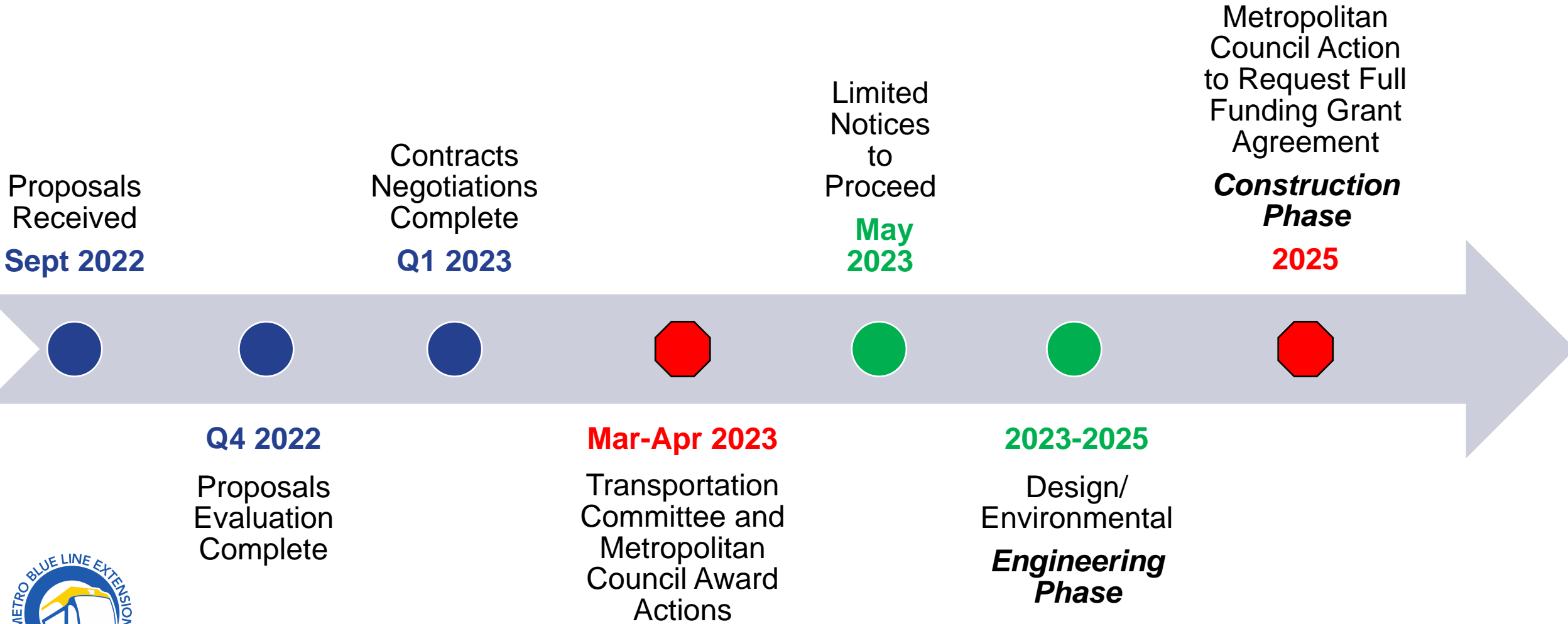
# 2023 Anticipated Council Actions

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- Upcoming 2023 Blue Line Extension Business Items:
  - Three Professional Services Contracts
    - **#2023-24** Engineering Services Contract
    - **#2023-25** Project Management Services Contract Award
    - **#2023-26** Risk Management Services Contract Award
  - One Funding Grant Agreement with Hennepin County and HCRRA
    - Document for managing Financial Risk, Governance, Process



# Blue Line Professional Services Contracts (3 Total)



# Stay connected

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- **BlueLineExt.org**
  - For the latest project updates and to sign up for our newsletter
  - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation
- Follow us:
  - Twitter: @BlueLineExt
  - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension



**Thank you**