

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 10, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: April 12, 2023

Business Item: 2023-72 SW

METRO B Line – Authorization to Award East Construction Contract 22P365

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P365 with Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. for construction of the METRO B Line East Construction Package in an amount not to exceed \$18,681,581.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Frank Alarcon presented this item. Council Members asked about project workforce goals and OEEA Assistant Director Ashanti Payne responded with an explanation of workforce targets for construction projects.

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyrone. Motion carried.



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District(s), Member(s):	District 6 (Pacheco), District 7 (Lilligren), District 8 (Osman), District 13 (Lee), District 14 (Carter)
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, Interim General Manager, 612-349-7517 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Frank Alarcon, Project Manager, BRT, 612-349-7692
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P365 with Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. for construction of the METRO B Line East Construction Package in an amount not to exceed \$18,681,581.

Background

The METRO B Line East Construction Package involves construction of 30 bus rapid transit (BRT) platforms at 16 intersections along the portion of the B Line corridor between Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis and the Smith Avenue Transit Center in Saint Paul. The project will also construct fiber communication infrastructure and locally requested pedestrian, signal, and pavement improvements along the B Line corridor, developed in coordination with Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

The Invitation for Bids was advertised on January 26, 2023. There were forty-nine plan holders and seventeen identified as woman, minority, veteran or disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs). Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on February 28, 2023 and five bids were received.

The five bids received ranged from \$18,018,136 to \$22,002,357. A bid alternate in the amount of \$663,445 is included in the contract, for a total contract value not to exceed \$18,681,581. Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. was the low, responsive, and responsible bidder and is recommended for award. A same week Council action is requested to ensure timely contract award and construction start.

Rationale

The execution of a construction contract in excess of \$10,000,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The B Line will upgrade and substantially replace Route 21, Metro Transit's second-highest

ridership bus route. Investment in high-quality transportation options in the Route 21 corridor will advance the Thrive outcome of Prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The B Line project and county-funded improvements along the corridor advance the Thrive outcome of Equity by investing in a transit corridor serving communities of color. More than half of Route 21 riders identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). Investment in the B Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience, and county-funded improvements along the corridor will improve safety and transit operations.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for METRO B Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County, Ramsey County, the City of Minneapolis, and the City of Saint Paul.

Funding

Funding for this contract is available and authorized in project 62802 for Metro Transit participation in the amount of \$13,691,684. The remainder of the contract value will be funded by cooperative agreements for locally requested scope with Hennepin County and Ramsey County following execution.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 15% for this solicitation. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.





METRO B Line - East Construction Contract Authorization

Transportation Committee, Business Item 2023-72 SW

Frank Alarcon, Project Manager, Arterial BRT | April 10, 2023

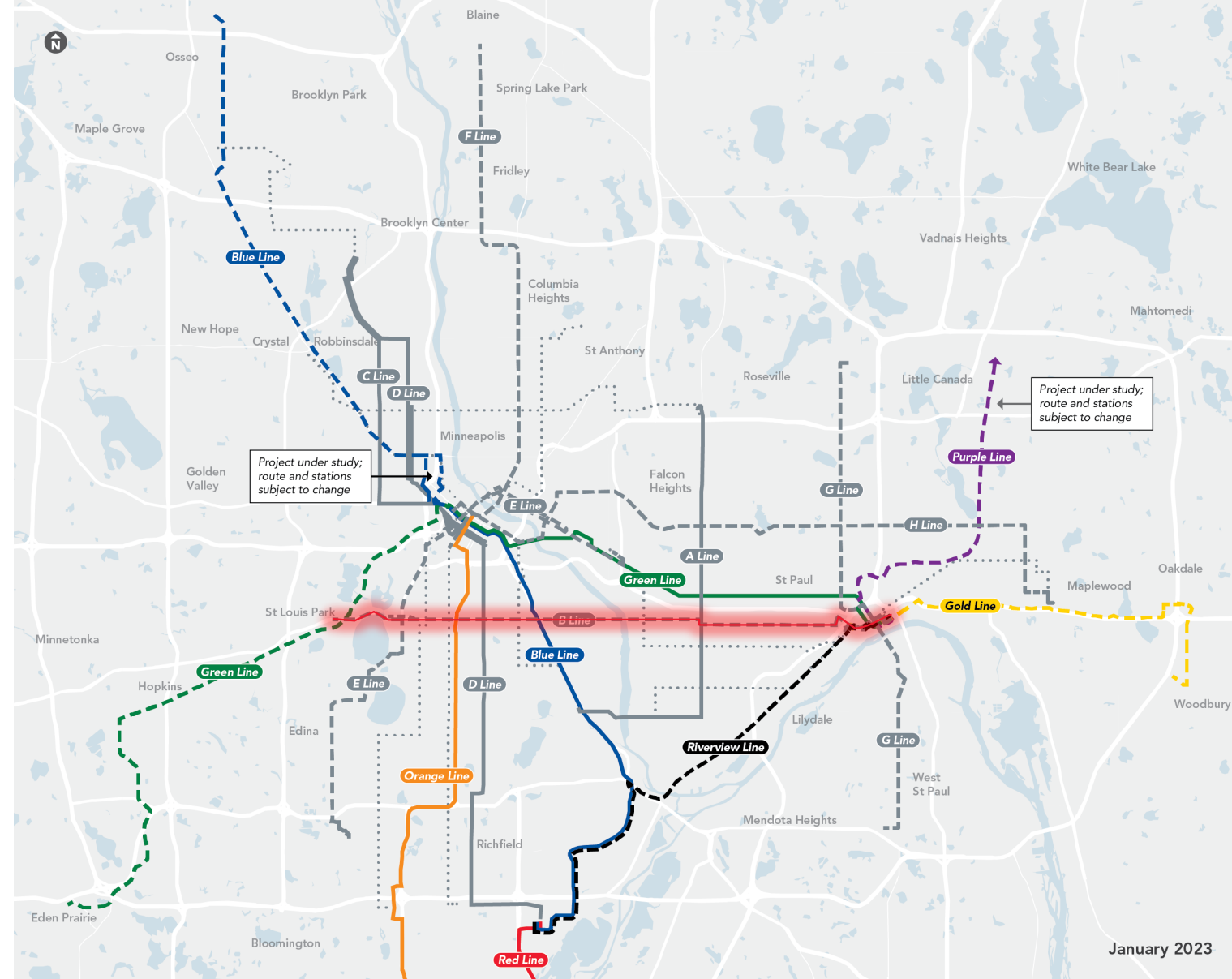


Business Item 2023-72

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A network of eight arterial BRT lines planned by 2030

- A Line (Snelling): Open 2016
- C Line (Penn): Open 2019
- D Line (Chicago/Fremont): Open 2022
- **B Line (Lake/Marshall/Selby) Opens 2024**
- E Line (Hennepin/France) Opens 2025
- F Line (Central Avenue) Opens 2026
- G Line (Rice/Robert – Routes 62/68) Opens 2027, pending full funding
- H Line (Como/Maryland – Route 3) 2025-2030 implementation



Current METRO network

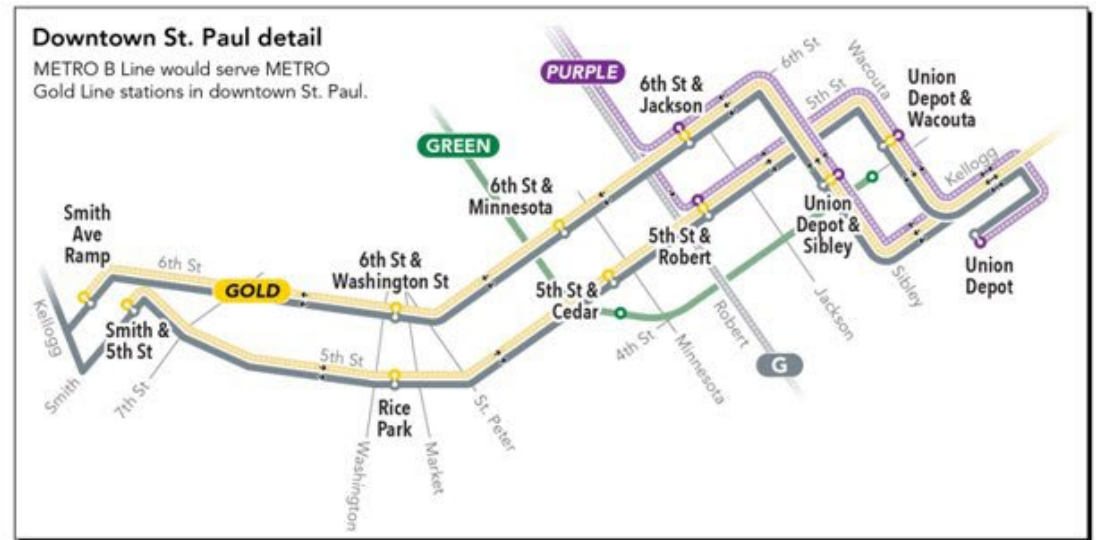
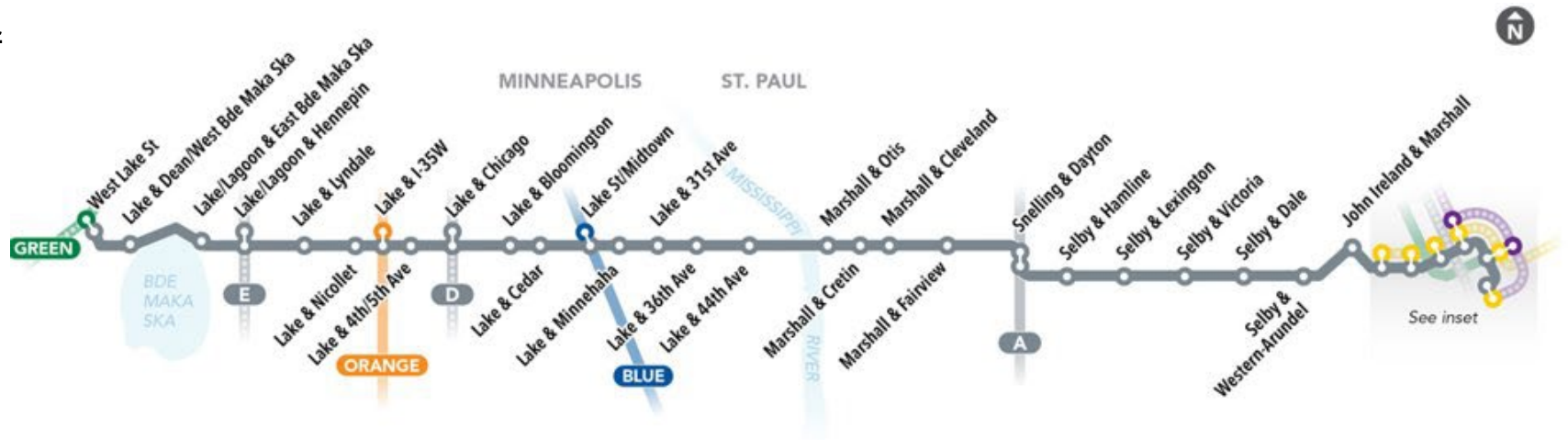
- A Line
- C Line
- D Line
- Blue Line
- Green Line
- Orange Line
- Red Line

Planned METRO network

- - - Planned BRT
- Additional candidates for BRT between 2030 and 2040
- 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

METRO B Line Overview

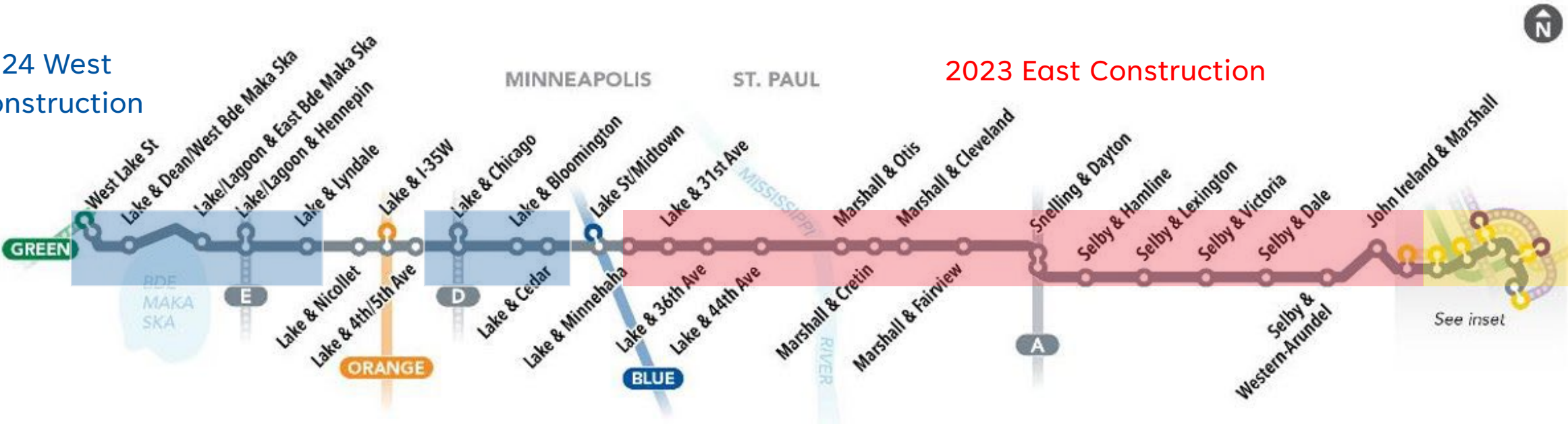
- Substantial replacement of Route 21, second-highest ridership route
- 106,000 people live within a 10-minute walk or roll of the B Line, of whom 42% are BIPOC
- \$65 million project fully funded as of October 2020
- Schedule
 - 2019-2021 planning
 - 2021-2023 engineering
 - 2023-2024 construction
 - Service begins late 2024



Two Major B Line Construction Packages – East and West

2024 West Construction

2023 East Construction



East Construction Package – Key Scope Items

- Construction of 30 arterial BRT platforms at 16 intersections in Minneapolis and Saint Paul
- Fiber communication infrastructure to support real-time transit information, fare collection, security cameras, and other customer amenities
- Transit signal priority implementation
- Locally requested pedestrian, signal, and pavement improvements funded through cooperative agreements with local partners
- Lane reconfiguration and bus lanes

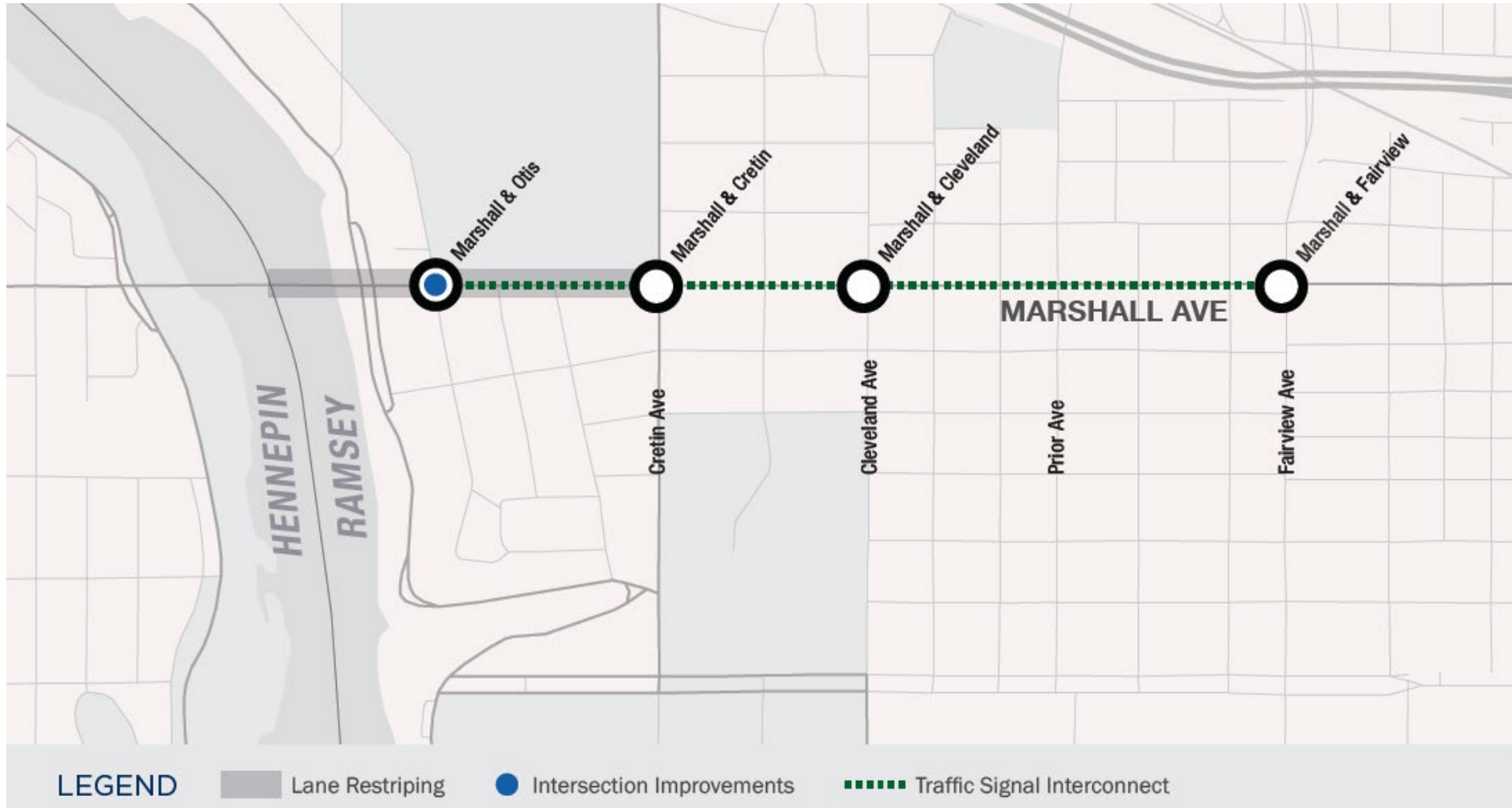


Lake Street Improvements



- Mill & overlay
- Pedestrian ramp construction
- Traffic signal revisions
- Westbound bus lane

Marshall Ave Improvements



- Lane restriping
- Signal reconstruction
- Traffic signal interconnect
- Westbound bus lane (Cretin Ave to river)

Communications Before and During Construction

- Key goals:
 - Inform the public about what will be constructed and when
 - Provide clear, correct, and concise information about what to expect from construction
 - Provide a clear point of contact for any questions or concerns during construction
- Methods include:
 - Pre-construction postcard mailing
 - Pre-construction door knocking
 - Rider Alerts
 - Website and factsheet updates
 - Construction hotline
 - Newsletter updates



Contract 22P365

- Invitation for Bids issued January 26
- 49 plan holders, including 17 woman, minority, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs)
- 5 bids received, ranging from \$18,018,136 to \$22,002,357
 - Thomas & Sons Construction, Inc. was low, responsive, and responsible bidder
 - Bid alternate of \$663,445 is also included in contract award
- Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO) set DBE goal of 15%; OEEEO determined that Thomas & Sons has met the DBE requirements of this contract

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