



Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Update

June 28, 2023

Katie Roth | Director, Arterial BRT

Sophia Ginis | Director, Community Affairs



Agenda

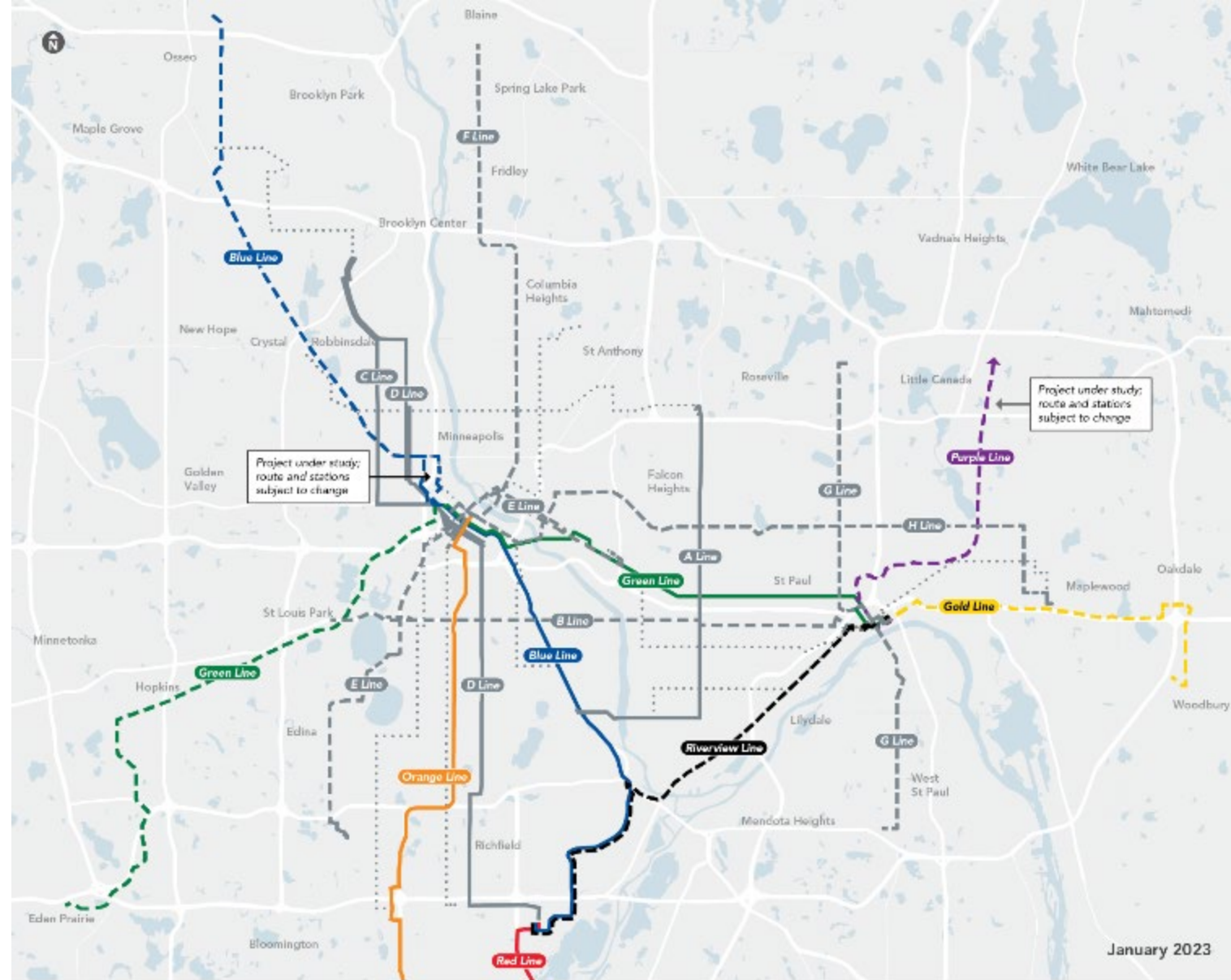
- Program overview
- Engagement
- Application of transitway transition policy
- Active projects
 - B Line
 - E Line
 - F Line
 - G Line
 - H Line



Program Overview

A network of twelve BRT lines planned by 2030

- Red Line: 2013
- A Line (Snelling): 2016
- C Line (Penn): 2019
- Orange Line: 2021
- D Line (Chicago/Fremont): 2022
- B Line (Lake/Marshall/Selby): 2024
- E Line (Hennepin/France): 2025
- Gold Line: 2025
- F Line (Central Avenue): 2026
- G Line (Rice/Robert): 2027
- H Line (Como/Maryland): 2028
- Purple Line: TBD



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

- Lettered lines (A, C, D lines)
- Mix of state/federal funds, 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

Designed to be faster, more reliable, and easy to use

2-3 stations per mile, designed for faster stops

High-tech, high-amenity, secure stations

Pre-boarding fare payment for faster stops

Higher-capacity buses & boarding through all doors

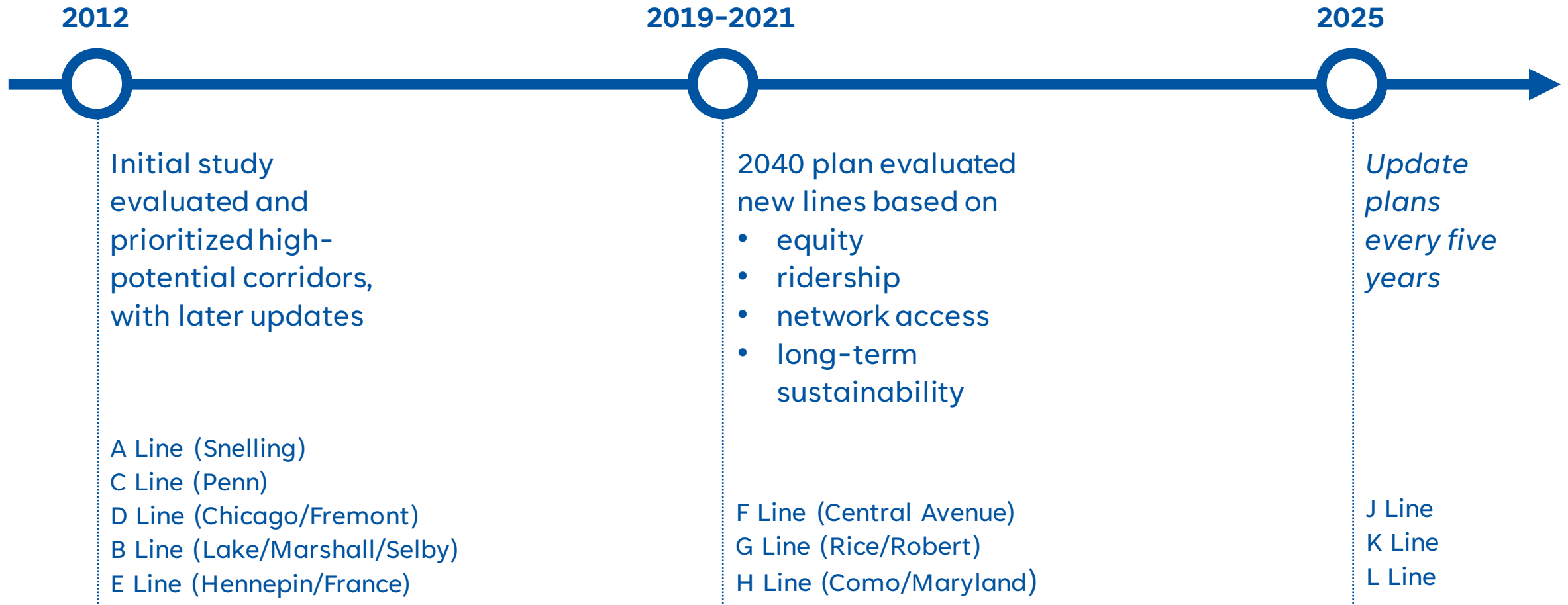
Bus priority signals & lanes

Faster, frequent, all-day service



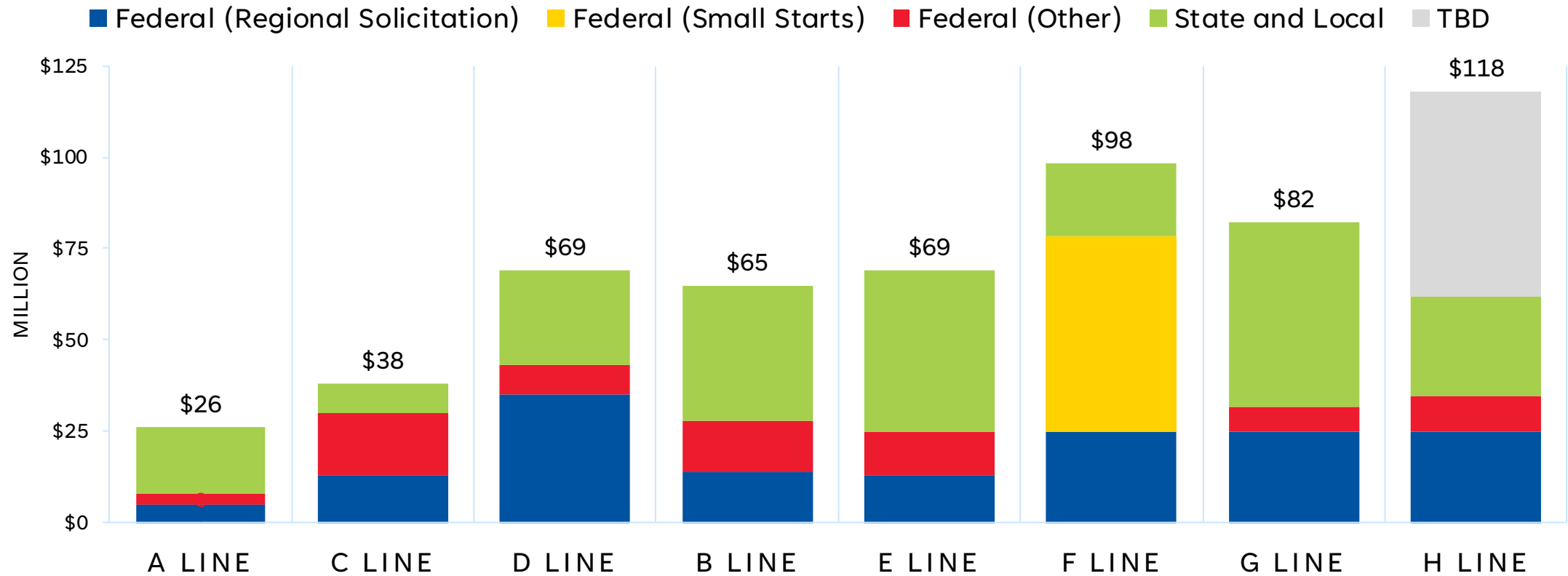
How are lines prioritized for BRT improvements?

NetworkNEXT



Funding for arterial BRT

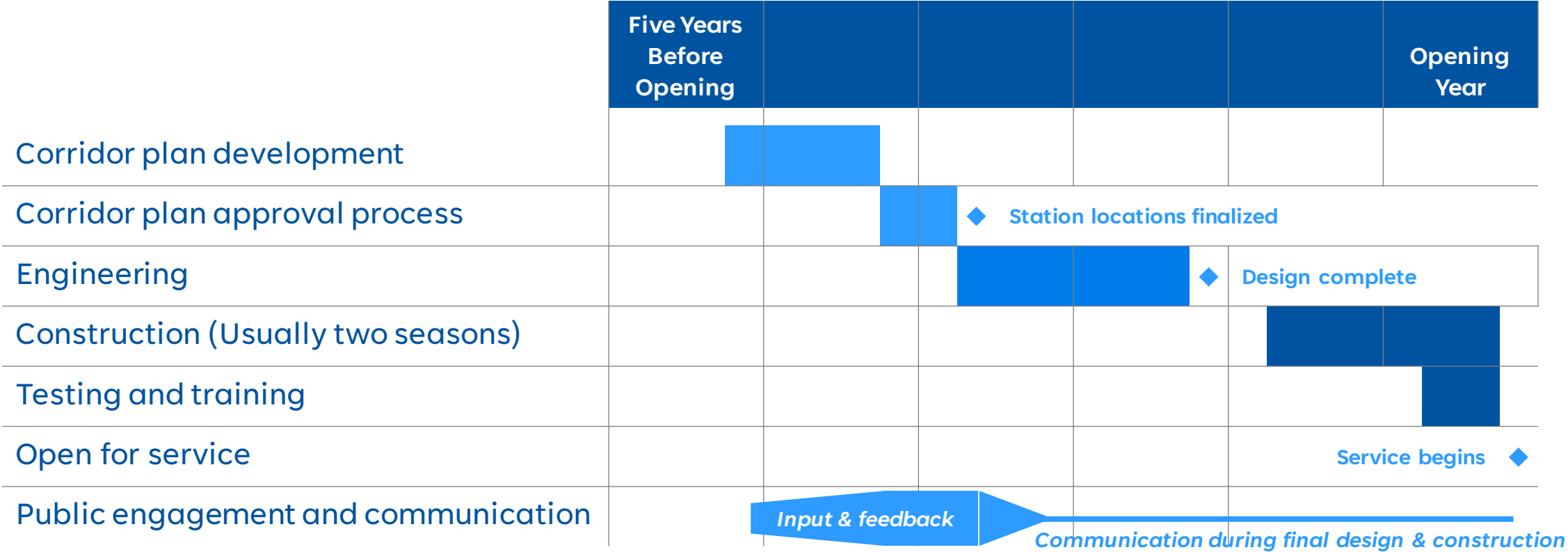
PROJECT CAPITAL FUNDING PLANNED BY SOURCE



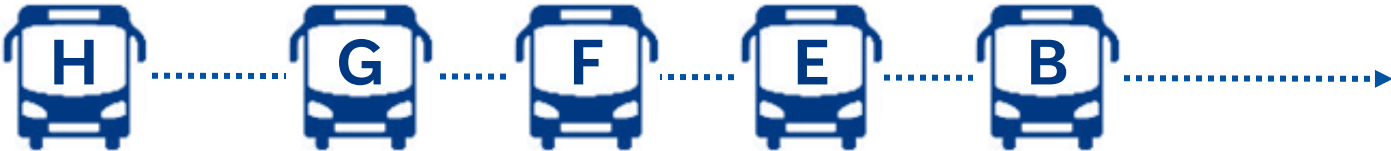
Project delivery structure and staffing

- Metropolitan Council is governing body for arterial BRT from planning through operations
- Arterial BRT department embedded within Metro Transit; no separate Project Office
 - Network and Corridor Planning
 - Two project delivery squads alternating projects: D/E/G and B/F/H
- Consultant support for design and construction administration
- Key assigned staff from other Metro Transit departments
 - Engineering & Facilities – Construction Services
 - Community Outreach and Engagement

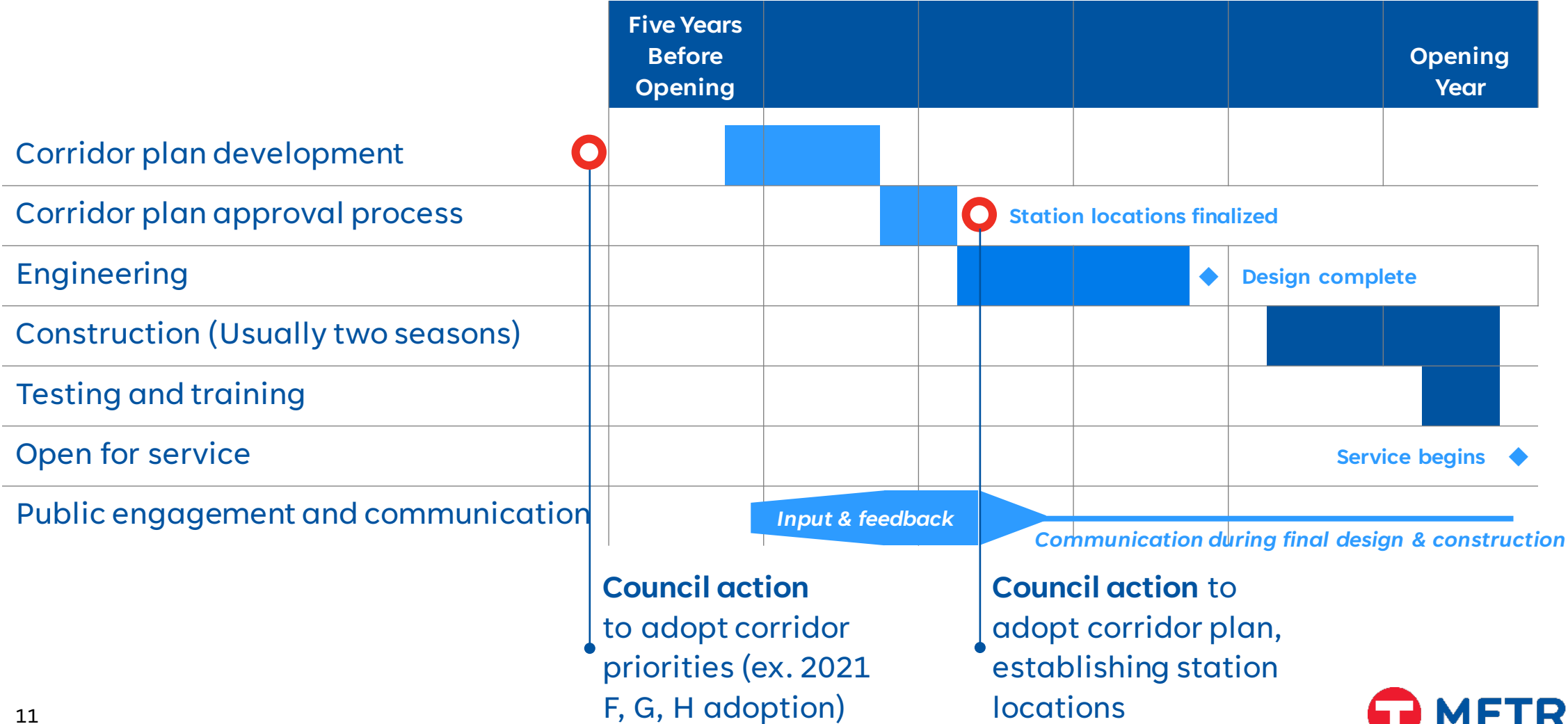
Standard corridor development timeline



Status of lines in development

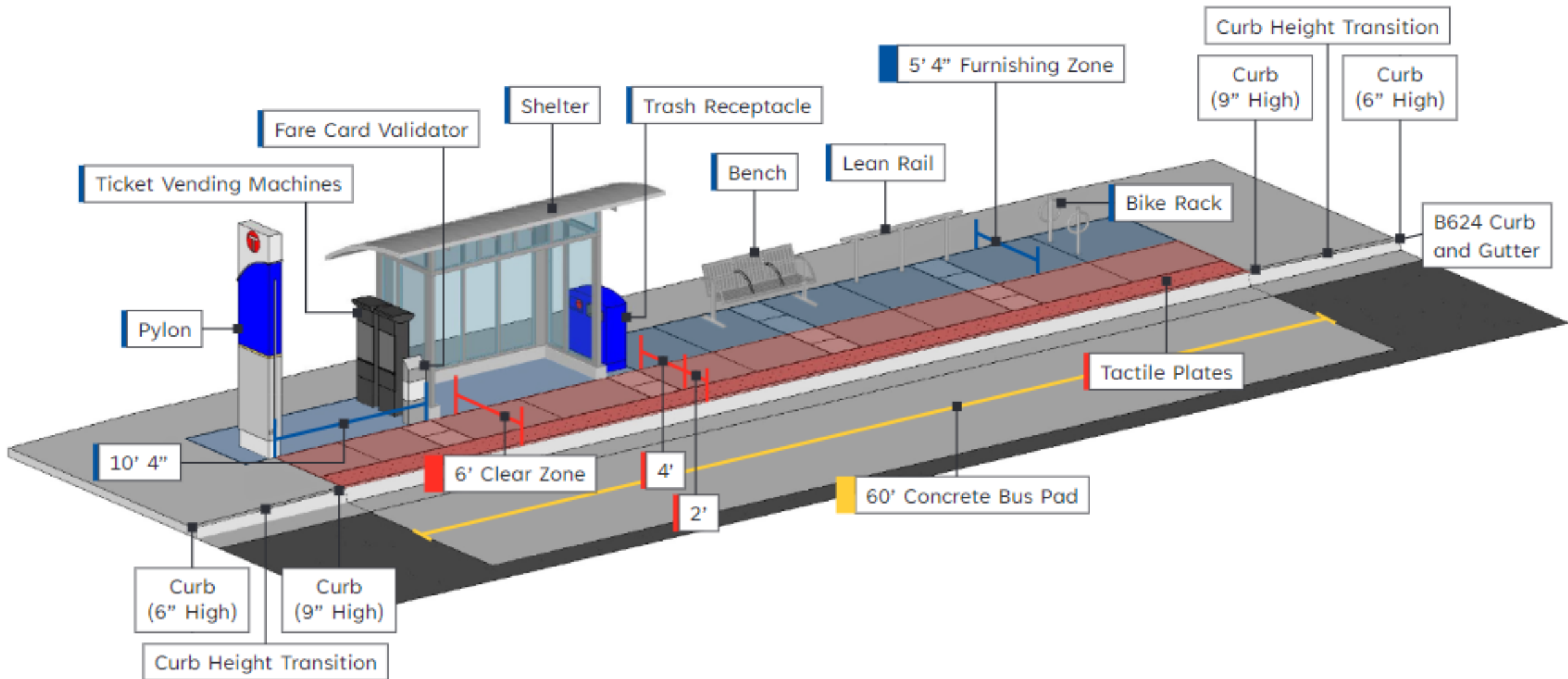


Standard corridor development timeline



Other typical Council actions

- Award engineering & construction administration services contract
- Authorize interagency agreements
 - Joint powers: Conveys local power to compel utility relocations
 - Cooperative construction: Conveys funding for improvements constructed by others, or funds for Council to construct others' locally funded improvements
- Authorize to acquire easements and condemn if necessary
- Authorize non-construction purchases
 - Shelters, pylons, fare collection equipment, buses
- Award construction contract(s)



Standard arterial BRT station design

Collaboration and construction partnerships

- Fiber optic connectivity partnerships
- Two main paths for coordinating overlapping construction projects to minimize impact and maximize efficiencies
 1. Stations constructed by other projects
 2. Local improvements like additional ADA and signal upgrades constructed by Metro Transit project





Photo credit: HDR

Locally funded crosswalk at American & Chicago



Engagement

Engagement approach

- Staffing: dedicated outreach coordinators assigned to each project
- Goals:
 - Develop ongoing, working relationships with project neighbors, riders, and community
 - Engage early and often, developing projects with community
 - Hear diverse perspectives and adjust outreach strategies to meet needs
 - Clearly communicate construction details and timelines



METRO F Line outreach

Engagement activities



Showcasing bus lanes/
attending community events



Early notification/ door knocking

Asking for feedback in many languages

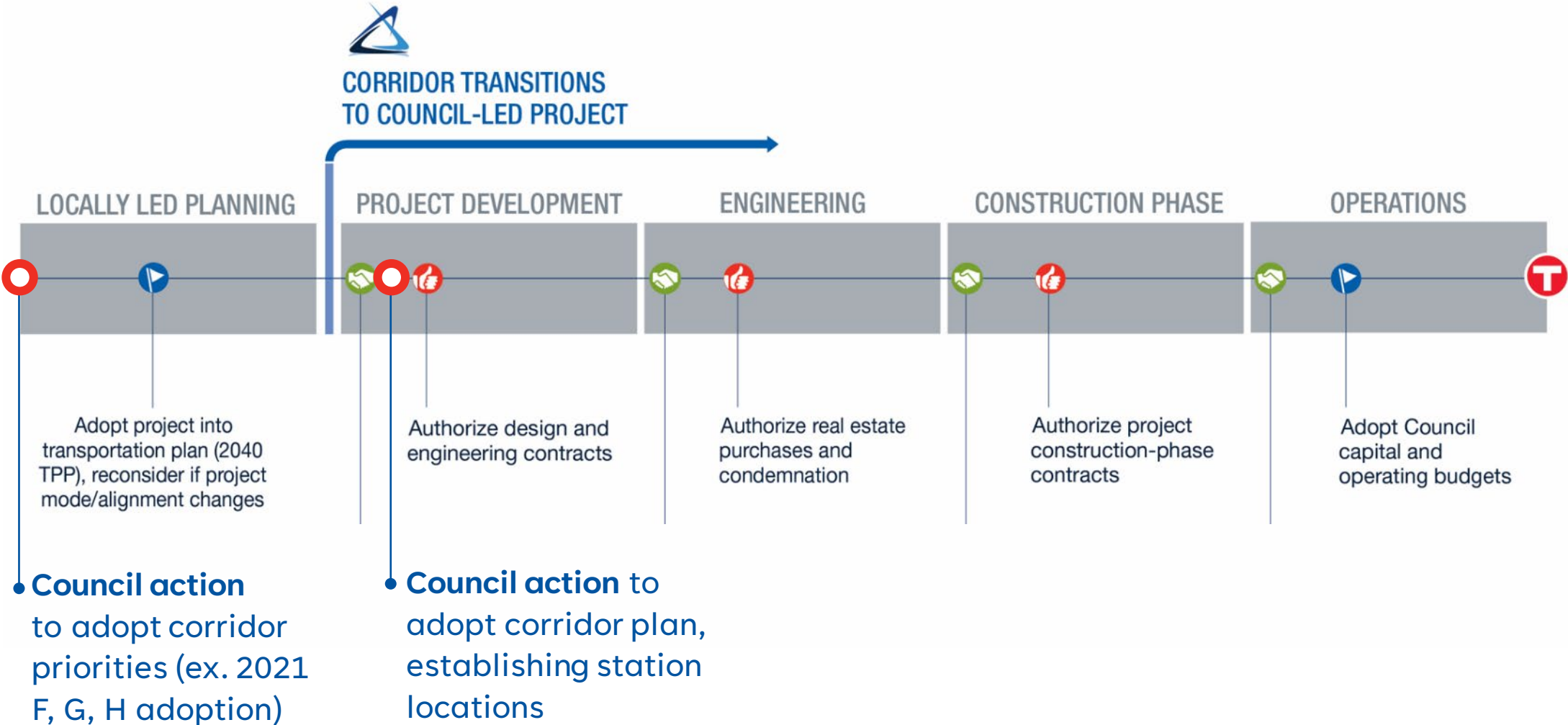


Meeting with residential groups,
businesses and property owners



Application of Transitway Transition Policy

Major Council Actions & Application of Transitway Transition Policy



Approach to risk management

- Application of emerging **enterprise** risk practice
- Upcoming arterial BRT **program-wide** risk assessment (2023)
 - Risks that span individual projects
 - Foundation for project-specific risk
- Ongoing **project-specific** risk registers
 - Focus on risks through project revenue operations start
 - Best practice applied to E Line, F Line (FTA required), and all future projects regardless of funding source

Top enterprise risks

ID	Category	Risk description	Mitigation needed
1	Financial	Insufficient new funding to cover state and local share of operating costs	2023-2030
2	Operational	Metro Transit is unable to hire sufficient staff to operate service and perform needed maintenance	2023-2030
3	Operational	Metro Transit is unable to meet hiring needs for safety and security strategies	2023-2030
4	Transit market	Transitway ridership does not meet regional performance thresholds for ridership due to post-pandemic changes in travel patterns	2023-2030
5	Financial	Insufficient non-federal capital funding available for the Council to maintain the transitway assets in a state of good repair	2040-2050
6	Operational	Delays or inability to deliver transitway network expansion means regional equity and climate goals are not met	2023-2030



Top typical project risks

ID	Category	Risk description	Mitigation Needed (Project Phase)
1	Requirements	Corridor roadway project schedules do not align with transitway project, resulting in schedule delays and / or added costs	Planning
2	Requirements	Third-party agreements for locally funded improvements outside of the transitway project take longer than anticipated	Design
3	Requirements	Stakeholder concerns about adjacent localized impacts	Planning / Design / Construction
4	Market	Potential supply chain issues impact construction schedule and / or revenue service date	Design
5	Market	Contractor availability impacts project diversity goals, costs, and schedule	Design
6	Financial	Construction costs exceed budget and available funding, leading to schedule delays	Design / Construction

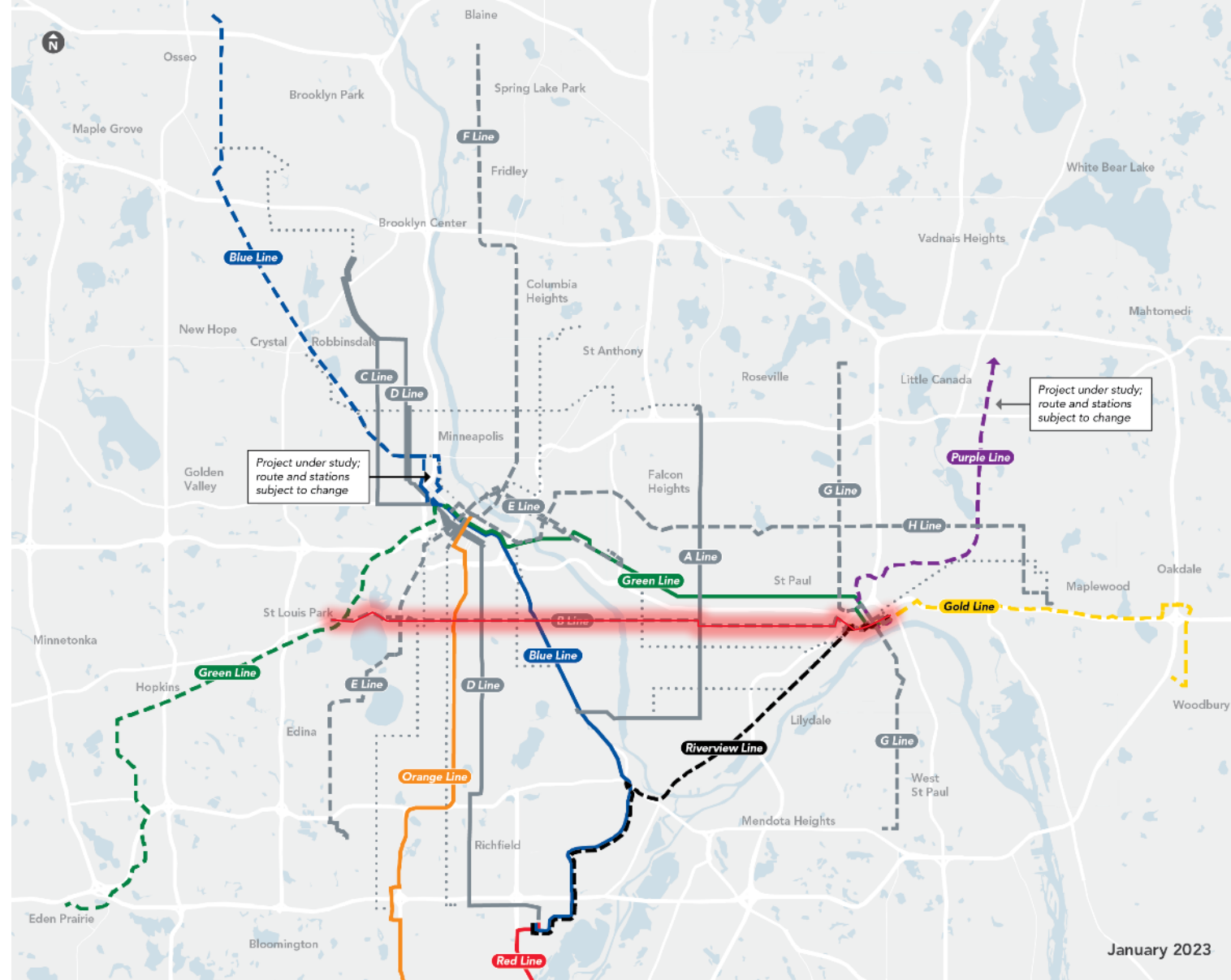




Active Projects

METRO B Line (Lake/Marshall/Selby)

- Upgrades Route 21, highest ridership local route
- Current phase: Design (West) / Construction (East)
- \$65 million project cost
- Planning & engagement began 2019
- Planned opening late 2024



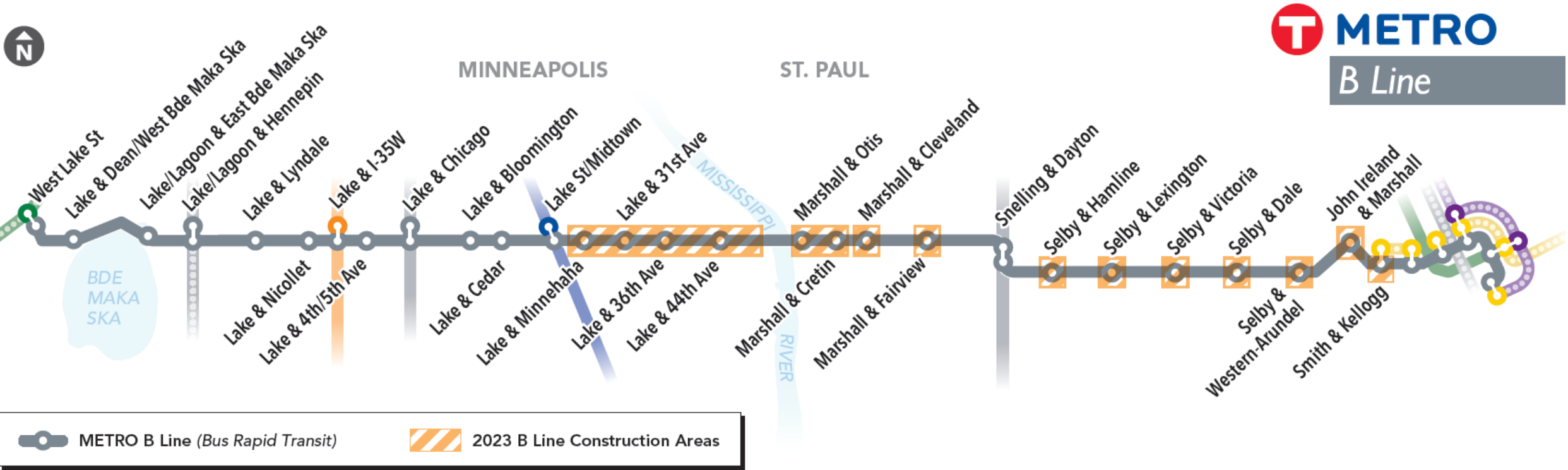
Current METRO network

- 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

2023 construction began May 15





30-day closures on Selby Avenue for station construction



Victoria

Support Selby Avenue Businesses

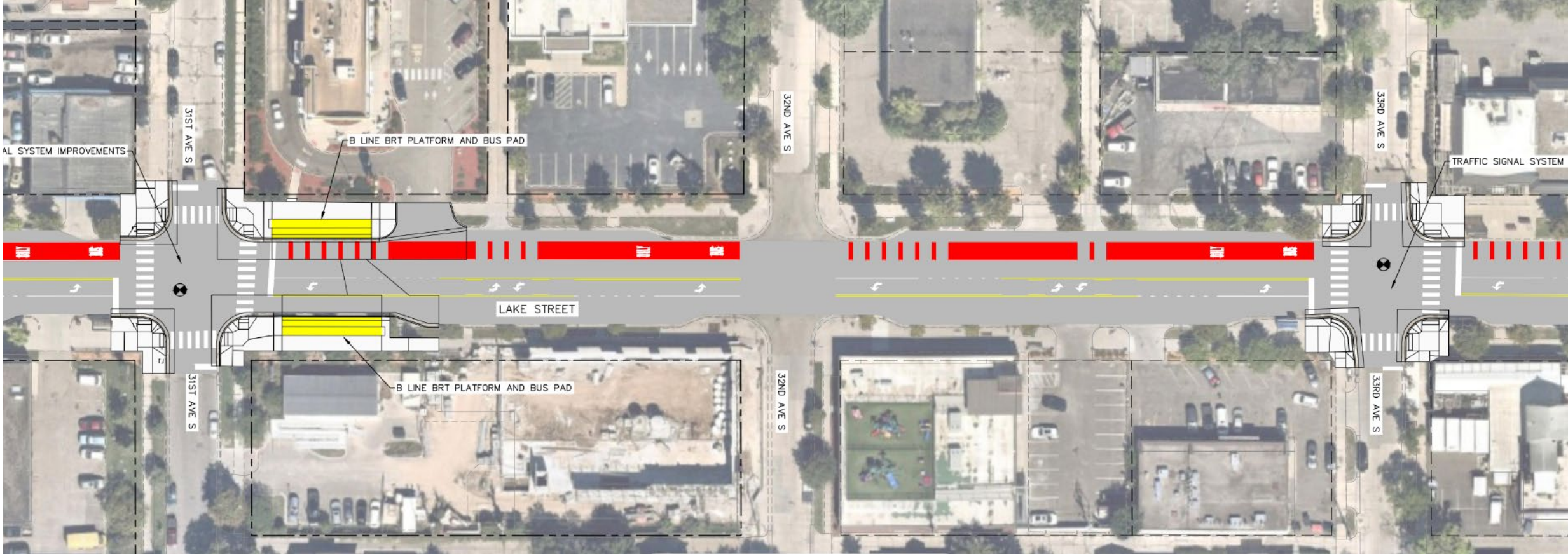
- In Black Ink
- Golden Thyme Coffee & Café
- Professional Fit
- Grooming House Barber Shop
- 2 Scoops Ice Cream Eatery
- Sense of Style Salon
- Bouquets by Carolyn
- Crossroads Legal
- Get Gorgeous Salon & Spa
- Lip Esteem
- J. Selby's
- Hamburguesas El Gordo #3
- The Tooth Fairy
- Subway

More info: 



Business signage at full intersection closures – Selby Avenue

Stations & broader changes coming to Lake Street



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



Lake Street: North side lane closure, temporary signals & intersection work



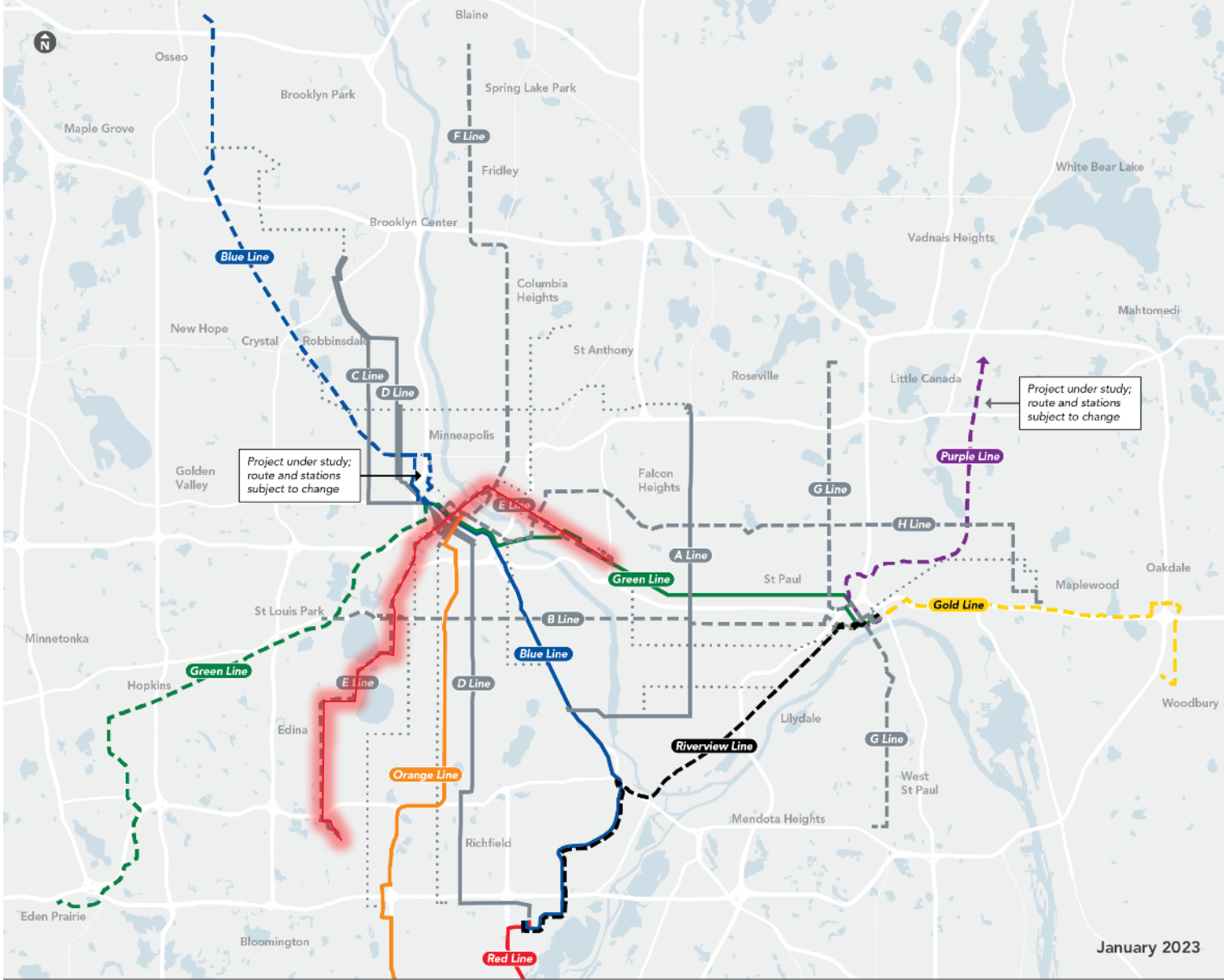
Station construction – Lake & 44th Avenue



**Major construction complete at several locations,
station features to follow**

METRO E Line (Hennepin/France)

- Upgrades Route 6 from U of M to Southdale
- Current phase: Design
- \$68 million project
- Planning & engagement began 2019
- Construction starts 2024
- Planned opening late 2025



Current METRO network

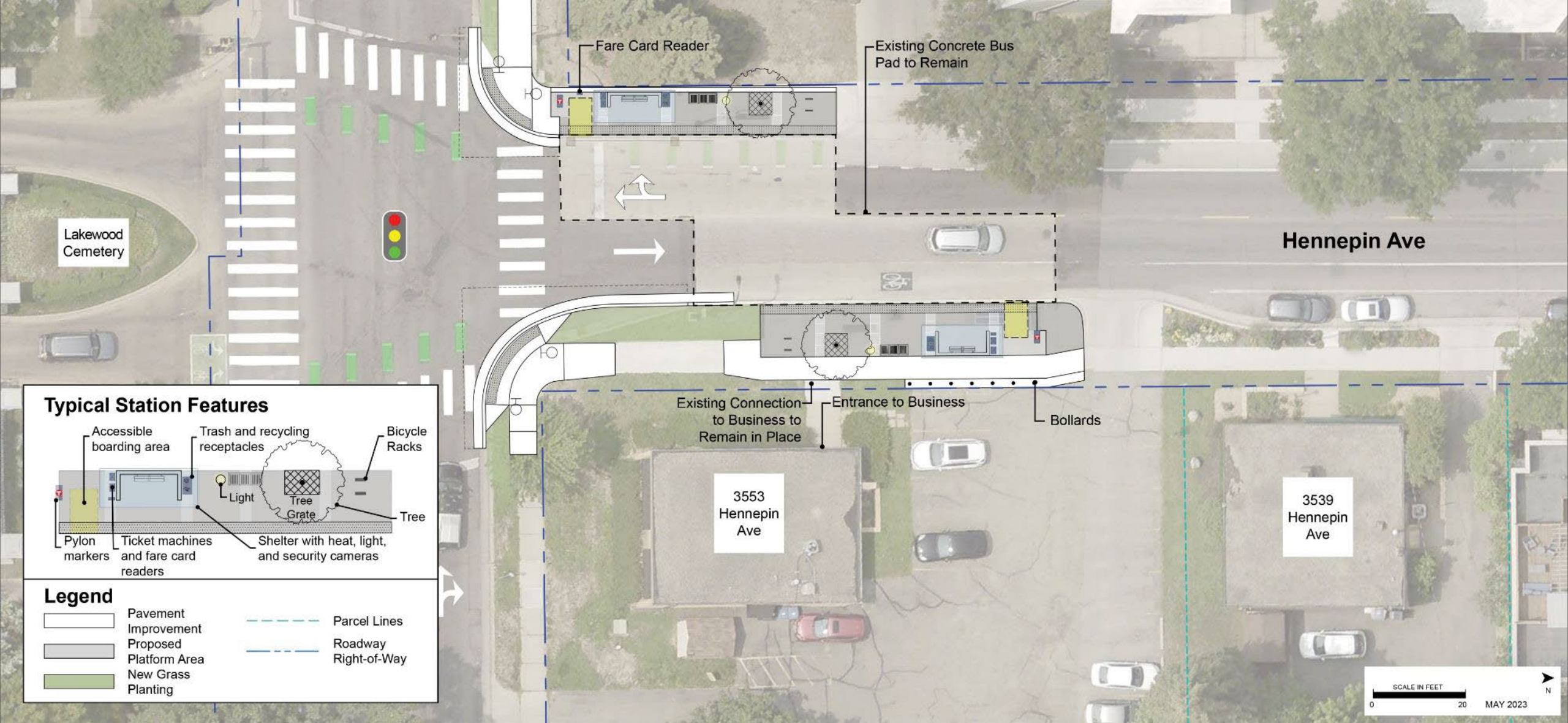
- A Line
- C Line
- D Line
- Blue Line
- Green Line
- Orange Line
- Red Line

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

E Line – Current focus on design engagement

- Locations of stations established in 2022 Council-approved Corridor Plan
- Design phase engagement focused on sharing preliminary design advancement and seeking additional feedback on details
 - Influence placement of station amenities such as benches and shelters
 - Influence sight lines and business visibility
- Activities including virtual open house (June 1) and station neighbor door-knocking and discussions



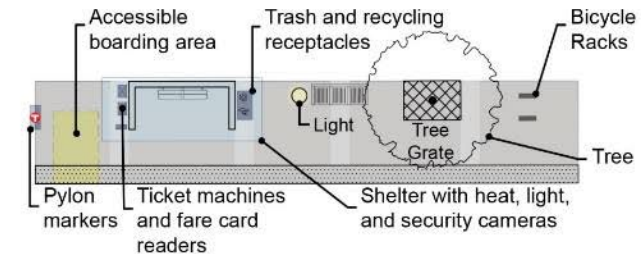
Lakewood Cemetery

Fare Card Reader

Existing Concrete Bus Pad to Remain

Hennepin Ave

Typical Station Features



Legend

- Pavement Improvement
- Proposed Platform Area
- New Grass Planting
- Parcel Lines
- Roadway Right-of-Way

Existing Connection to Business to Remain in Place

Entrance to Business

Bollards

3553 Hennepin Ave

3539 Hennepin Ave

SCALE IN FEET
0 20
MAY 2023

Hennepin & 36th Street – Preliminary Design Exhibit

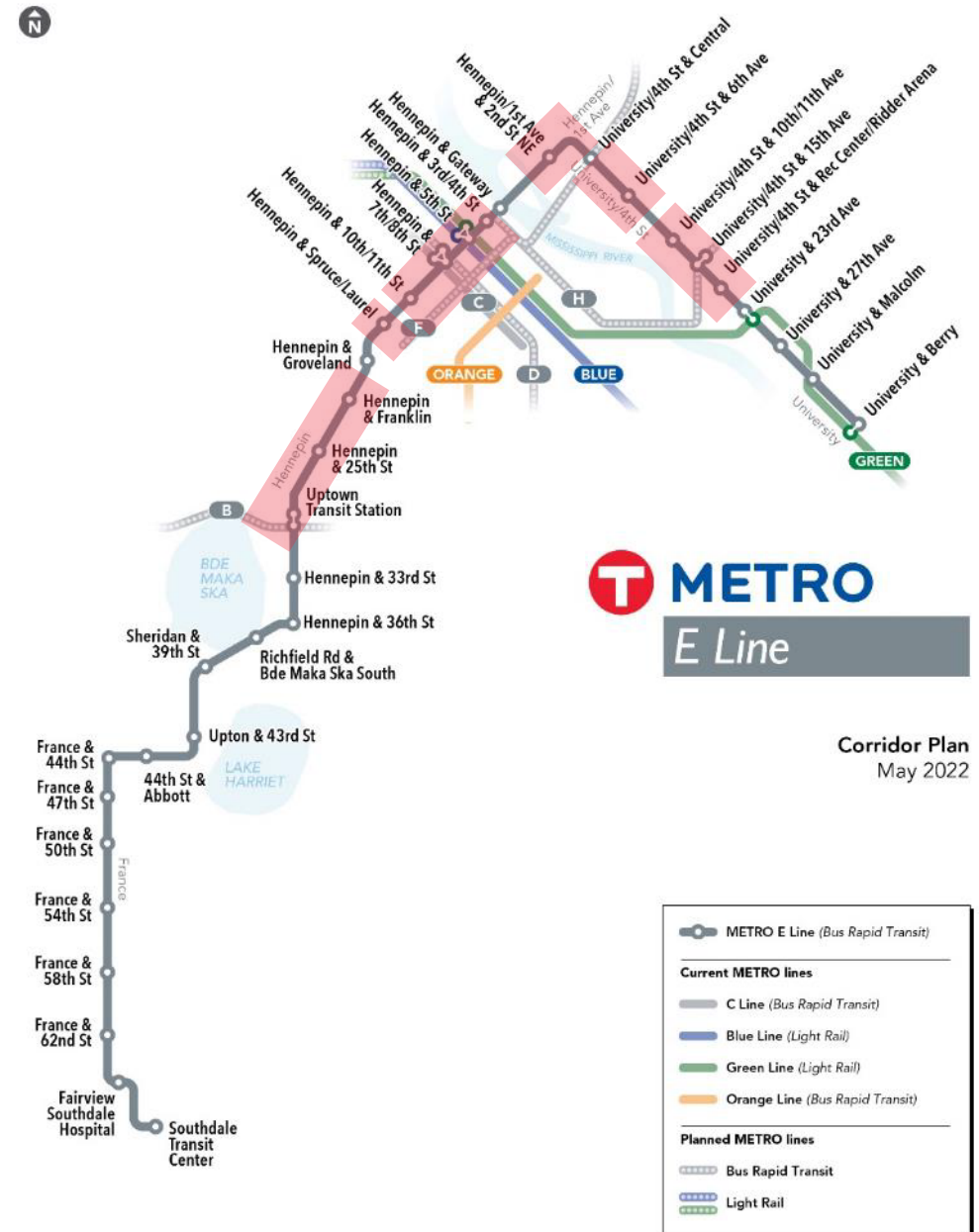


PRELIMINARY DESIGN (JUNE 2023) – DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

France & 50th Street – Preliminary Design Visualization

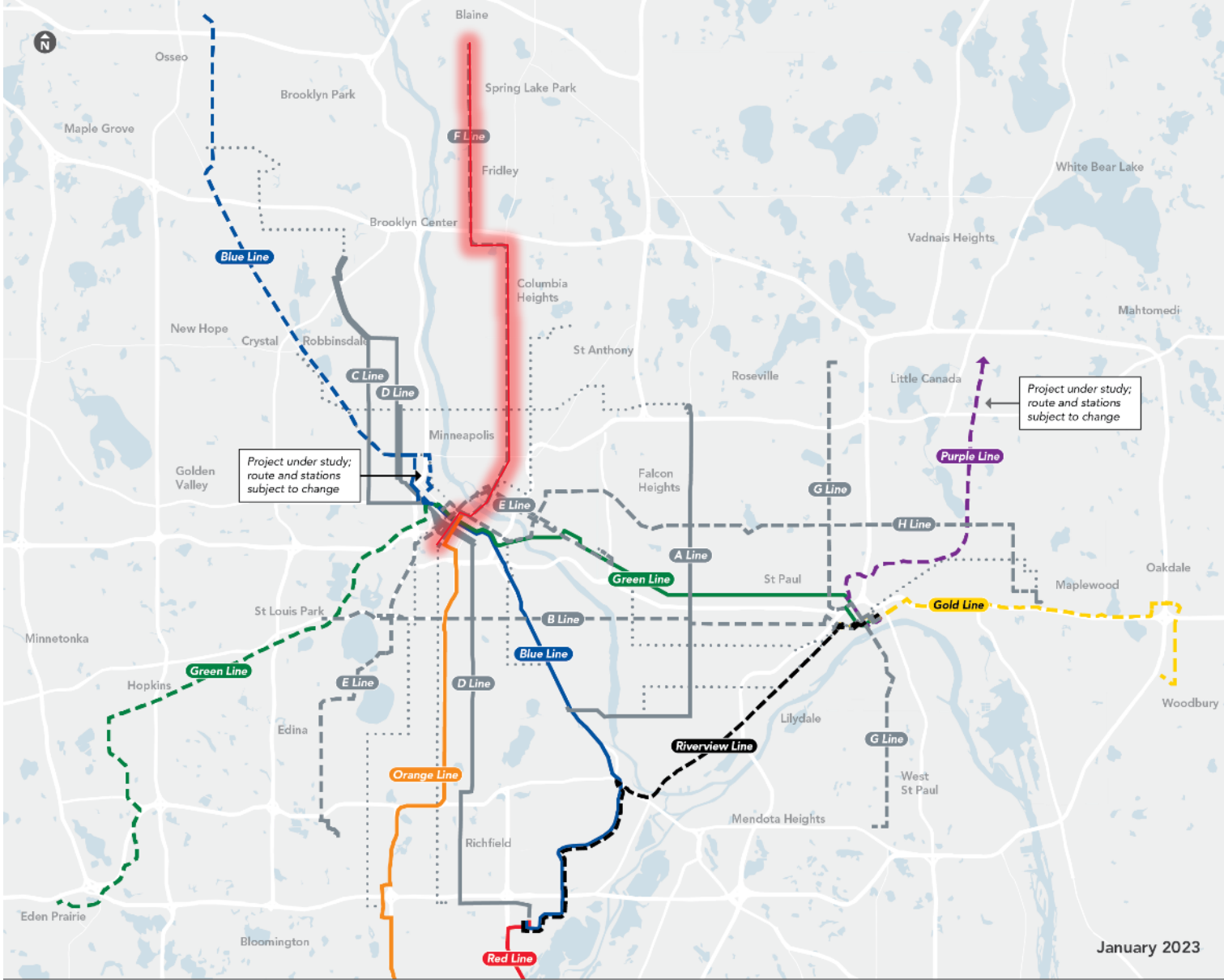
METRO E Line (Hennepin / France)

- Significant coordination with corridor construction projects
 - University/4th – two projects
 - Hennepin/1st
 - Hennepin Downtown
 - Hennepin South (Uptown)
- Minimizing risk of rework and maximizing benefit of regional transportation funding investments
- Priorities for bus lanes being advanced in coordination with City / County partners



METRO F Line (Central Avenue)

- Upgrades Route 10
- Current phase: Planning
- \$98 million estimated project
- FTA Small Starts Project Development
- Planning & engagement began 2021
- Planned opening late 2026



Current METRO network

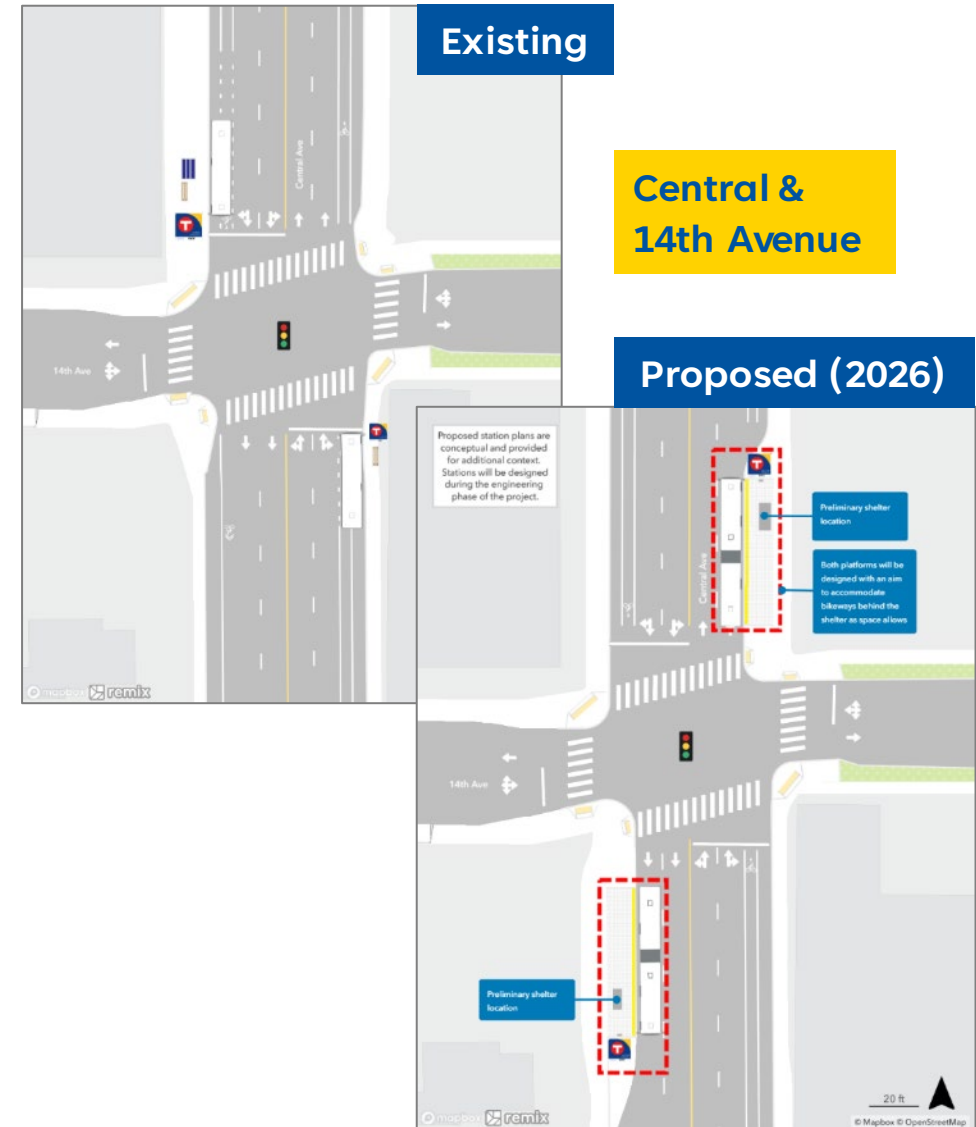
- A Line
- C Line
- D Line
- Blue Line
- Green Line
- Orange Line
- Red Line

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

F Line Corridor Plan

- Planning process and document to establish station locations and inform design
- **Station intersections and locations of platforms within each intersection**
- Policy basis for design
- Three versions for review and comment
 - Draft: Oct. 24 - Dec. 5, 2022
 - Recommended: April 12 – May 14, 2023
 - Final (planned for Council action): July 24 Transportation Committee, August 9 Council

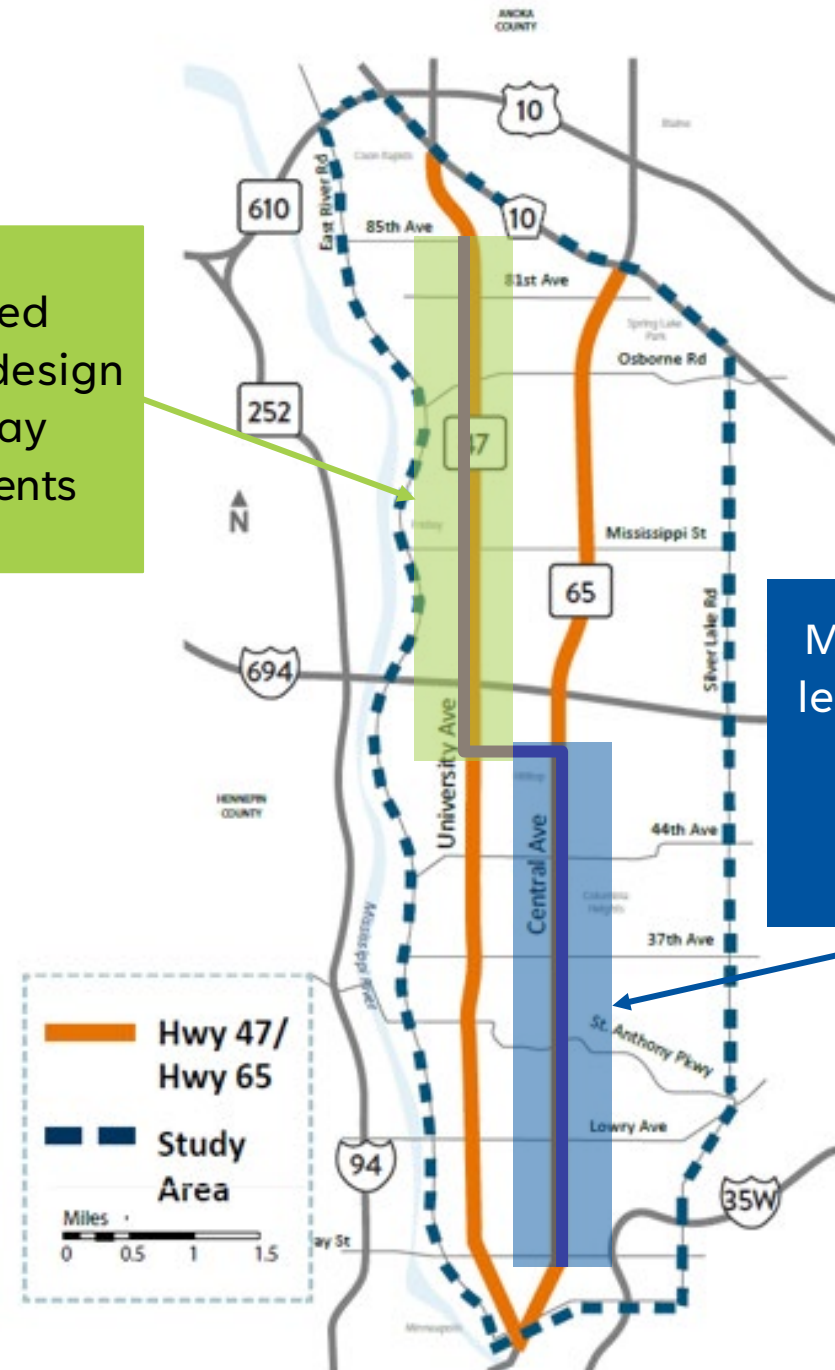


F Line / MnDOT Coordination Partnership

- Significant coordination through planning with MnDOT-led study of Trunk Highway (TH) 47 and 65
- Intent to coordinate design of F Line stations and roadway improvements
- Construction timing to be determined as MnDOT project funding is identified

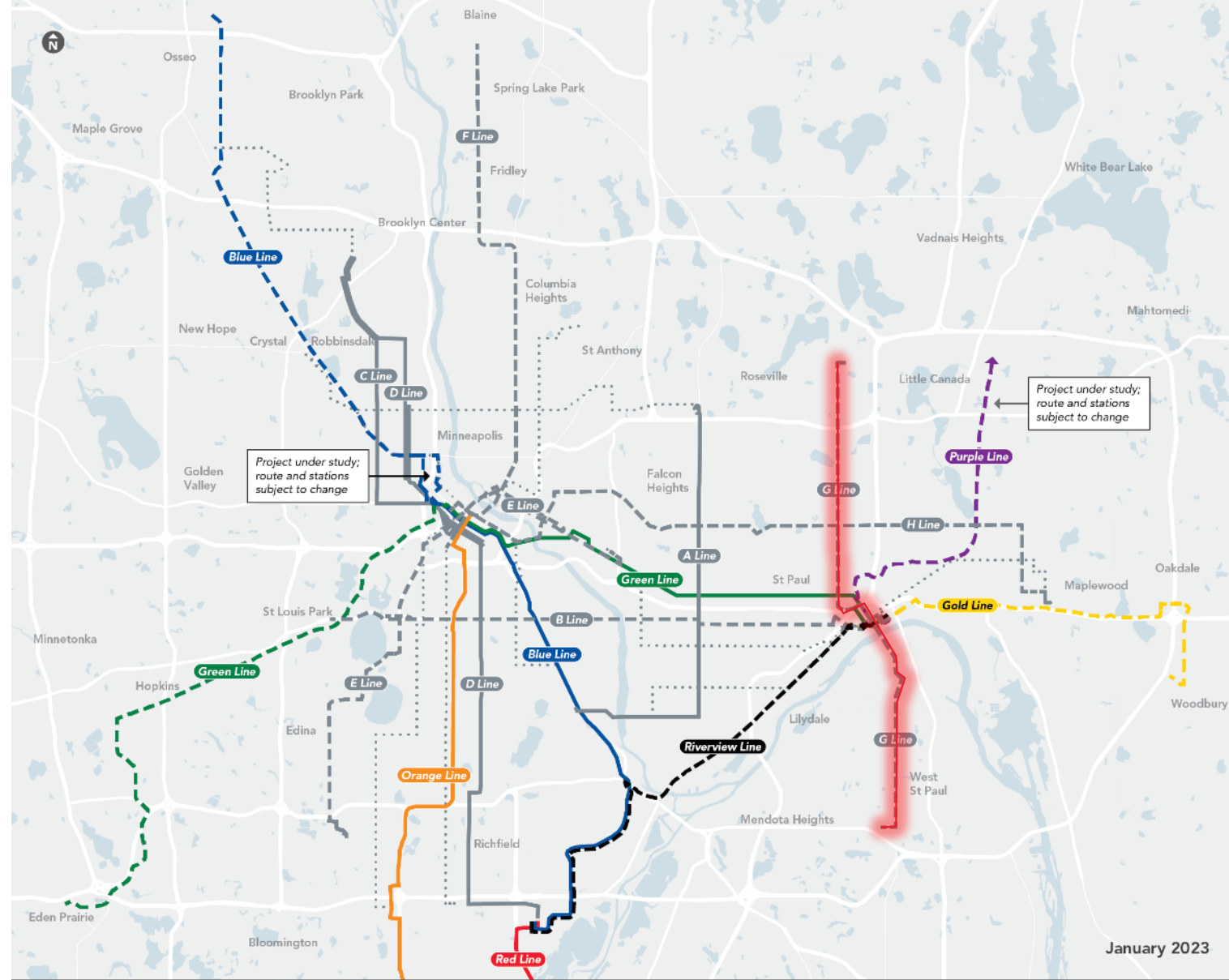
MnDOT-led preliminary design of roadway improvements

Metro Transit-led preliminary design with MnDOT partnership



METRO G Line (Rice / Robert)

- Upgrades portions of Route 62 (north) and Route 68 (south)
- Current phase: Planning
- \$82 million estimated project
- Planning & engagement began 2022
- Planned opening late 2027



January 2023

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

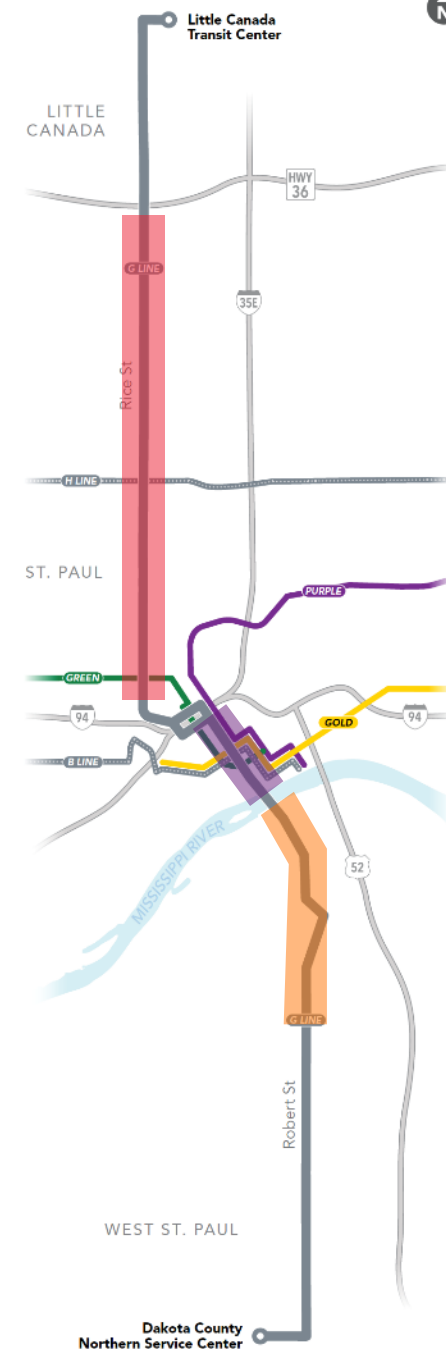
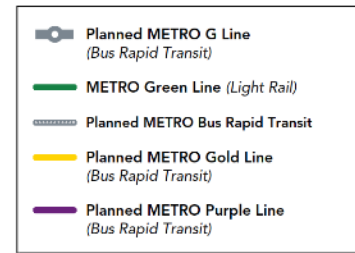
Project coordination

- Significant coordination with Ramsey County-led **Rice Street projects** for 2024-2026 construction
- **Robert Street downtown reconstruction**, led by City of Saint Paul, 2025-2026
- Scoping and coordination underway on **Robert Street south** project led by MnDOT



G Line

January 2022

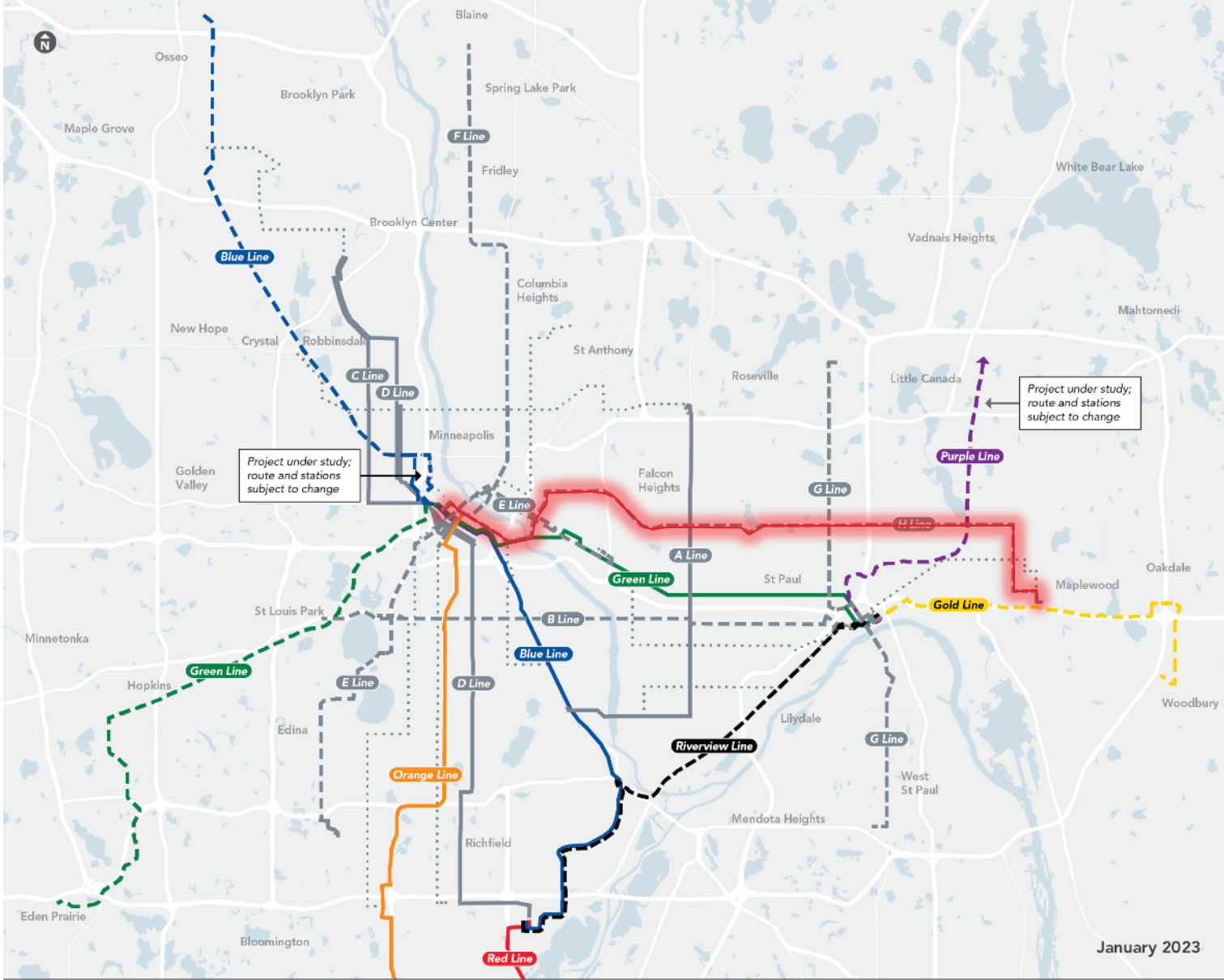


Current project activities

- Budget refinement and funding identification, including allocation of 2023 State Bond award
- Bus fleet planning and propulsion review underway
- Technical Advisory Committee and Metro Transit Internal Working Group meeting regularly since November 2022
- Corridor engagement ongoing since 2022
 - In coordination with other projects
 - G Line preliminary engagement and awareness building
- Fall 2023: Draft Corridor Plan public release

METRO H Line (Como / Maryland)

- Upgrades and extends Route 3 to St. Paul’s East Side
- Current phase: Early Planning
- \$118 million estimated project
- Planning & engagement begins later in 2023
- Planned opening 2028-2029



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 H Line (Como / Maryland)

- A critical crosstown transitway: provides connections to nearly every other line in the existing and planned METRO network
- The H Line will provide access to 170,400 jobs, including 60,600 low-wage jobs
- 45% of Route 3 riders are people of color or live in low-income households
- \$118 million preliminary budget
- Arterial BRT project to be advanced for \$25 million in upcoming Regional Solicitation
- Coordination with Purple Line Route Modification Study on Maryland Avenue





metrotransit.org/brt

