



Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment 1 – Project Background

Blue Line Extension and Gold Line Extension

May 2025

metro council.org





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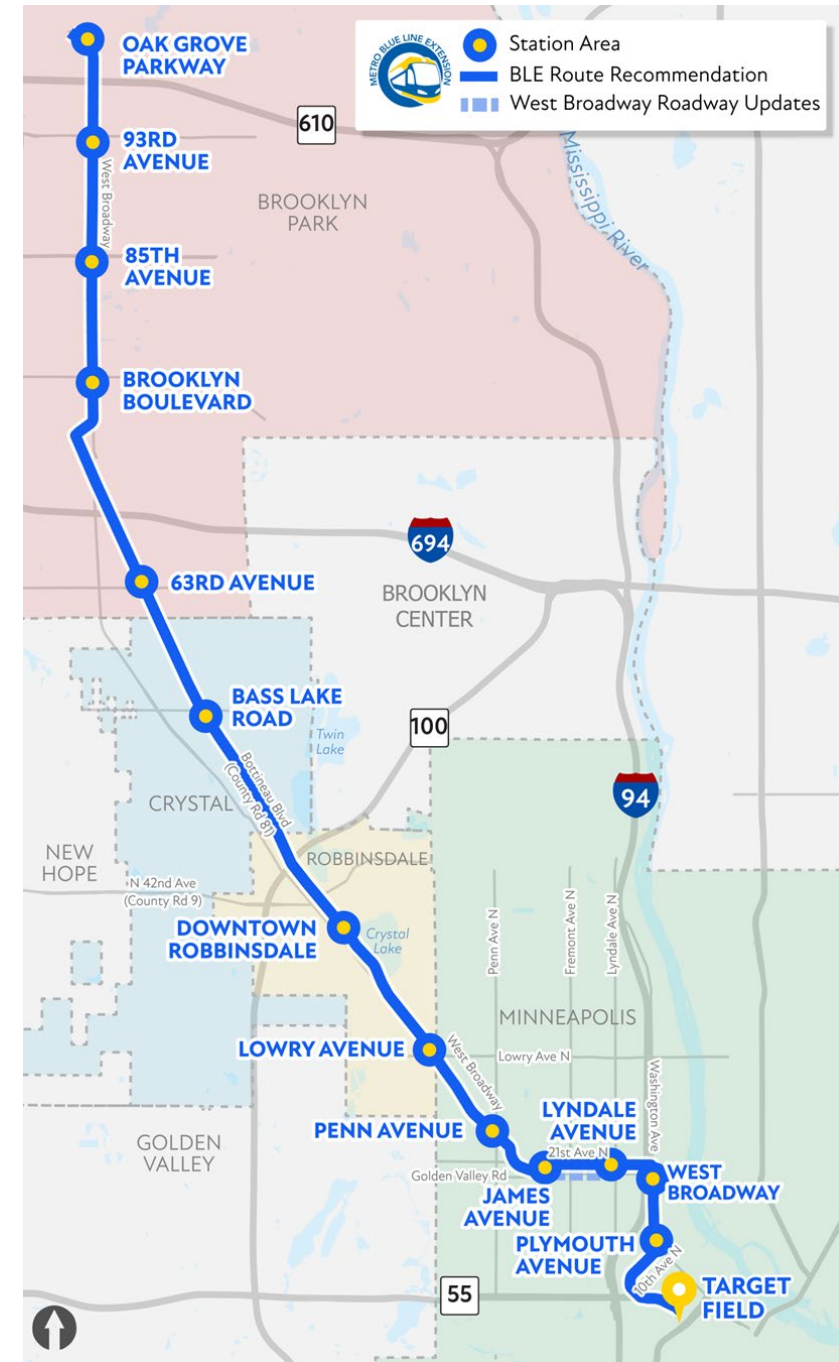
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Amendment Background



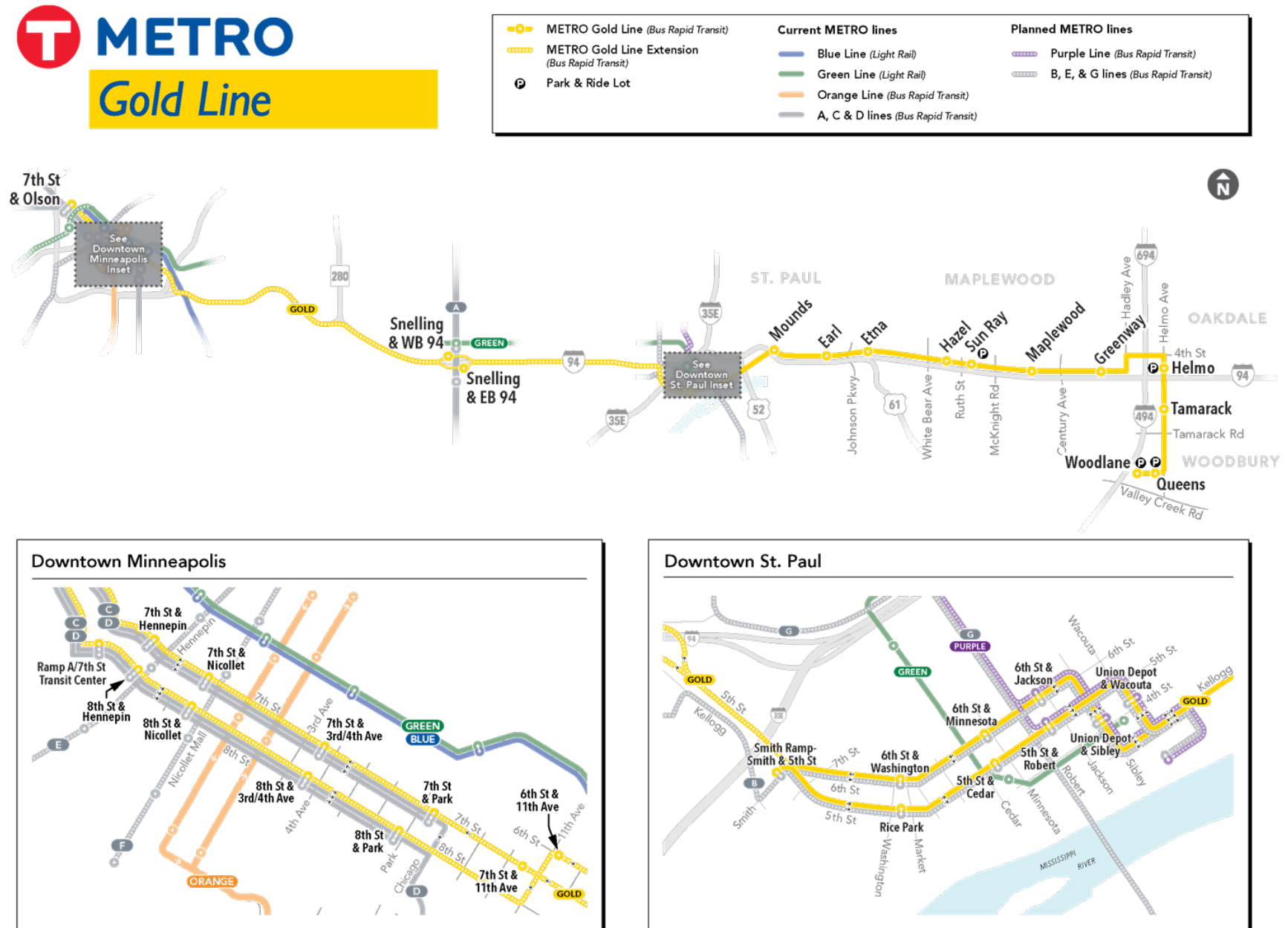
Proposed Changes – Blue Line Extension

- Incorporate changes to Blue Line Extension Project from Municipal Consent Process into fiscally constrained plan
- Remove West Broadway Modern Streetcar Project



Proposed Changes – Gold Line Extension

- **Add Gold Line Extension project into fiscally constrained plan**
- Show Gold Line as existing line to reflect March opening



Criteria for Adding Transitway Projects



1. Transitway type, alignment, and station locations
2. Selection process
3. Public engagement and feedback
4. Resolutions of support from relevant government bodies and agencies
5. Fiscal constraint

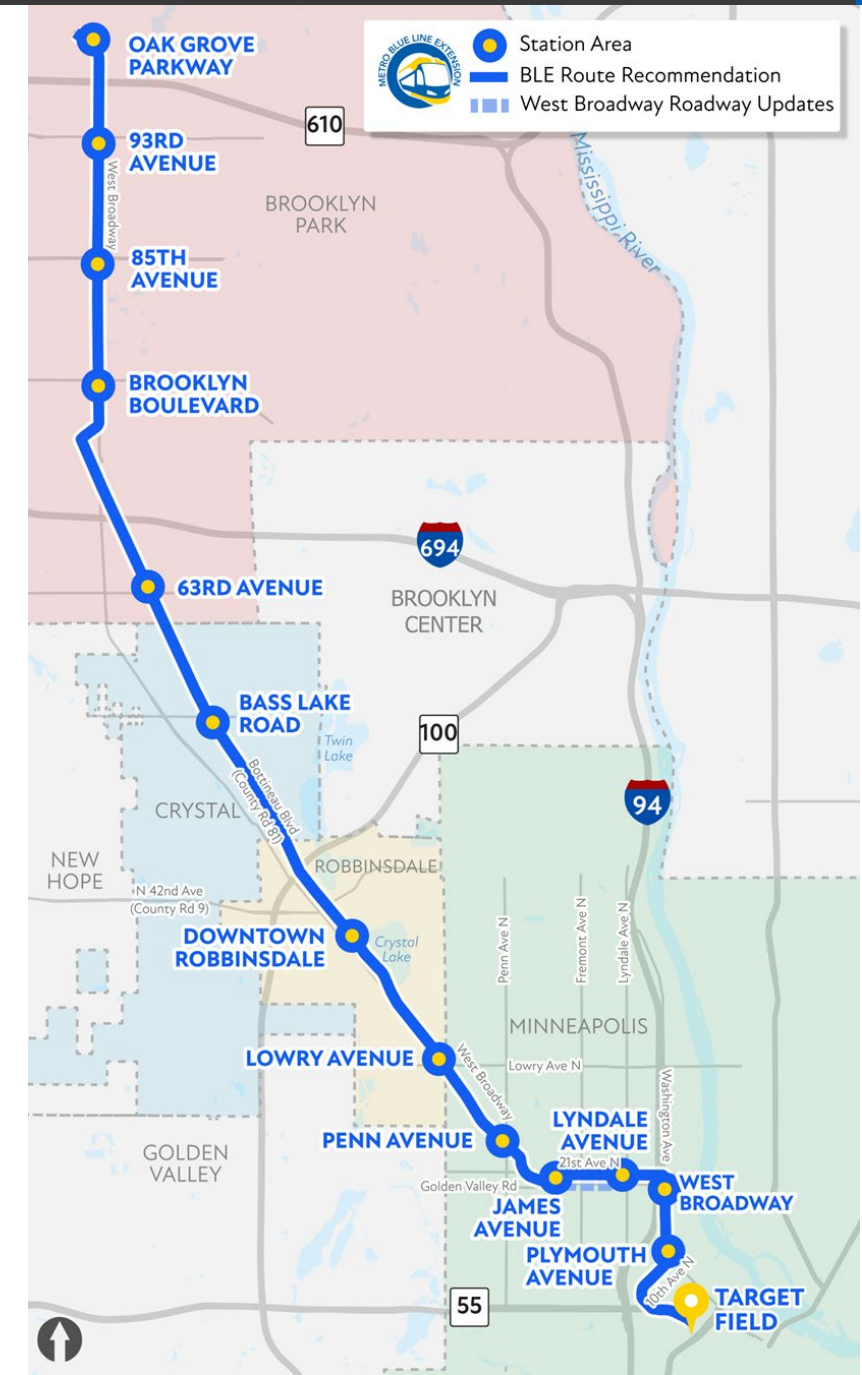
Blue Line Extension



Blue Line Extension - Overview



- 13.4 miles route & 13 new stations
- Connecting Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities to fast, frequent, all-day service across the METRO system
- Single seat ride to downtown, MSP Airport and Mall of America
- Focus on building community prosperity through anti-displacement strategies before, during, and after construction
- Final Design: 2024-2026
- Major Construction: 2027-2030



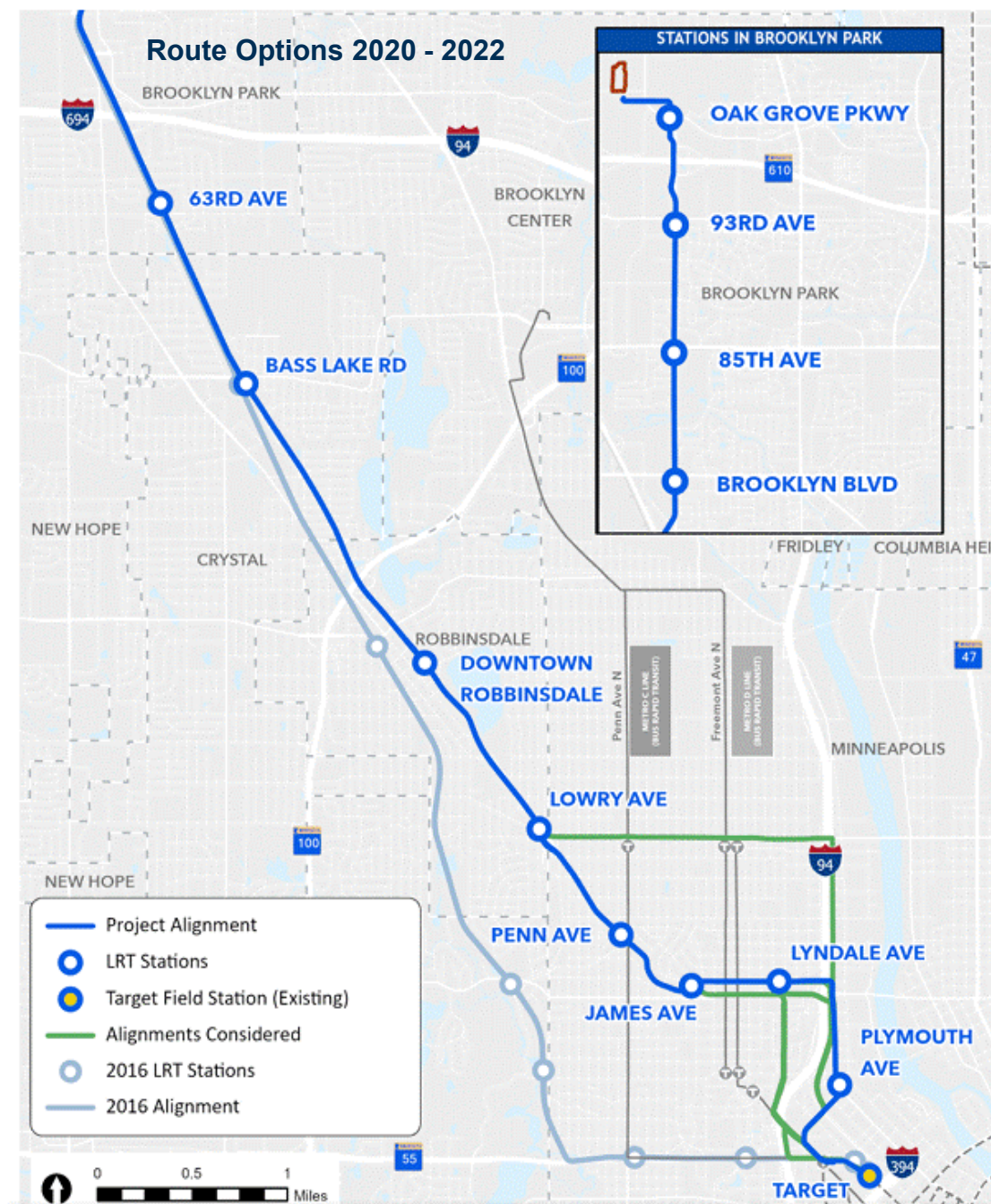
Blue Line Extension – Public Engagement



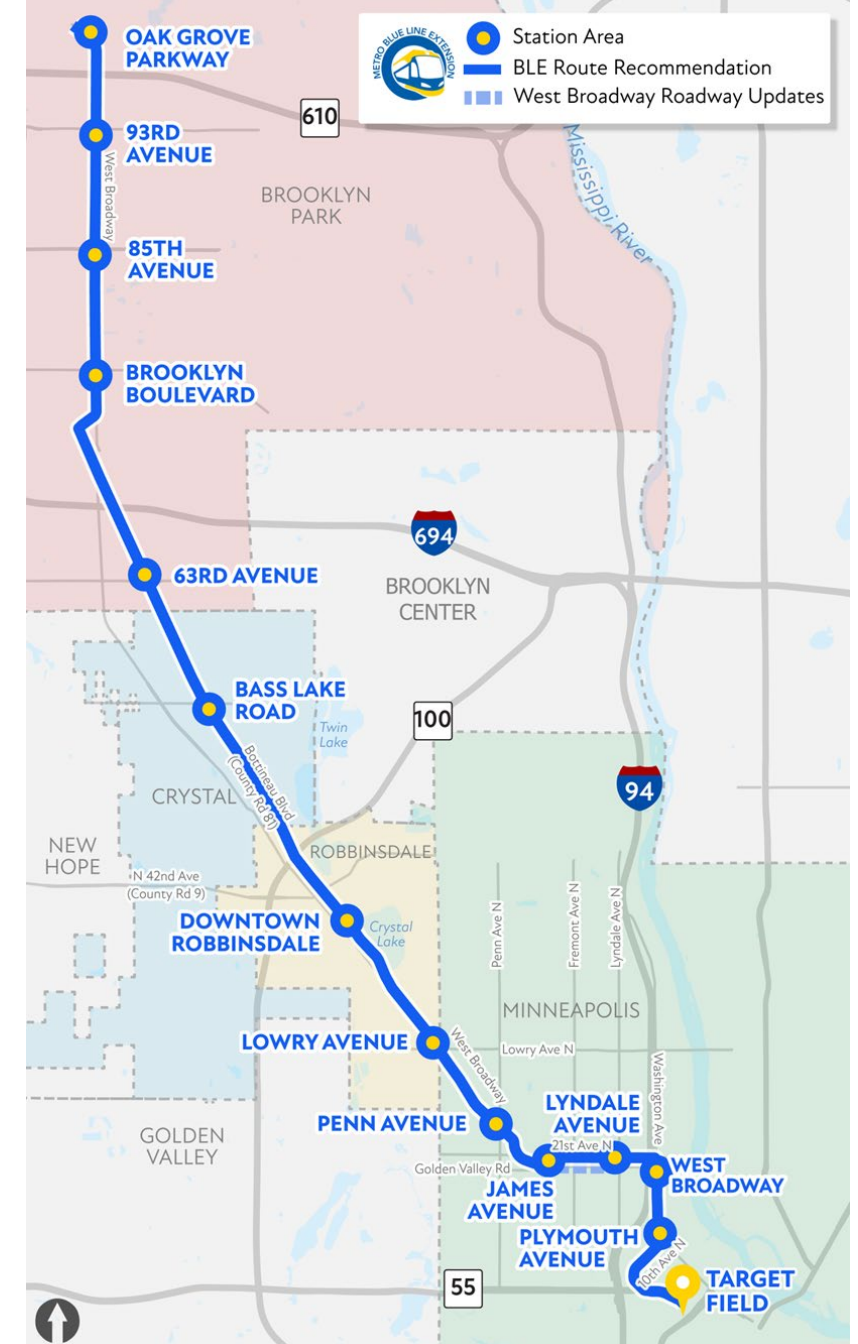
Engagement Metrics: Aug 2020-Feb 2025

- **929** events resulting in nearly **41,625** points of contact with the public
- **80,000** reach on social media and **10 million+** reach through newsletters and paid ads on community and cultural media
- Approximately **7,153** survey responses, written comments, and comments on the interactive map
- Corridor postcards mailed to **+40,000**
- Over **7,000** emails and phone calls

Blue Line Extension – Selection Process



- Original alignment along the BNSF railroad corridor, West Broadway Avenue and TH-55
- 2022 Route modification study robust public engagement process informed adoption of modified alignment and affirmation of light rail mode
- 2023, continued engagement & policymaker input informed final route proposal including segment east of I-94 and tracks on 21st Avenue instead of West Broadway between I-94 and James Avenue



Blue Line Extension – Local Support

Municipal Consent Completed in October 2024

Municipal Consent granted for alignment and stations by all local governments:

- City of Brooklyn Park
- City of Crystal
- City of Robbinsdale
- City of Minneapolis
- Hennepin County



Gold Line Extension

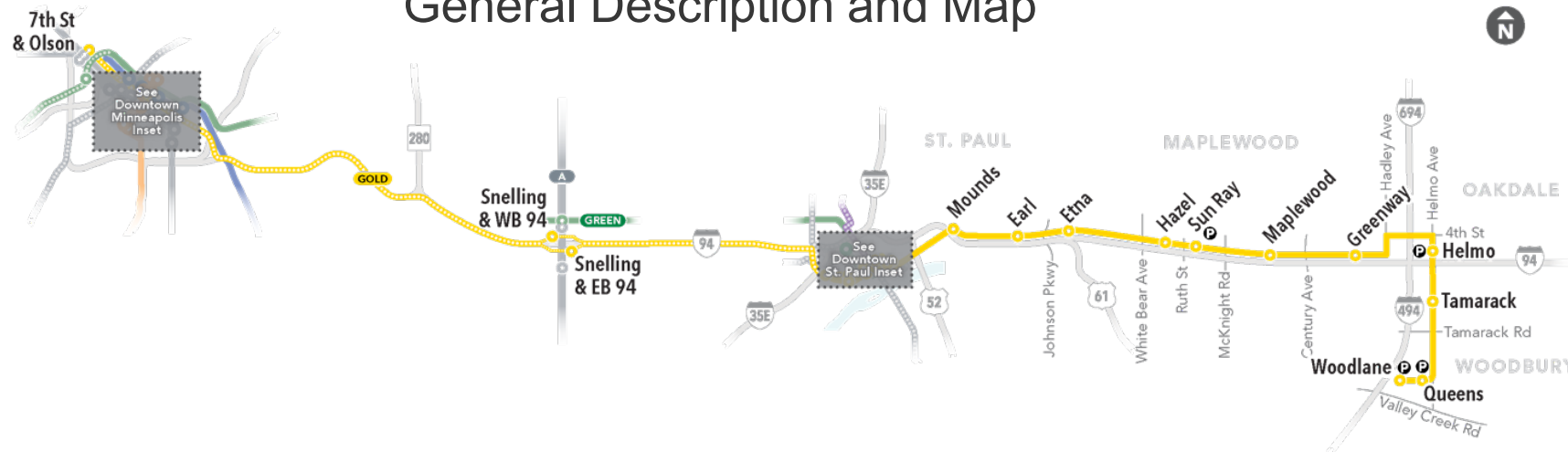


Gold Line Extension – Overview

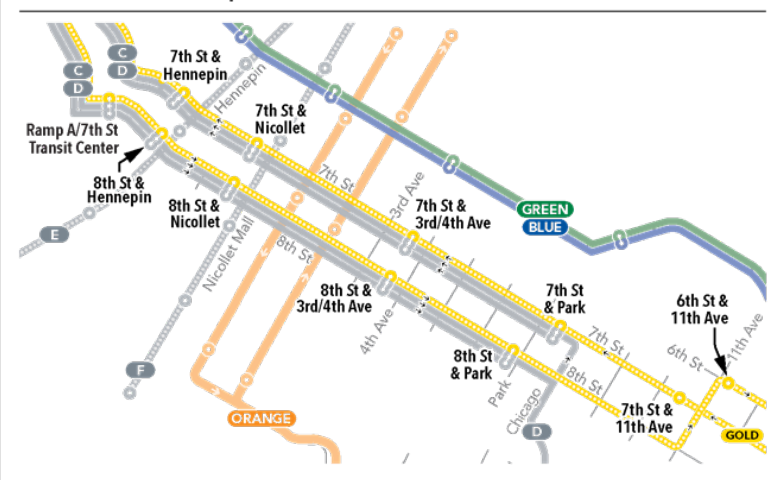


METRO Gold Line (Bus Rapid Transit)	Current METRO lines	Planned METRO lines
METRO Gold Line Extension (Bus Rapid Transit)	Blue Line (Light Rail)	Purple Line (Bus Rapid Transit)
Park & Ride Lot	Green Line (Light Rail)	B, E, & G lines (Bus Rapid Transit)
	Orange Line (Bus Rapid Transit)	
	A, C & D lines (Bus Rapid Transit)	

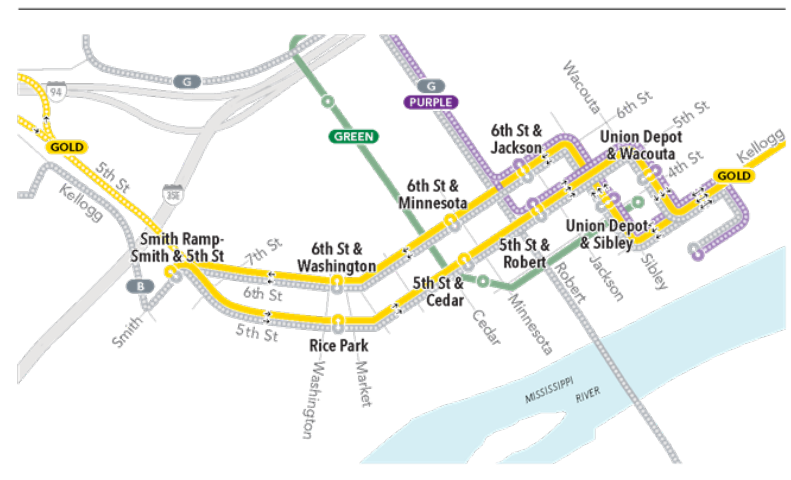
General Description and Map



Downtown Minneapolis



Downtown St. Paul



- Merges Gold Line and Route 94 to make a New METRO system link providing fast, frequent, all-day service between Minneapolis, St Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury
- \$25M Capital budget
 - Two new stations, additional buses
 - Construction starts 2026-2027
- \$7.7M Annual operating

Gold Line Extension – Selection Process & Public Engagement

Selection Process – Rethinking I-94 Transit Study

- Evaluated 7 Alternatives
 - 1, 3, or 5 stops between downtowns
 - Bus shoulders v. managed lanes
- Proposed GLE route based on option with 1 stop at Snelling, operating on 100% bus-only
- Provided best combination of
 - Travel Time between the downtowns
 - Connection with other transit routes
 - Ridership

Public Engagement

- Leveraging input from other engagement efforts
 - Rethinking I-94 Transit Study
 - NetworkNow Update
- Key feedback themes for transit service on this corridor
 - Provide more frequent service
 - Expand time service runs on weekdays and weekends
 - Improve reliability and travel time



Gold Line Extension – Local Support



Anticipated before release for public comment

Resolutions of support are anticipated for alignment and stations by all affected local governments:

- City of Minneapolis (received)
- City of Saint Paul (received)
- Hennepin County (received)
- Ramsey County (anticipated June 10)
- Washington County
- Letter of support from MnDOT

Effects on TPP



Transportation Finance – Blue Line Ext.



Blue Line Extension

- **Capital Costs Increasing \$1.7B compared to 2050 TPP**
 - \$831M anticipated increase in federal CIG funding (new starts)
 - \$835.5M anticipated increase in Hennepin County participation
- **Operations Costs Increasing \$328.6M compared to 2050 TPP**
 - Additional fares anticipated to cover \$38.9M
 - Unallocated sales and use tax anticipated to cover \$289.7M

Transportation Finance – Gold Line Ext.



Gold Line Extension

- **No net capital cost change from 2050 TPP**
 - \$25M total cost
 - To be covered by existing Metro Transit funding sources
- **Operations Costs Increasing \$128.2M compared to 2050 TPP**
 - Additional fares anticipated to cover \$30.5M
 - Unallocated sales and use tax anticipated to cover \$97.7M

Other TPP elements affected



- **Equity & environmental justice impacts analysis**
- **Regional performance outcomes**
- **Map updates**
 - Transitways investments map
 - Maps affected by update of Gold Line addition
- **Long-range capital projects list appendix**

Amendment Schedule



Date	Committee/Event
TAB/TAC Committees Info Items	
Mar 27	Transit Planning Working Group
Apr 10	TAC Planning
May 7	TAC
May 21	TAB
June 9	Transportation Committee
Release for Public Comment	
May 8	TAC Planning
June 4	TAC
June 18	TAB
June 23	Transportation Committee
July 9	Full Council
July 10- Aug 24	Public Comment Period
Aug 13	Public Hearing @ Metropolitan Council Mtg
Aug 11 – Sept 19	Comment Report and Final Amendment
Adoption Process	
Sept 17	TAB (Info Item)
Sept 22	Transportation Committee (action item)
Oct 8	Full Council (action item)



Thank you!

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