



# Transportation Committee: June 13, 2022

Nick Landwer, Design and Engineering Lead



Brooklyn Park | Crystal | Robbinsdale | Minneapolis





# Today's Topics

- Route modification process
- Route recommendation report
  - Staff recommendation



# Route Modification Process

- **August 2020:** After a multi-year effort to negotiate with BNSF, Met Council and Hennepin County directed staff to seek a solution for the Blue Line Extension that did not use freight rail property
- **August 2020 – March 2021:** Project transition, goal development, route study areas
- **March 2021:** Potential routes released for input
- **December 2021:** *Draft* Route Modification Report published for 45-day comment period



# Advisory Committee Decision-Making Process

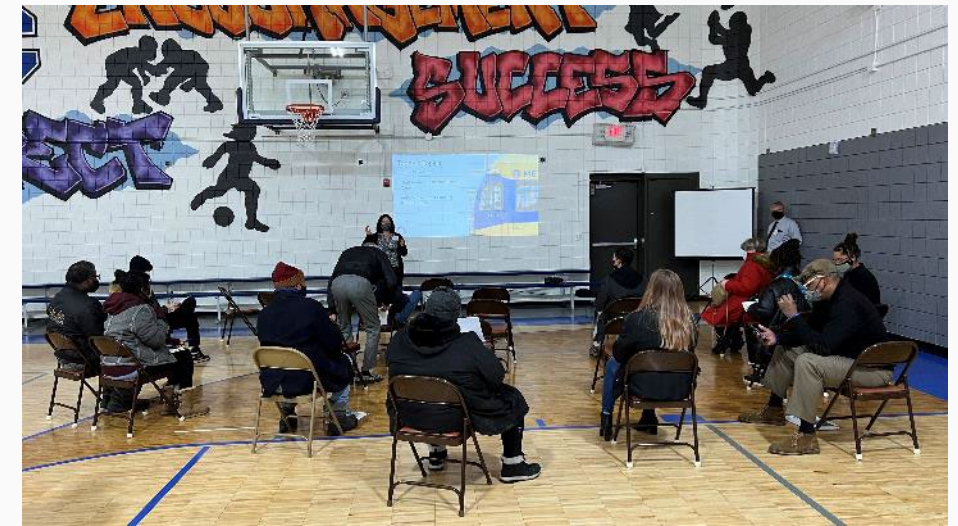




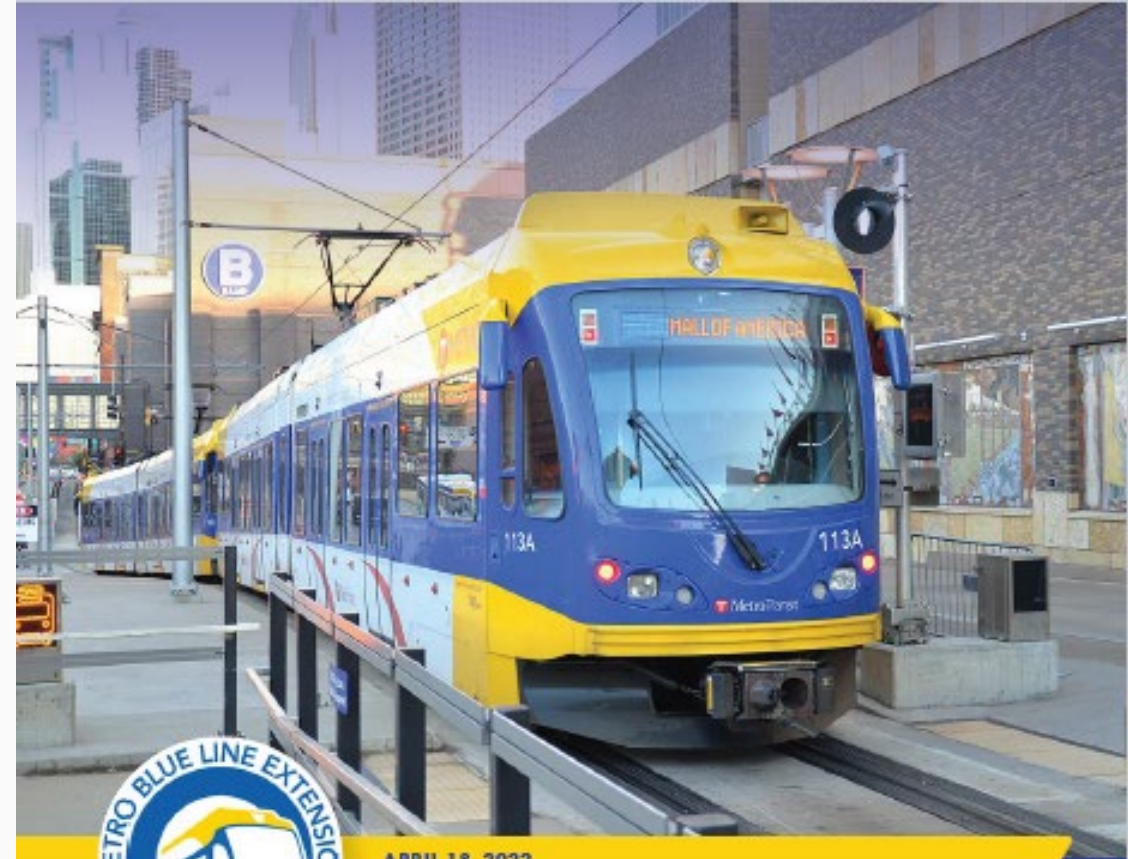
# Engagement Metrics, August 2020-February 2022

- **300** events resulting in nearly **11,000** points of contact with the public
  - Community event attendance, door-knocking, stakeholder 1-to-1, project hosted events, driveway talks, etc.
- **75,000** reach on social media and **1 million** + reach through paid ads on community and cultural media
- Approximately **4,000** survey responses
- **1,500** comments on the interactive map
- **217** comments from comment forms
- Corridor postcards mailed to **26,000** households/businesses
- Over **500** emails and phone calls
- Majority of activities with environmental justice communities

*Community Meeting: January 2022*



# Route Modification Report Overview



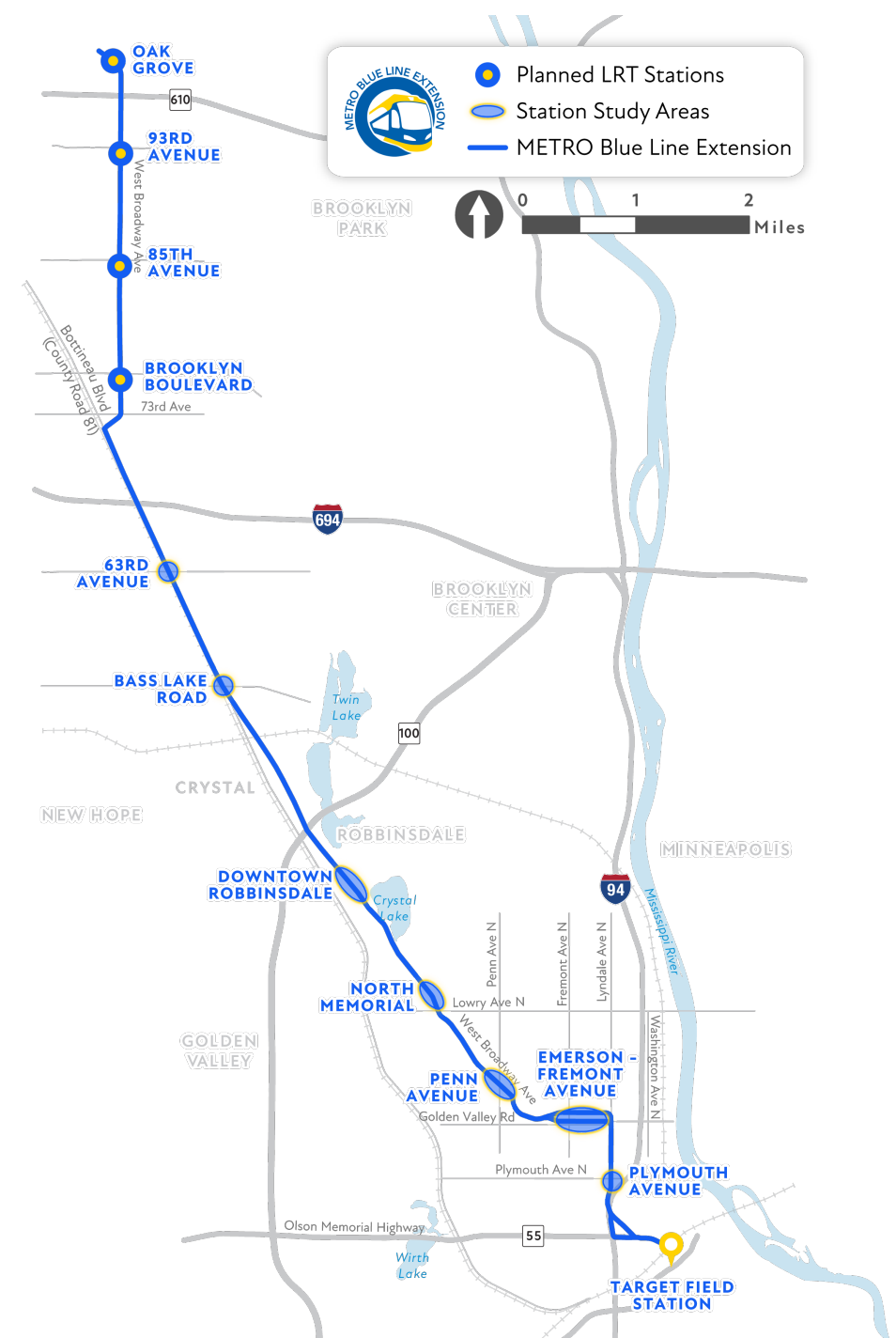
APRIL 18, 2022

## METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION Route Modification Report









# Staff Recommended Route: West Broadway

- The West Broadway Route option including:
  - West Broadway Avenue in Brooklyn Park to County Road 81, County Road 81 in Crystal and Robbinsdale to West Broadway Avenue in North Minneapolis, connecting to Target Field Station in downtown Minneapolis.



# Summary Matrix

## ASSESSMENT OF ROUTE OPTIONS TO DEFINED GOALS

PROJECT GOAL	BOTTINEAU BOULEVARD (COUNTY ROAD 81) IN BROOKLYN PARK AND CRYSTAL	BOTTINEAU BOULEVARD (COUNTY ROAD 81) IN ROBBINSDALE	LOWRY ROUTE	WEST BROADWAY ROUTE
 <b>Goal 1:</b> Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
 <b>Goal 2:</b> Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	GOOD	GOOD
 <b>Goal 3:</b> Provide transit improvements that maximize transit benefits, while being cost competitive and economically viable	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
 <b>Goal 4:</b> Support communities' development goals	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT
 <b>Goal 5:</b> Promote healthy communities and sound environmental practices including efforts to address climate change	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
 <b>Goal 6:</b> Advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional racial disparities	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT



# Comment Period

- 38 days: April 18 to May 27
- Received 1,100+ comments
- Comments gathered through:
  - In-person meetings: stick-it notes, comment forms
  - Online: Interactive map, comment forms, emails

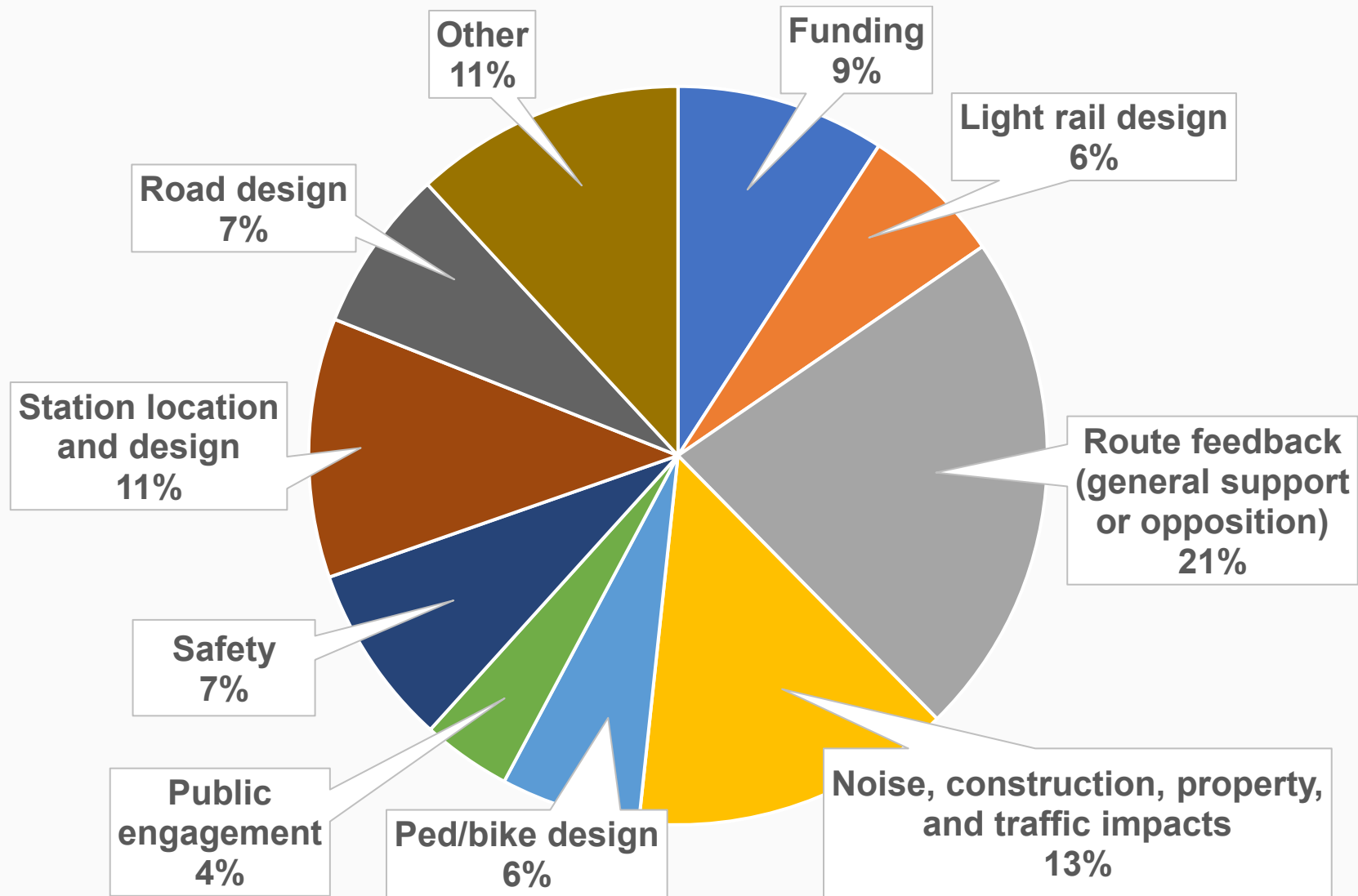


APRIL 18, 2022

## METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION Route Modification Report



# Comment Summary



# Corridor Wide Comments

- General support or opposition for the recommended route or overall project:
  - Improvement over the original route; serves the people, places, and communities that need transit access the most
  - Do not like the recommended route; feel that another light rail project cannot be delivered on time/in budget and transit demand / ridership is low
- Evaluation of on-street parking and impacts
- Desire for landscaping, traffic calming, and easy/safe access to destinations along the route, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists



# Corridor Wide Comments (continued)

- Concern about the noise, traffic, environmental, and property impacts during and after construction
- Concern about safety and crime on/at transit
- Desire for efficient travel times so it's a competitive transportation option
- Need for additional outreach and engagement
- Desire to see the connection between Target Field Station and West Broadway further explored
- Desire for anti-displacement commitments to be in place before project advances

# Route Modification Report Addendum

Based on feedback during the comment period, staff is recommending:

- Reevaluate options for the route between downtown Minneapolis and West Broadway
- Conducting anti-displacement work and environmental documentation at the same time

# Overview Schedule

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## RECOMMENDATIONS

## ANTI-DISPLACEMENT

## IMPLEMENTATION

We're here



1 YEAR

1.5 – 2 YEARS

1.5 – 2 YEARS

3 – 4 YEARS

- Identify community-supported route

- Environmental review  
*Document benefits and impacts of the project*

- Municipal consent  
*Seek city support of the LRT design*

- Begin engineering  
*Identify location of stations, LRT, pedestrian and bicycle access to stations*

- Station area planning

- Develop construction ready design plans and preparing the community for construction

- Station area planning

- Construction and full funding grant agreement  
*Federal funding*

- **GOAL:** Line opens in 2028



# Stay Connected!

- Project website: [BlueLineExt.org](http://BlueLineExt.org)
  - Project news, maps, surveys, what we're hearing
  - Committee meeting materials: agenda, handouts, presentations, meeting minutes
  - Sign-up for GovDelivery project updates
  - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation
- Share your Blue Line Extension story at: [MyBlueLineExt.org](http://MyBlueLineExt.org)
- Follow us:
  - Twitter: [@BlueLineExt](https://twitter.com/BlueLineExt)
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