



Crystal Visual Screening Open House

Tuesday May 24, 2016



Topics

- Corridor Conditions between Bass Lake Rd and 62nd Ave
- Visual Screening Options
- BNSF Requirements
- Next Steps



Existing Conditions

- 100 ft of BNSF owned right-of-way bordering properties on Elmhurst and Hampshire Avenues
- Blue Line Extension LRT (BLRT) proposed plans
 - Purchase eastern 50 ft (toward Hwy 81) and construct north and southbound LRT tracks
 - Move existing freight rail track about 15 feet to the west of its current location
- Vegetation within the rail corridor will be removed
- Limits of LRT construction do not impact private property



Existing Conditions

- Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) identifies visual impacts west of rail corridor and indicates mitigation opportunities
 - No notable increase in sound or vibration according to noise analysis conducted as part of FEIS
- City Council resolution identifies need for visual screening as part of the BLRT project
 - Petition submitted February 2016 with 31 different properties represented



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

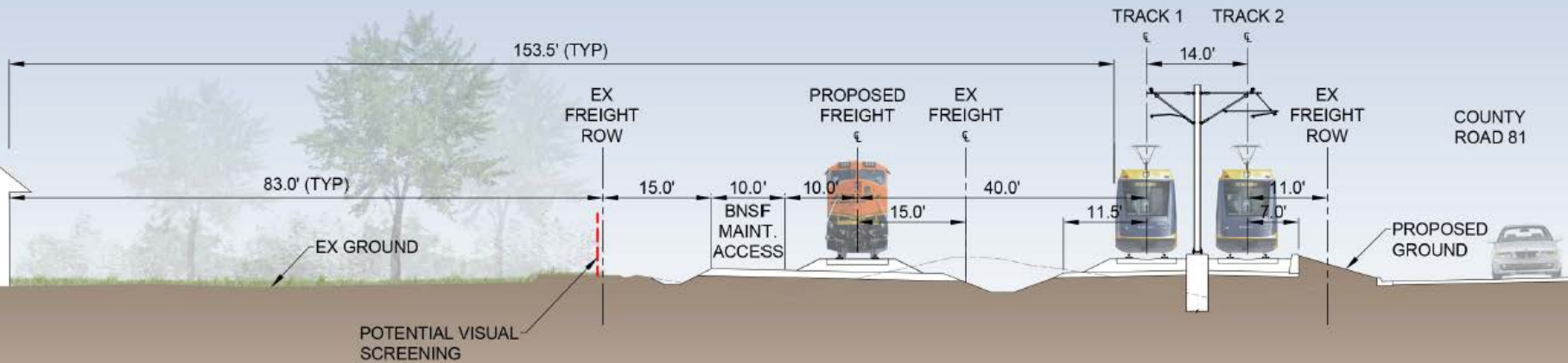


Visual Screening Options

- Visual screening based on property owner input
 - Type
 - Materials
 - Visual appearance
 - Height
 - Standard residential ~6 ft
 - Location



Visual Screening



DRAFT-WORK IN PROCESS



BNSF Requirements

- Corridor protection fence must be in place on western border of rail corridor: between Elmhurst/Hampshire properties and freight rail
- Unknown if contiguous visual screening fence option would satisfy corridor BNSF corridor protection requirements
- BLRT will not have access rights to west side of corridor



Visual Screening: Next Steps

- Record feedback from May 24 community meeting
- Follow up with property owners (2 – 3 weeks)
- Bring property owner feedback and preferences to city council
- BLRT project staff and Crystal city staff develop screening plan
- Incorporate designs into 60% design plans (winter 2016-2017)



More Information

The screenshot shows the Metropolitan Council website with a navigation menu at the top: About Us | News & Events | Data & Maps | Publications | Doing Business | Council Meetings | Contact Us | Employment. Below the navigation is the Metropolitan Council logo and a menu with categories: COMMUNITIES, PARKS, TRANSPORTATION (highlighted), WASTEWATER & WATER, HOUSING, and PLANNING. The main content area features a photograph of a blue and yellow METRO bus at a station platform with passengers. Below the photo is a sidebar with a dropdown menu for 'METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION' and a main section titled 'METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION Bottineau Transitway – Minneapolis & Northwestern Communities'. The main section contains a paragraph describing the LRT route and a 'Latest News' link with the text 'Feds: Met Council can begin designing METRO Blue Line Extension'. A 'Route' link is also present with the text 'Click on the map below for more information'.

Route

Stations

Environmental

Timeline

Project Partners

METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION

Bottineau Transitway – Minneapolis & Northwestern Communities

The METRO Blue Line Extension (LRT) will operate northwest from downtown Minneapolis through north Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park, drawing riders northwest of Brooklyn Park. The proposed alignment is primarily at-grade and will have up to 11 new stations in addition to Target Field Station and about 13 miles of double track. The line will interline with the METRO Blue Line and connect Minneapolis and the region's northwest suburbs with existing LRT on the METRO Green Line, future LRT on the METRO Green Line Extension, bus rapid transit on the METRO Red Line, the Northstar commuter rail line and local and express bus routes.

Latest News
Feds: Met Council can begin designing METRO Blue Line Extension

Route
Click on the map below for more information

Website: BlueLineExt.org

Email: BlueLineExt@metrotransit.org

Twitter: [@BlueLineExt](https://twitter.com/BlueLineExt)

