Project Facts

Route and Stations

The planned METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) light rail transit project will operate about 13 miles northwest from downtown Minneapolis through north Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park, drawing riders northwest of Brooklyn Park. The line will have 11 new stations in addition to Target Field Station where it will continue as the METRO Blue Line, providing one-seat rides to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. It will connect Minneapolis and the region’s northwest communities with existing LRT on the METRO Green Line, future LRT on the METRO Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT), bus rapid transit on the METRO Orange Line and METRO Red Line, the Northstar commuter rail line and local and express bus routes. See map on reverse side.

Cost Estimate

The Blue Line Extension is estimated to cost $1.536 billion. At this time, it is anticipated that funds for capital costs will come from the Federal Transit Administration, Hennepin County, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, Counties Transit Improvement Board and other local cost participation including Brooklyn Park and Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Timeline

In July 2016, the Federal Transit Administration published the Final Environmental Impact Statement and in September 2016, the FTA issued its Record of Decision. Blue Line Extension anticipates beginning passenger service in 2024 as an extension of the Blue Line. Next steps include:

- Complete third-party agreements and finalize design.
- Apply for the Full Funding Grant Agreement, which commits the federal government to pay 49 percent of the project’s capital cost.
- Construct tracks, stations and facilities; install electrical and communication systems.
- Test the system and prepare for revenue operations.