



BAC: April 19, 2022



Brooklyn Park | Crystal | Robbinsdale | Minneapolis



Today's Topics

- Route Recommendation
- Anti-Displacement Work Group



Approve February 2022 Meeting Summary

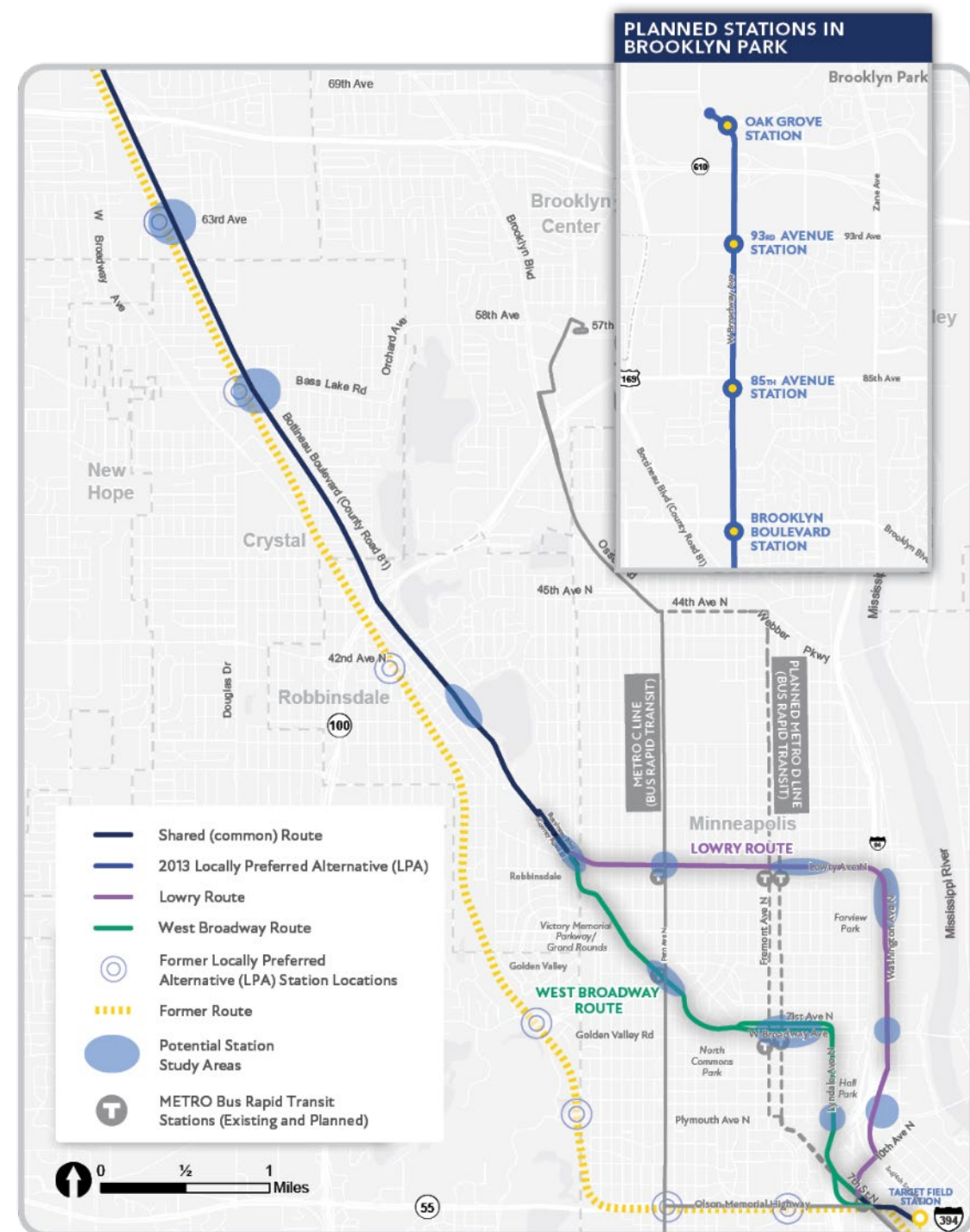


Overview



Route Options

- **Brooklyn Park** – former route and stations along West Broadway remain the same
- **Brooklyn Park, Crystal and Robbinsdale** – proposed route along Bottineau Blvd (County Road 81) closes parallels the original route for most of this area
- **Minneapolis** – two route options are being evaluated: one along Lowry/Washington (purple) and one along West Broadway Avenue (green)



2020-2022 Milestones

ONGOING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We're here 

AUGUST
2020

Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council issued a joint statement on advancing the project without using 8 miles of railroad right-of-way

MARCH
2021

Release of the Initial Route Evaluation Report that identified potential route options

JULY
2021

Release of potential station study areas and visualizations of light rail

NOVEMBER
2021

Release of preliminary design options on how LRT could fit into each community

DECEMBER
2021

Release of Draft Route Modification Report

SPRING
2022

Release of Route Modification Report

SUMMER
2022

Route recommendation approval by Hennepin County and Metropolitan Council; Environmental review phase & advanced engineering begins



Rounds of Engagement

- **August 2020 to January 2021:** Input on project goals, concerns, opportunities, and thoughts on potential new routes
- **March to June 2021:** Input on new route options released as part of the Initial Route Modification Report
- **July to August 2021:** Input on the connections that light rail would make within communities and station locations within those areas
- **September to December 2021:** Input on updated design concepts and potential opportunities and impacts of light rail options
- **December 2021 to March 2022:** Input on the Draft Route Modification Report findings and answered questions on how comments were shaping the route recommendation.



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



Community Cohort

- To ensure voices from all backgrounds are involved in decisions, the project continues to work with a community engagement cohort
- Direct contracting with community and cultural organizations for outreach and/or communications support
 - Three rounds of cohort member: foundation setting, route investigation/ community interests, route selection

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COHORT	AREAS SERVED
Asian Media Access Inc ↻	Area 1, 2, 3
CAPI USA	Area 1, 3
Encouraging Leaders ↻	Area 3
Harrison Neighborhood Association	Area 3
Juxtaposition Arts	Area 3
Lao Center of MN ↻	Area 1, 3
Liberian Business Association ↻	Area 1, 2
Northside Economic Opportunity Network ↻	Area 2, 3
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council	Area 3
West Broadway Business Coalition	Area 3
Jordan Area Community Council	Area 3
Hawthorne Neighborhood Council	Area 3
Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza ⚡	Area 1, 2, 3

↻ Continuing cohort engagement in 2022

⚡ Began in February 2022

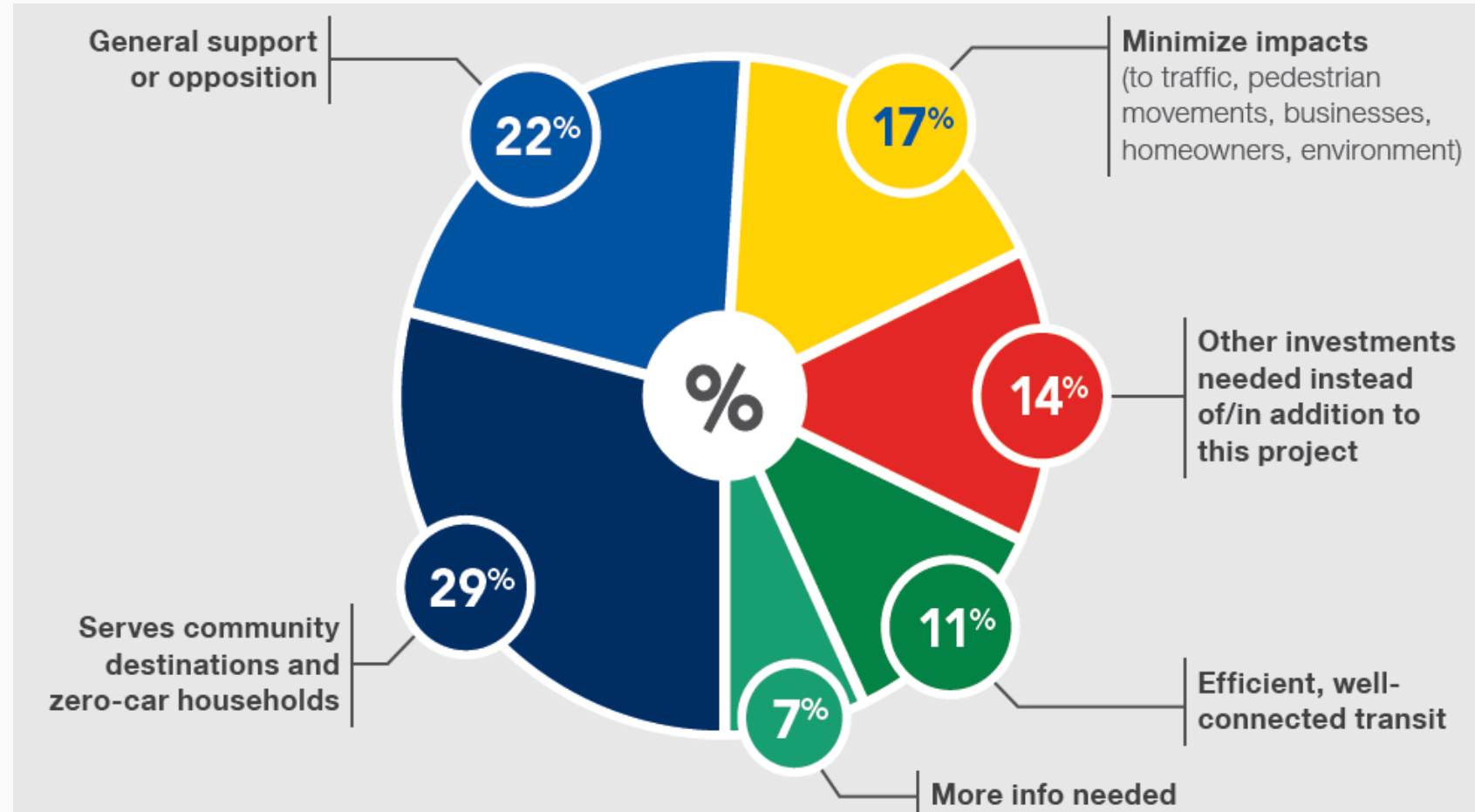


Advisory Committee Decision-Making Process

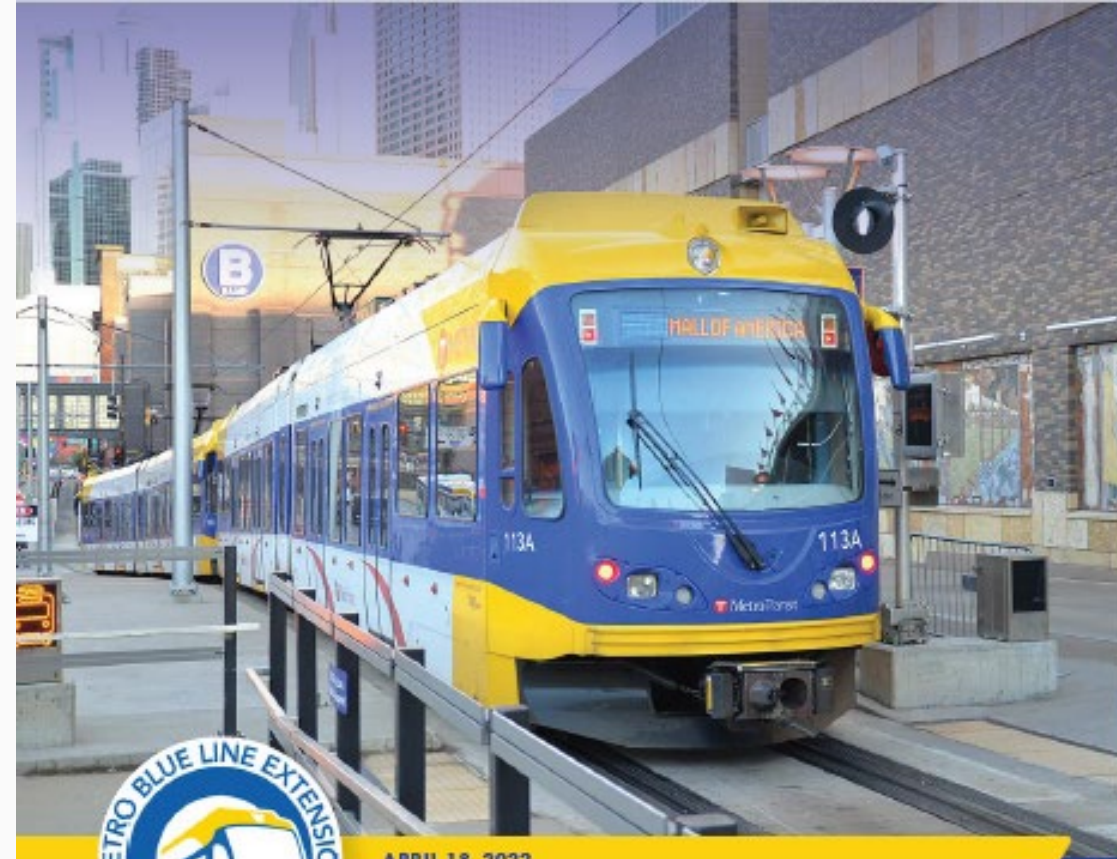


Comments on the Draft Report

- Comment Form: 132 responses
- Emailed Comments: 13
- Agency Comment Letters: 5 (Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and Maple Grove)
- Interactive Map Comments: 296 (during the comment period)
- Open House Comments: 55 comments



Route Modification Report Overview



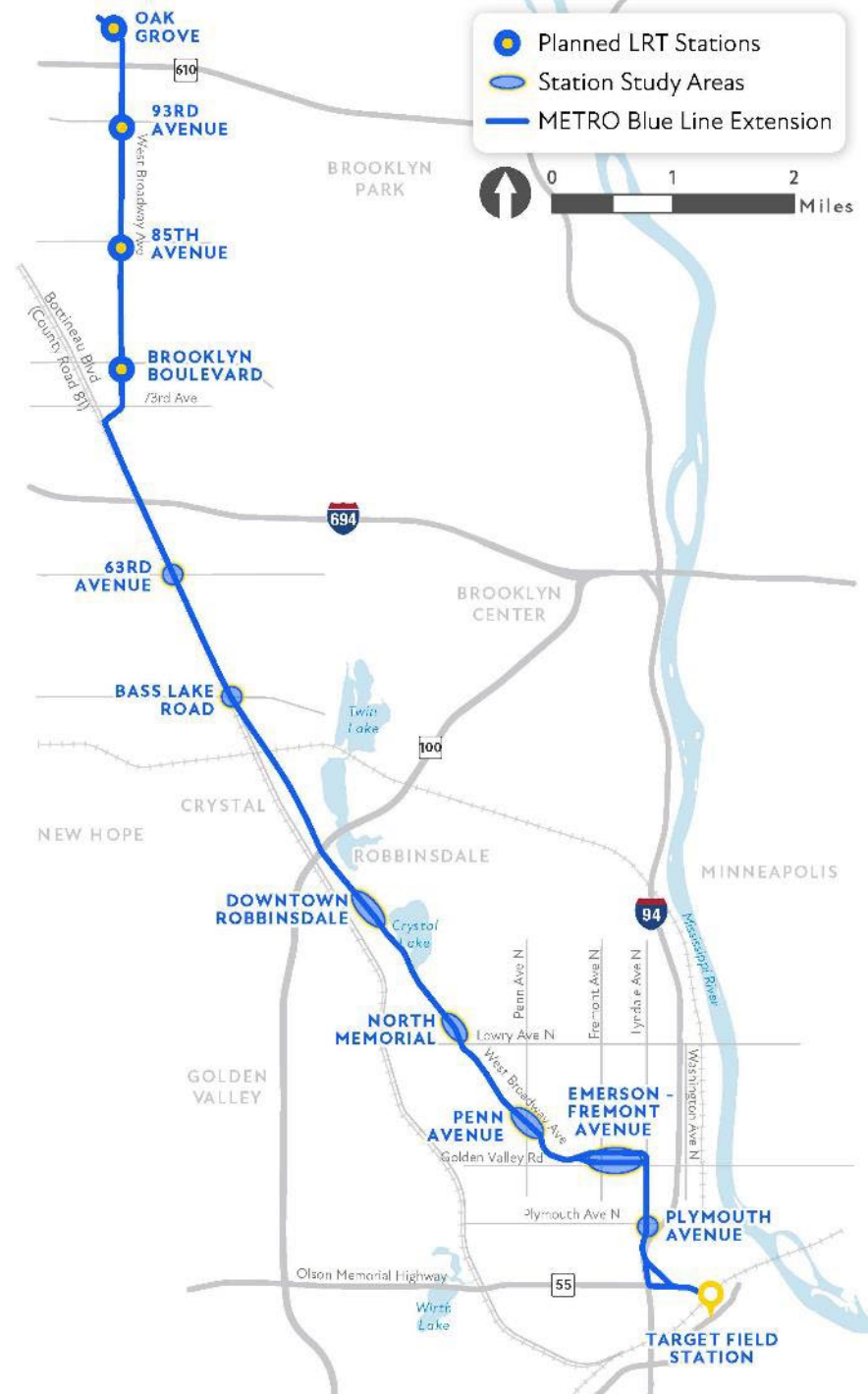
APRIL 18, 2022

METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION Route Modification Report



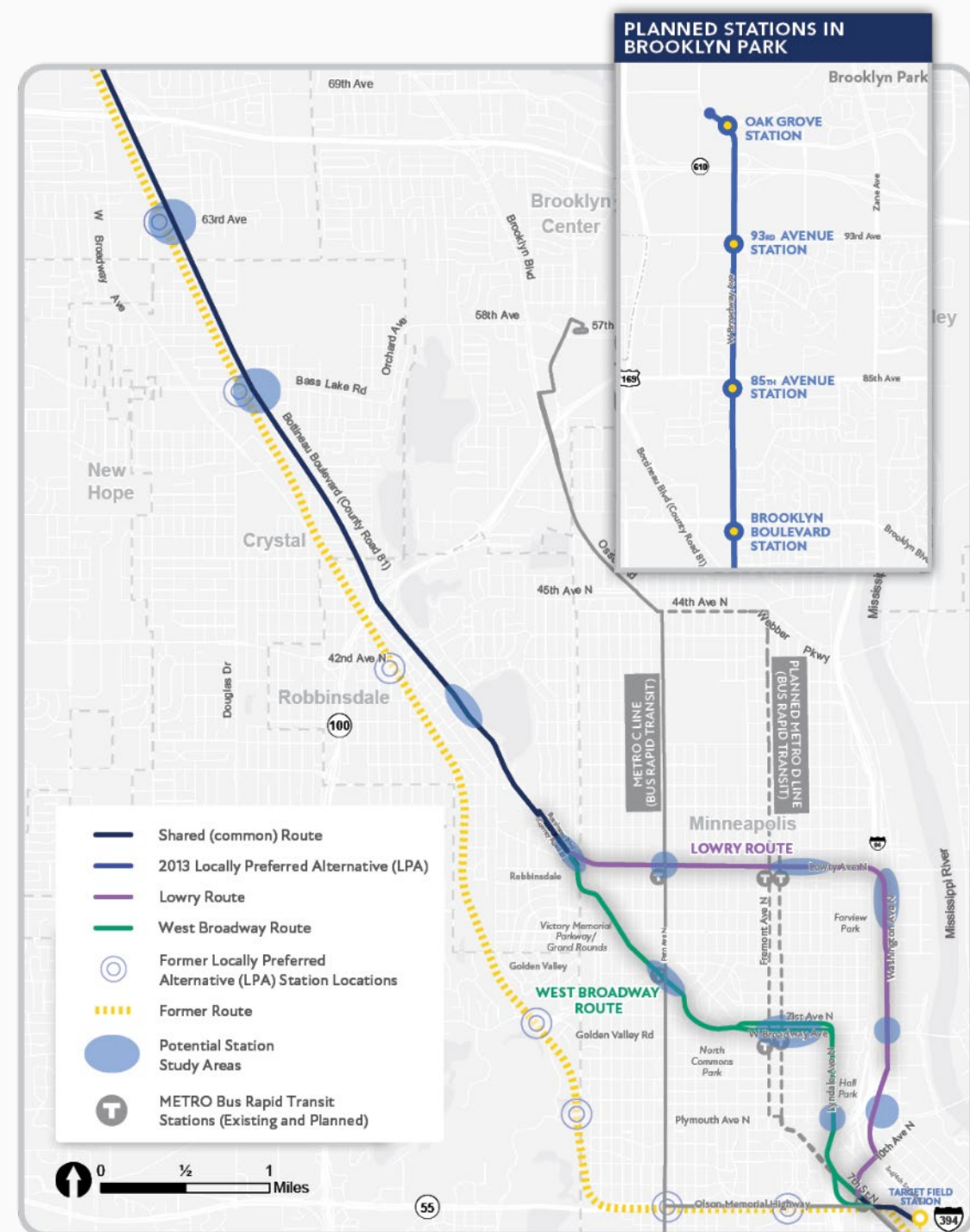
Route Recommendation

- The route recommendation is to extend the existing Blue Line from Target Field Station along West Broadway Avenue in Minneapolis to County Road 81 in Crystal and Robbinsdale, and along West Broadway Avenue in Brooklyn Park.



Purpose of the Route Modification Report

- Documents the overall process since the new route options were released in March 2021
- Evaluation incorporates public input from engagement efforts over the past year
- Provides an overview of technical work that informs the route modifications
- Evaluates each route against the Project Principles and Project Goals









Report Assessments

- Each route was reviewed for its ability to achieve the Project Principles and Project Goals and achieved an assessment of Excellent, Good or Poor
- **POOR:** did not meet project goals
- **GOOD:** meets project goals and provides benefits in serving the community
- **EXCELLENT:** route has unique characteristics and/or has the potential to deliverer exemplary positive benefits

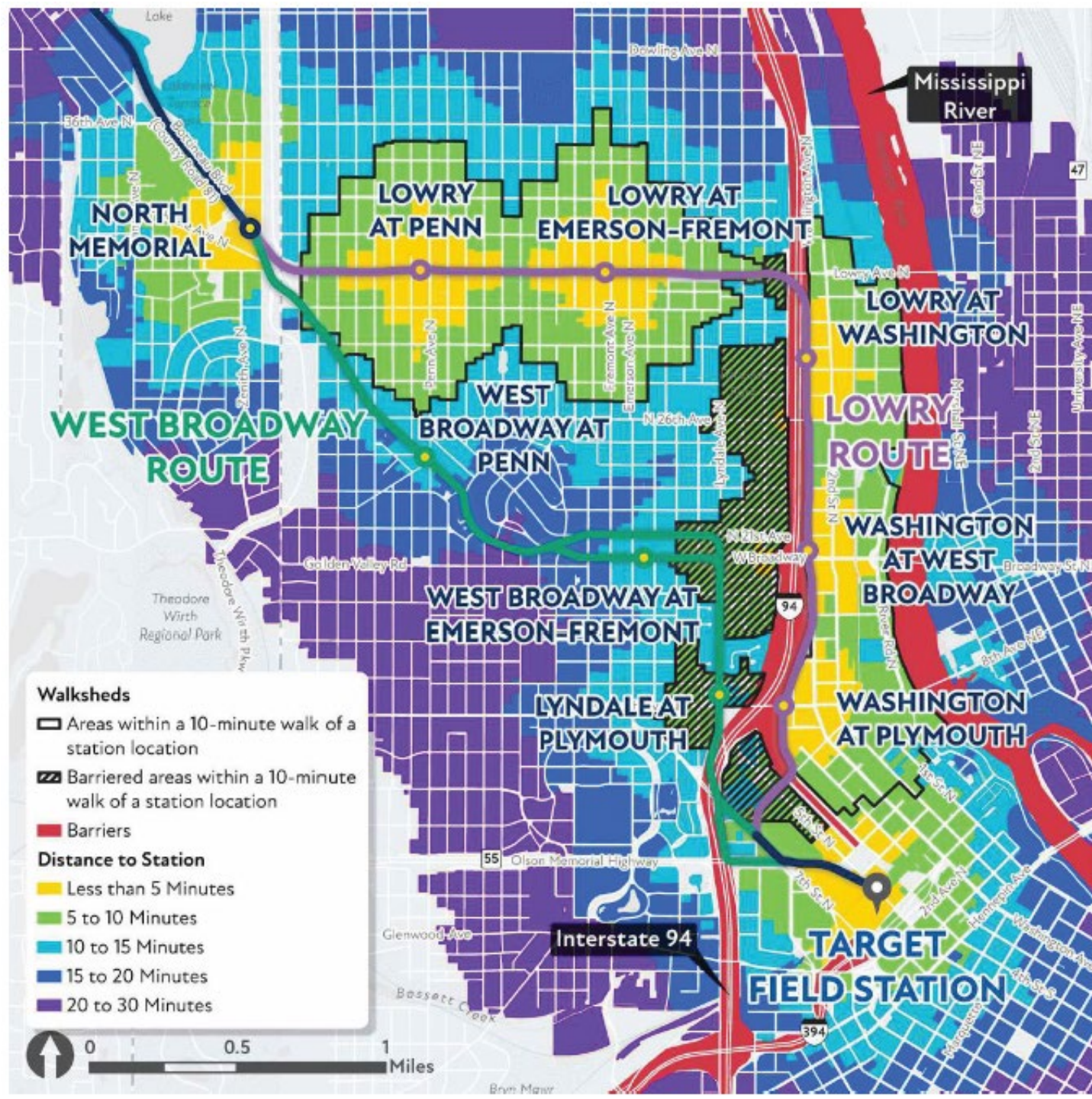
Summary Matrix

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
 Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
 Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	GOOD	GOOD
 Provide transit improvements that maximize transit benefits, while being cost competitive and economically viable	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
 Support communities' development goals	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT
 Promote healthy communities and sound environmental practices including efforts to address climate change	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
 Advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional economic disparities	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT

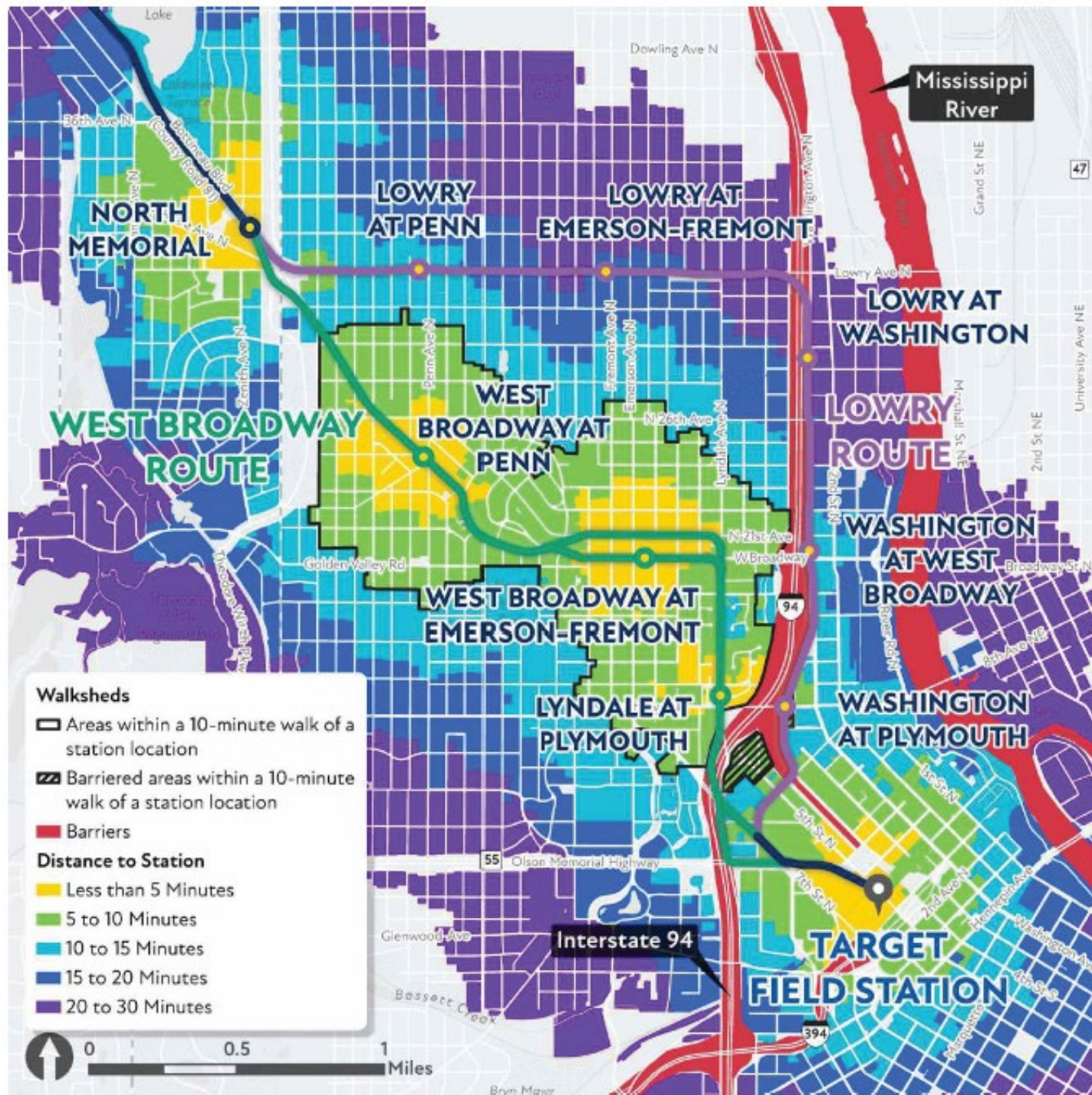
Walksheds and Barriers to Stations

- Lowry/Washington Route:
 - Walkshed areas west of I-94 are cut off and difficult to access station areas



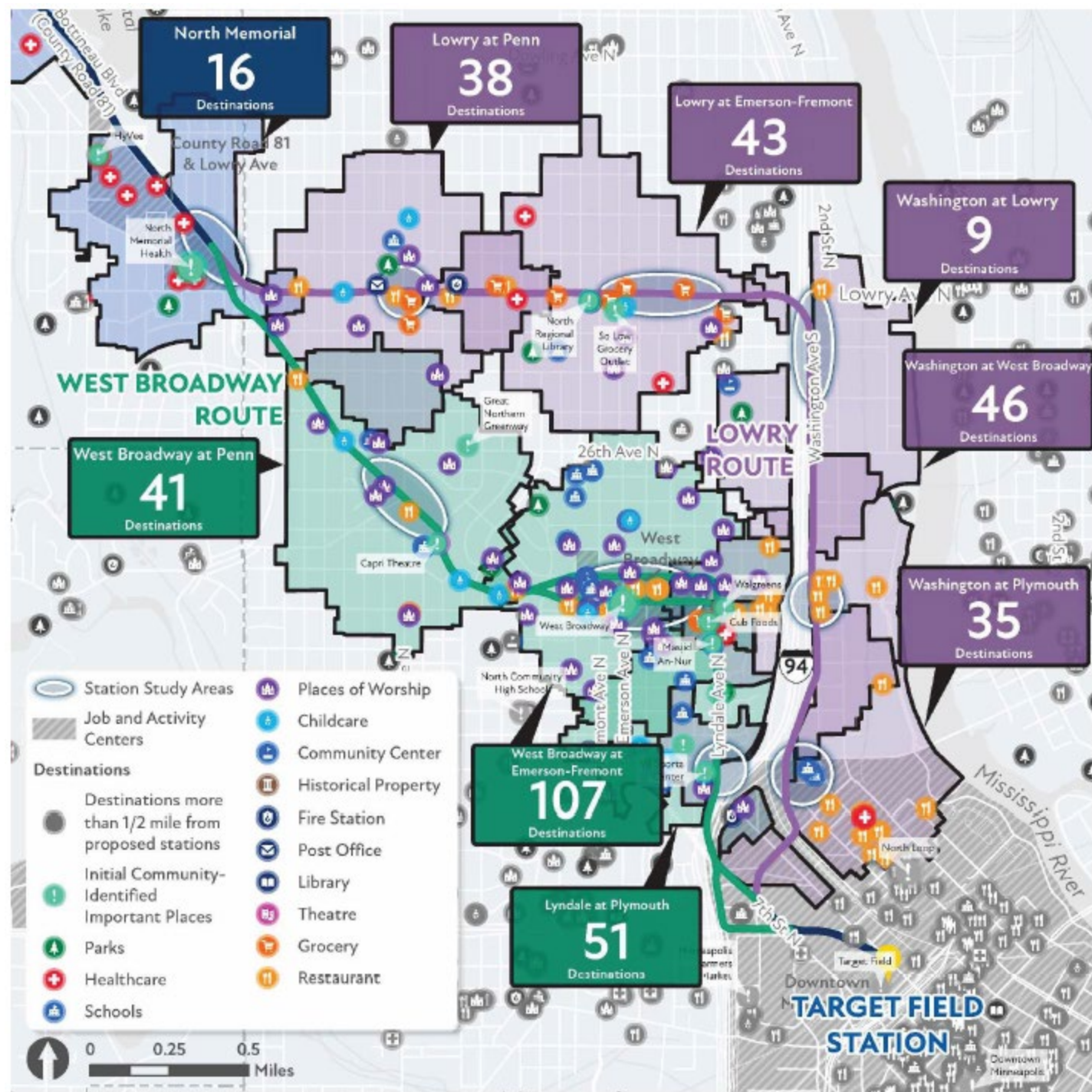
Walksheds and Barriers to Stations (continued)

- West Broadway Route:
 - Walksheds largely accessible, except for small portion of Lyndale at Plymouth walkshed



Regional Destinations

- West Broadway is a vibrant cultural/economic corridor with regional destinations and services (i.e., Capri Theater, Masjid An-Nur)



Next Steps & Schedule

- **Spring 2022:** Comment period on the Route Modification Report will be from April 18 - May 18
- **Summer 2022:** begin environmental process: an opportunity for deeper analysis and further engagement



Discussion



Anti-Displacement Work Group



Building the Table

- Goal: Establish an Anti-Displacement Work Group to create implementable recommendations
- Build a team that has the support, expertise, and resources to deliver measurable outcomes
 - Convened and managed by a third-party facilitator
 - Meets on a regular basis through the duration of the project
 - Reports regularly to Blue Line Extension Advisory Committees and Community Works Steering Committee
 - Develops workplan



Community Feedback Influenced the RFP

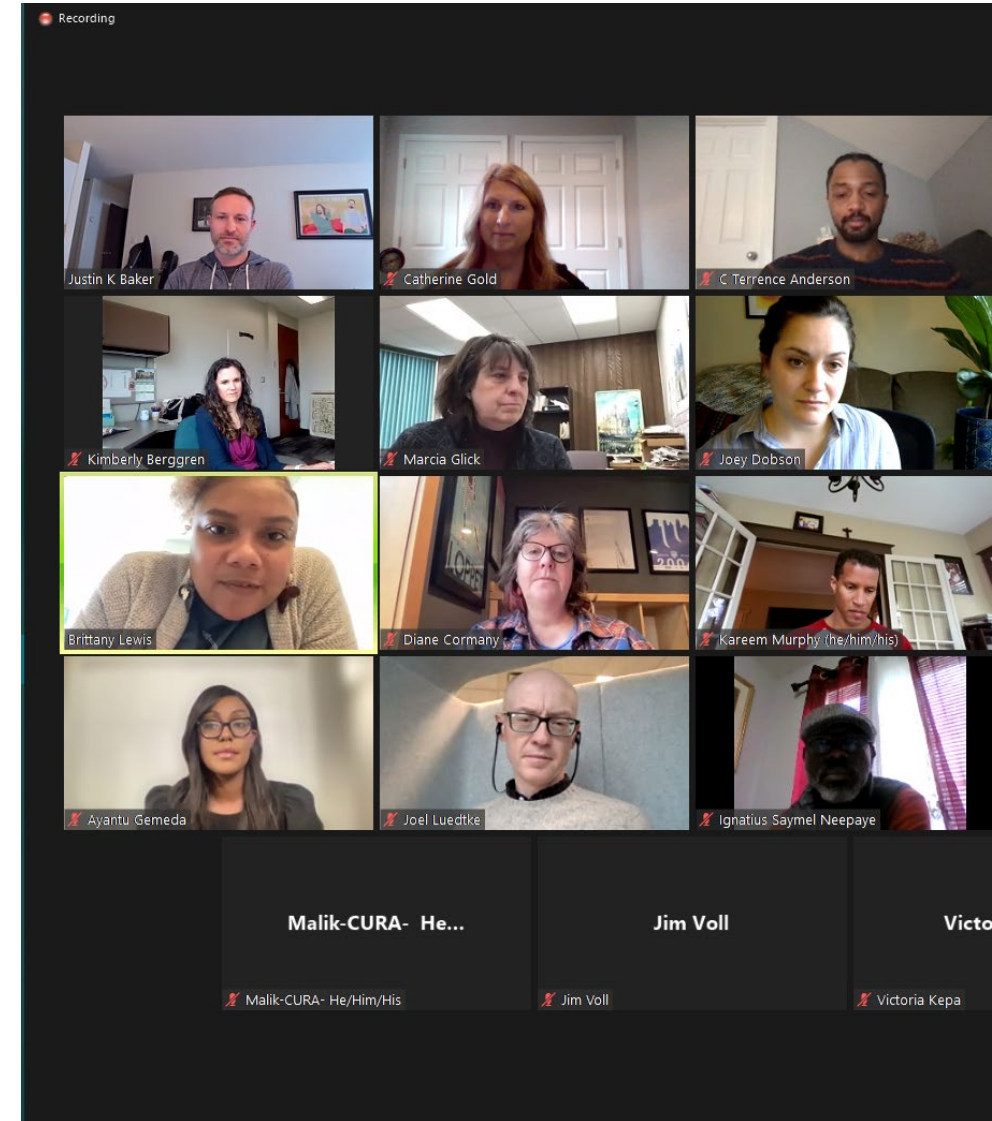
- Clear priority for local experience
- Implementable strategies that address all phases of the project: Planning, Construction and Operations
- Sense of urgency around the timeline & need to coordinate with route selection
- Case studies must be relevant and preferably local

Anti-Displacement Work Group

- Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota is facilitating the Work Group and conducting research
- Work group consist of government, community members affiliated with organizations businesses, non-affiliated community members and philanthropic organization representatives

General Principles of the Work Group:

- Develop recommendations that can be practically implemented
- Work through existing tensions between various interests
- Support community to take a deep dive into displacement, while also respecting their lives and commitments
- Develop structures around the group that allow the group to develop clarity on ideas while also bringing along implementers for the discussion



Anti-Displacement Work Group Timeline

- First Anti-Displacement Work Group meeting was held on March 10, 2022
- Future meeting topics include:
 - May 2022 (lessons from existing light rail projects)
 - September 2022 (housing and cultural displacement)
 - October 2022 (business displacement)
 - February 2023 (finalizing recommendations)
- Qualitative and quantitative research has begun
- Planning overall outreach and engagement on the project



Next Meeting: May*



Stay Connected!

- Project website: 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
- Follow us:
 - Twitter: [@BlueLineExt](https://twitter.com/BlueLineExt)
 - Facebook: [MetroBlueLineExtension](https://www.facebook.com/MetroBlueLineExtension)



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