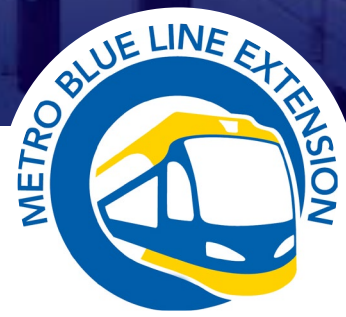


# Business Advisory Committee

April 4, 2023



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



# Today's Topics

- Project Update
- Environmental Update
- Robbinsdale Design Decisions
- Anti-Displacement Update
- Questions



The public can submit written comments to Nkongo Cigolo ([Nkongo.Cigolo@metrotransit.org](mailto:Nkongo.Cigolo@metrotransit.org))

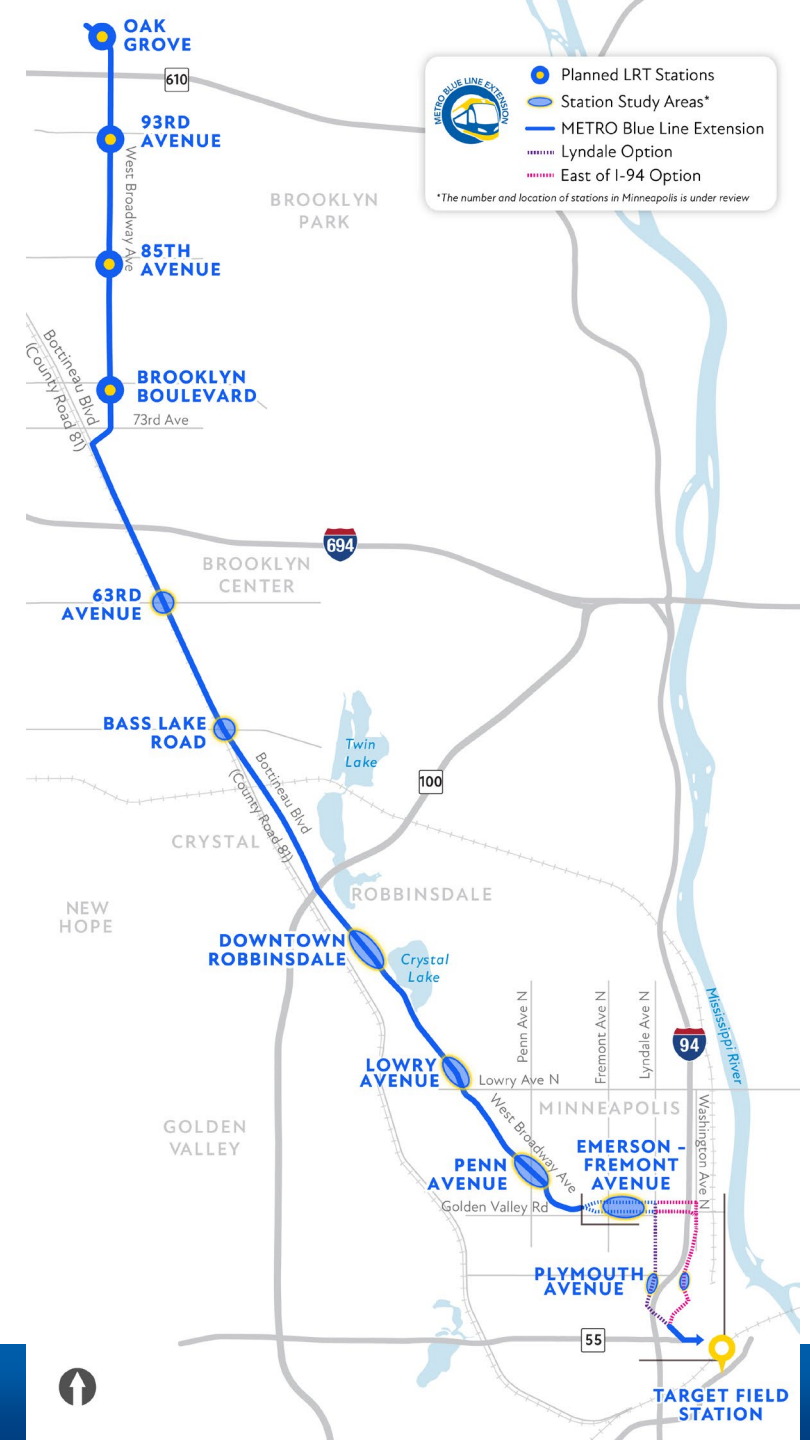
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# Project Update



# Blue Line LRT Extension

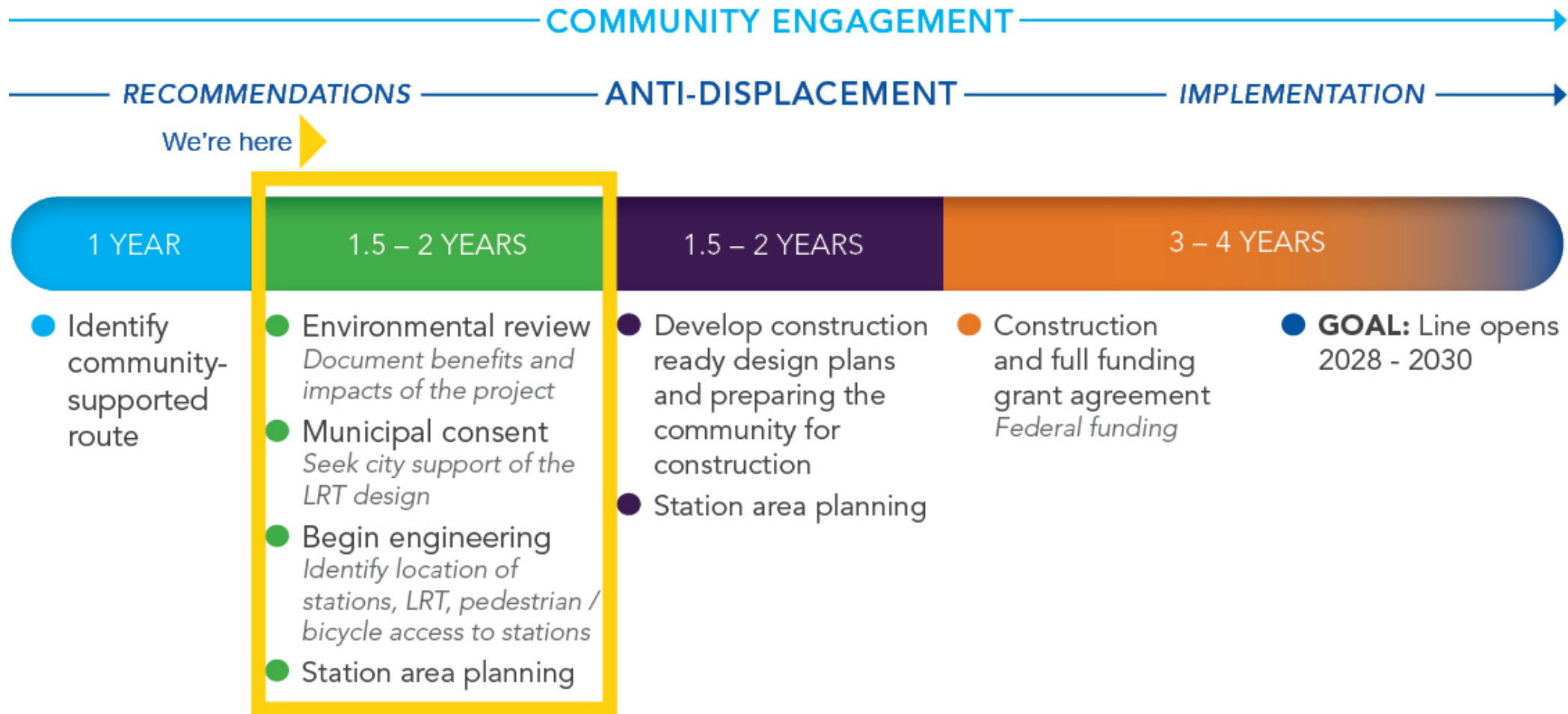
- Located in Hennepin County directly connecting downtown Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park and communities in the northwest metro
- Supplemental Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process underway for modified route adopted in June 2022
- Public engagement ongoing, including an Anti-Displacement Workgroup
- Policy recommendation in Summer 2023 for preferred route where Supplemental DEIS includes more than one option
- Advancement of Environmental and Engineering along final preferred route will inform updated cost estimate, travel time analysis and ridership



# Project Schedule

**Blue Line Extension Community Supported Route:**

- Best meets the project Principles and Goals
- Grounded in community feedback through collaboration with stakeholders
- Supported by project corridor communities and decision-makers



*LRT projects are complex and unforeseen challenges arise. Schedules and timelines are subject to change.*



# Design Refinements Informed by Outreach

## ■ Brooklyn Park:

- Additional station lighting, trail connections to/from station, uniform fence

## ■ Crystal:

- Evaluated 4, 5, and 6 traffic lane options with LRT from Bass Lake Road to Hwy 100

## ■ Robbinsdale:

- Park-and-Ride options
- Refined station location options

## ■ Minneapolis:

- Re-evaluate the East of I-94 option (and remove the West of I-94 option)
- Removed the mixed LRT and traffic on 21<sup>st</sup> Ave
- Reduced property impacts, where possible
- Add a second station between Lyndale Ave and James Ave
- Explored pedestrian connections to/from Lowry Ave Station

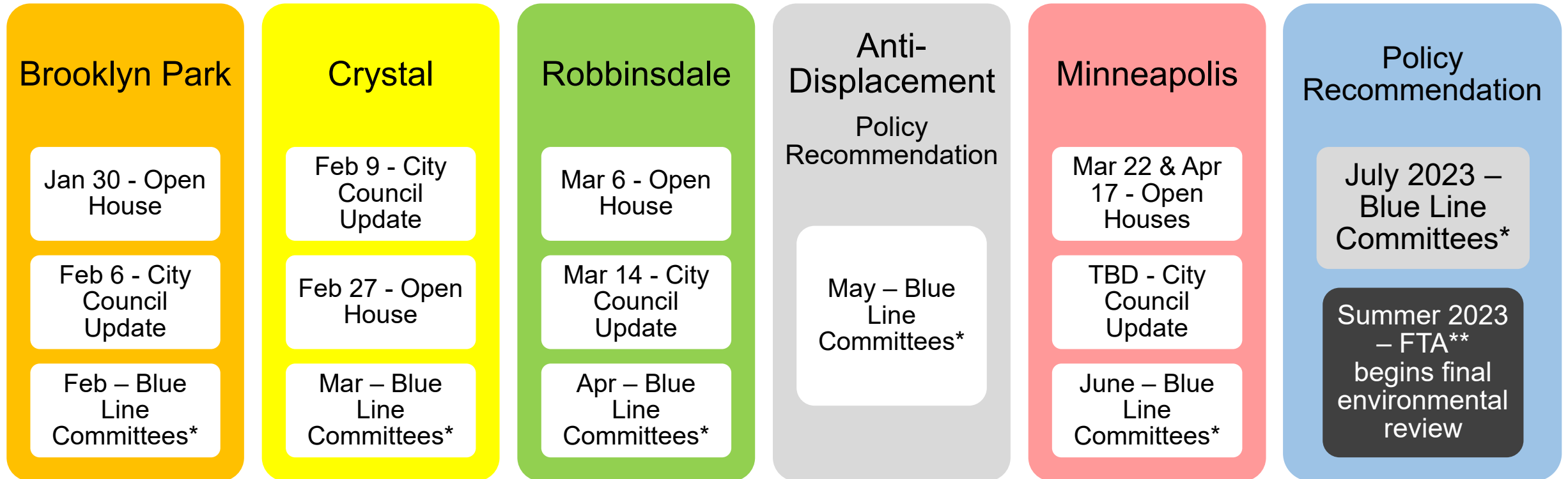


# Blue Line Route Recommendation

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Blue Lines Committees including Corridor Management Committee (CMC)</b>	Orange	Yellow	Green	Grey	Pink	Blue					
<b>Brooklyn Park</b>	Orange			Grey		Orange					
<b>Crystal</b>		Yellow		Grey		Yellow					
<b>Robbinsdale</b>			Green	Grey		Green					
<b>Minneapolis</b>				Grey	Pink	Pink					
<b>Anti-Displacement Workgroup</b>	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
<b>Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</b>					Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red



# Outreach and Engagement Plan



*Other 2023 BLRT outreach & engagement includes meetings with community, key stakeholders, businesses and property owners; Anti Displacement Working Group; Community Engagement Cohort; Cultivate Arts; etc.*



\*Technical Project Advisory Committee (TPAC), Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Business Advisory Committee (BAC), Corridor Management Committee (CMC); \*\*Federal Transit Administration (FTA)



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# Environmental Update



# Environmental Schedule

1. Selected design options studied in Supplemental Draft EIS\*

- Public comment period on the design options (Oct 18 – Nov 7, 2022)

2. Prepare Supplemental Draft EIS

- Public comment period on the findings
- BLRT Anti-Displacement recommendations

3. Select preferred route

- Public comment period and municipal consent

4. Prepare Supplemental Final EIS and mitigation commitments

- Public comment on the mitigation commitments

we are here



Original FEIS completed July 2016



\*EIS = Environmental Impact Statement

# Federal Register Notice

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- Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental EIS to be published in the Federal Register
- Parallel Federal step to Minnesota EQB Monitor Notice published October 2022
- 30-day comment period regarding the scope of the Supplemental EIS and alternatives



# SDEIS Chapter 7: Environmental Justice

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- Determine presence/locations of Environmental Justice communities (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; low-income populations) using Census data and information gained through outreach
- Consider potential effects to Environmental Justice populations, including if there are disproportionately high and adverse impacts
- Determine if adverse effects could be avoided, minimized, or mitigated



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# Robbinsdale Design Decisions for SDEIS



# Project Design Principles

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Maintain BLRT Purpose and Need

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Minimize travel time

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Maximize ridership

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Maximize community and economic development

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Maximize Federal Transit Administration New Starts project rating

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Pursue opportunities to serve even more people and destinations

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Complement existing and planned METRO transitways

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Minimize residential, commercial and environmental impacts

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Support safety and connections prioritizing people walking, biking, and rolling

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Maximize carbon pollution reduction

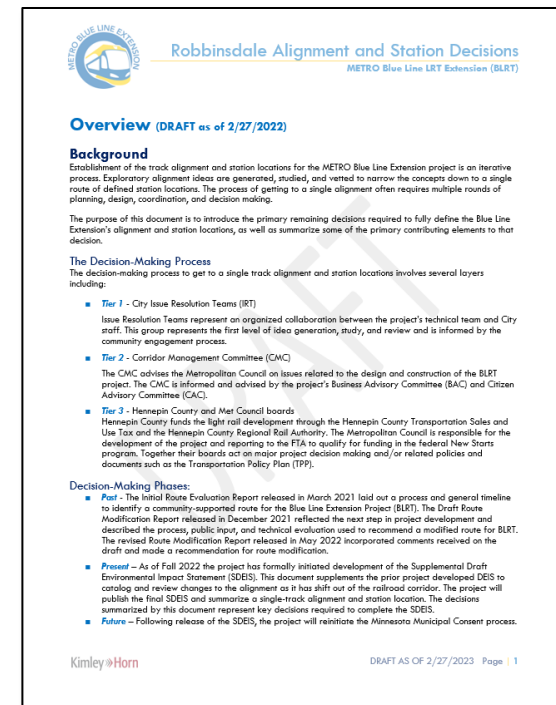
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# Review Design Decisions Document for Robbinsdale

- Decision-Making Process & Phases
- Engagement Plan
- List of key decisions
- Community input
- Environmental considerations
- Stakeholder input
- Outstanding issues and questions for design

## See Handout



# Robbinsdale Alignment

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- Route Alignment
  - Center running CR 81
    - At-grade
    - Evaluate downtown configuration for traffic operations and right of way impacts
  - Reconstruct portion of the bridge over TH 100
  - Downtown station
  - Downtown park and ride
  - Station at Lowry Ave





# Robbinsdale Alignment - North

- 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. to 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.



BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION  
 CITY OF ROBBINSDALE - DRAFT ROLLALOT

02/28/2023





# Robbinsdale Key Design Decisions

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- Route Alignment
  - Configuration of guideway
- Downtown LRT Station
  - Location
- Downtown Park and Ride
  - Location
  - Transit Connections
- Station at Lowry Ave

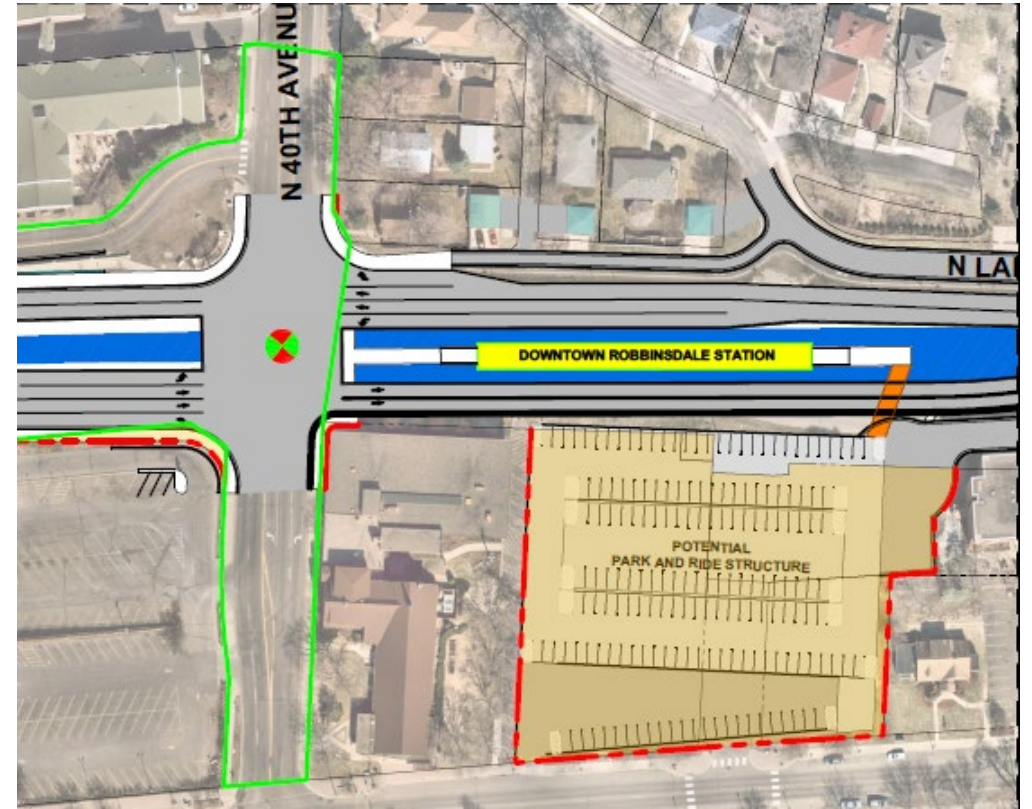


# Downtown Station Options Evaluated

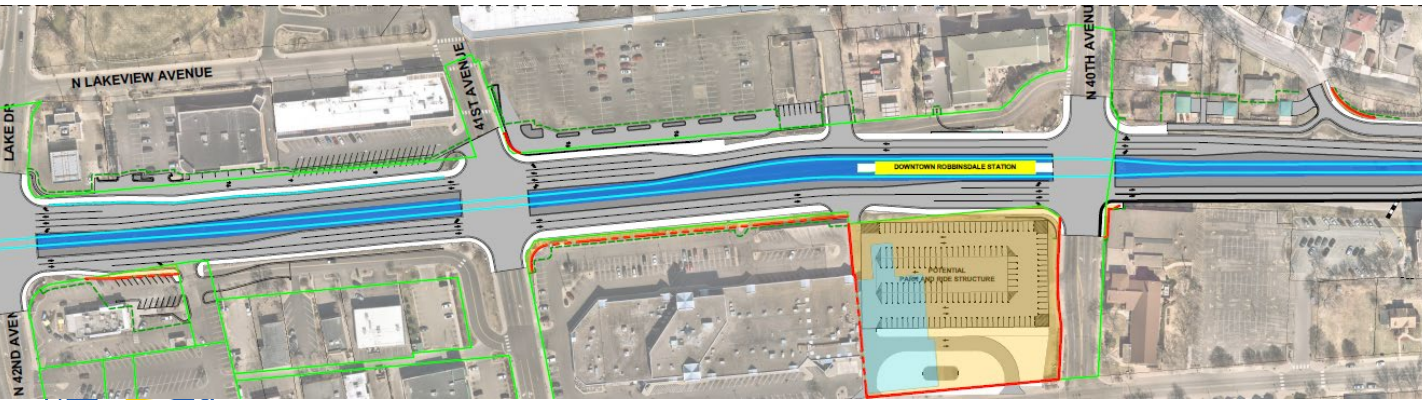
Example of options studied at 41<sup>st</sup> Ave and 40<sup>th</sup> Ave



Center Platform – south of 41<sup>st</sup> Ave



Center Platform – south of 40<sup>th</sup> Ave

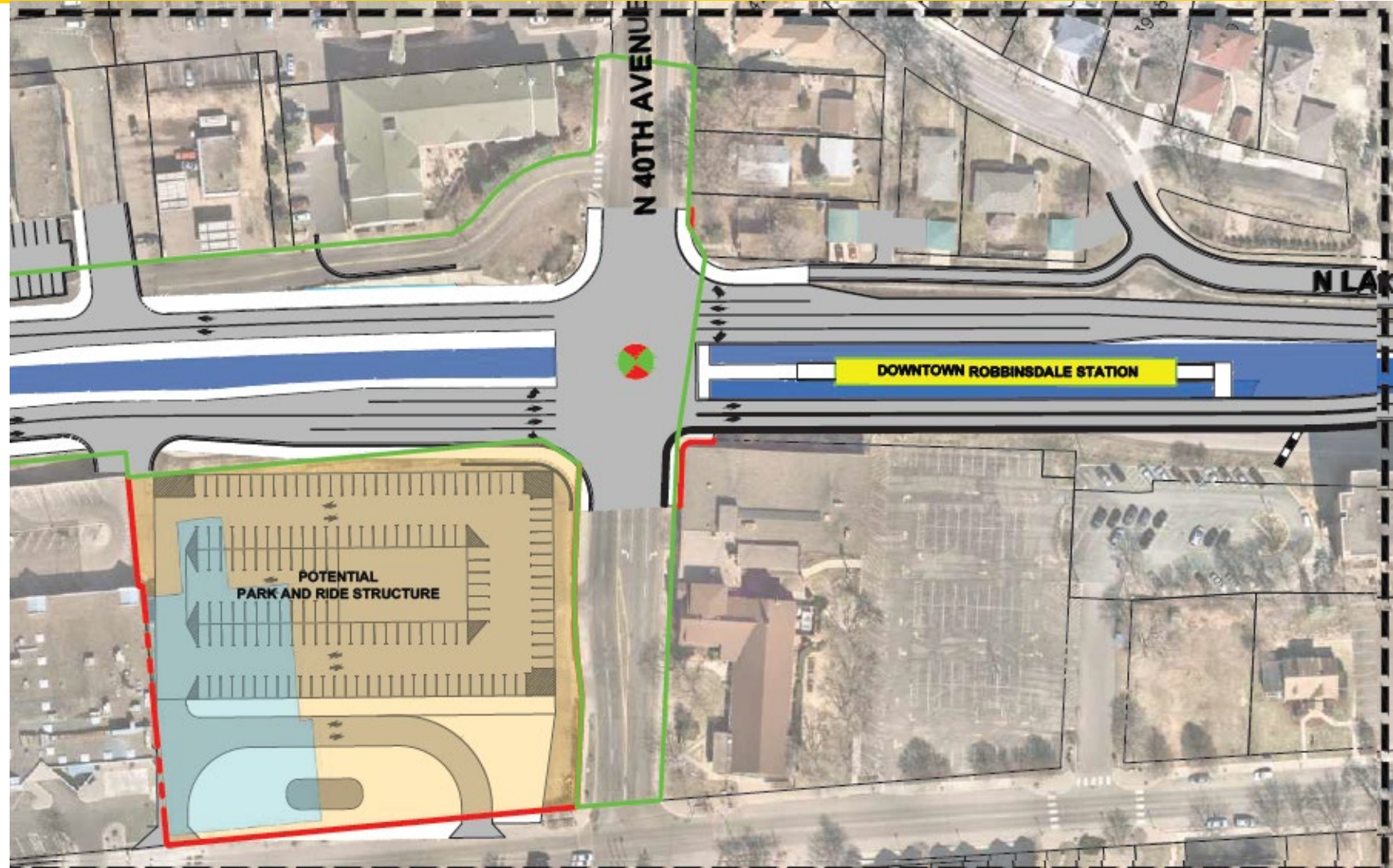


Center Platform – north of 40<sup>th</sup> Ave



# Preferred Downtown Station and Park and Ride

- Station South of 40<sup>th</sup> Ave
- Park and Ride NW corner of CR 81 and 40th Ave



# Robbinsdale Lowry Station



# Robbinsdale Lowry Station

- Guideway on Structure
- Elevated Station
  - Access towers on both ends
- Continue collaboration and refinement with Project Partners



# Robbinsdale Continued Coordination

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- Continue to refine Station Locations and design
  - Optimize rail operations downtown with existing traffic operations and right of way
- Downtown Park and Ride
  - Location
  - Size
  - Transit function
- Address Safety and Security
  - System Safety
  - Pedestrian and Bike Safety





# Community Feedback

- Feedback from March 6, Open House in Robbinsdale
  - Concerns about safety on light rail and in surrounding area
  - Concerns about light rail noise
  - Locate station near Hy-Vee, breweries and restaurants, city hall and downtown
  - Support for 40th Ave station but concerns about congestion
  - Concerned there will be low ridership
  - Dedicated bike and pedestrian access to stations needed
  - Add lighting in station area
  - Mixed support for project



*Robbinsdale Open House, March 6, 2023*



*Robbinsdale Open House, March 6, 2023*



# Community Feedback

- Feedback we've previously heard in Robbinsdale:
  - Need for safe pedestrian crossings
  - Questions about the history of the project and why freight rail property could not be used
  - Desire for station design to focus on safety, greenery, and access to nearby bicycle and pedestrian facilities
  - Concern about impacts to homes and businesses along and adjacent to County Road 81
  - Visual and safety concerns about LRT being grade separated
  - Concern about traffic impacts on County Road 81



*Open House in Robbinsdale, October 2021*

# Minneapolis Design Decisions Preview

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- Route option from Target Field Station to West Broadway
- Route option for LRT on West Broadway or 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue
- Number and Location of Stations
- Penn Avenue Station Location

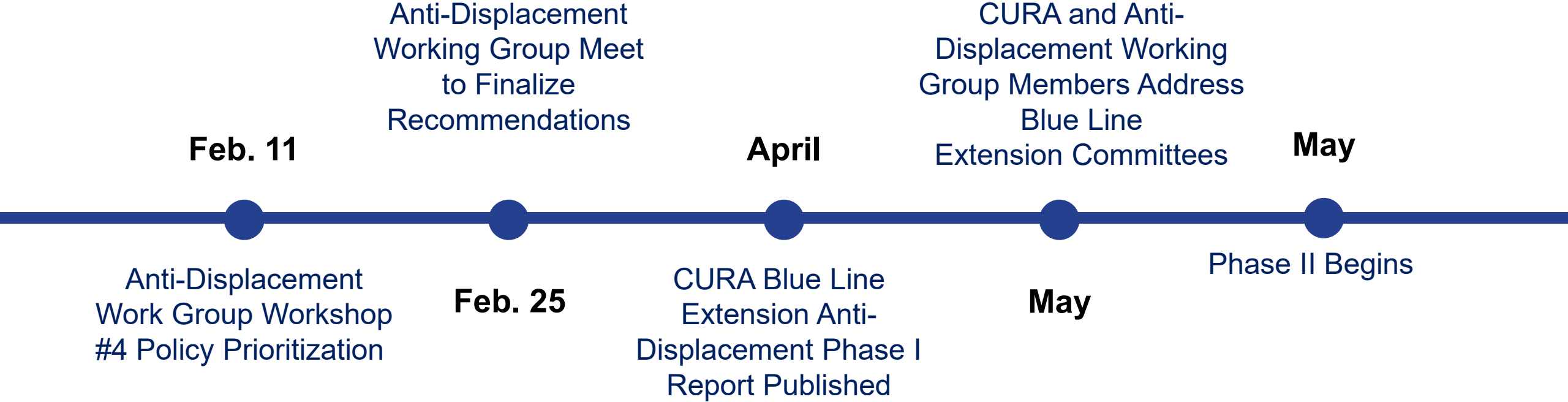


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# Anti-Displacement Work Group Update



# Anti-Displacement Timeline



# Stay connected

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- **BlueLineExt.org**
  - For the latest project updates and to sign up for our newsletter
  - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation
- Follow us:
  - Twitter: @BlueLineExt
  - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension



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