



Joint CAC/BAC Meeting: March 22, 2021



Brooklyn Park | Crystal | Robbinsdale | Golden Valley | Minneapolis



Today's Topics

- Timeline
- Route Options
- Discussion



2021 Timeline



Project Goals

- Select & adopt a community supported alignment by the end of 2021
 - Evaluate route options for benefits and impacts
 - Advance conceptual engineering

Approach & Timeline

December 2020 – March 2021

BLRT
Project
Principles



Develop
Initial Route
Modifications



We are
Here

Evaluation
Based
on Initial
Screening
Criteria and
Community
Feedback



Late Spring – Summer 2021

Refine Route
Modifications



Evaluate
Based on
Project Goals,
Objectives,
and Evaluation
Criteria



Winter 2021

Route
Modifications
Recommended
for Evaluation
in EIS



TIER 1: Qualitative
Evaluation Grounded in
Project Purpose and Need

TIER 2: Quantitative
Evaluation

2021 Milestones

Tier 1: Initial Screening

- Routes options released for analysis and discussion

Tier 2: Route Evaluation

- Draft report with routes evaluated against project criteria with additional engineering work, and preliminary station locations released for comments
- Final draft report with recommended route released for comments

Recommended route

- Route advances for further engineering and environmental work in 2022

2021 Activities and Beyond

- End of 2021: Adopt a community supported route
 - Conceptual engineering for new route options, including station locations
 - Evaluation of project benefits and impacts
 - Identify a community supported route
 - Identify environmental path moving forward
- Beyond 2021
 - Begin environmental analysis
 - Municipal Consent
 - Develop construction ready engineering plans & design details

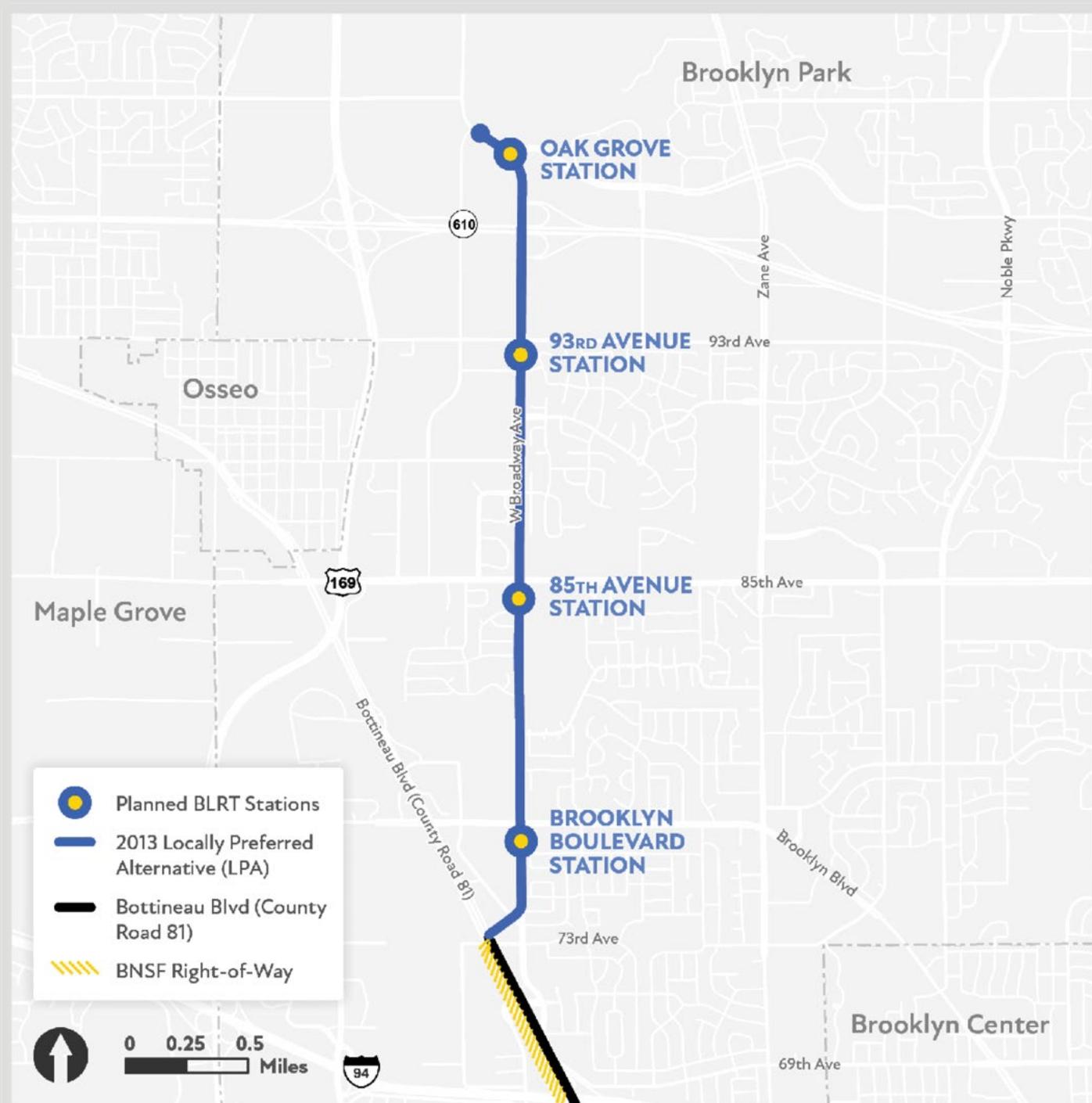
Initial Route Identification



Area 1 Considerations

- The current alignment & stations along West Broadway in Brooklyn Park can be preserved
 - Route is not impacted by the freight rail corridor
 - Modifications to the route and stations is not needed to connect to the remainder of the project
- Consistent with the Project Principles:
 - Retain as much of the previous alignment as possible
 - Maintain existing termini: Target Field Station in Minneapolis and Oak Grove Station in Brooklyn Park
- Serves major destinations in Brooklyn Park: North Hennepin Community College, multiple commercial areas, Target Campus

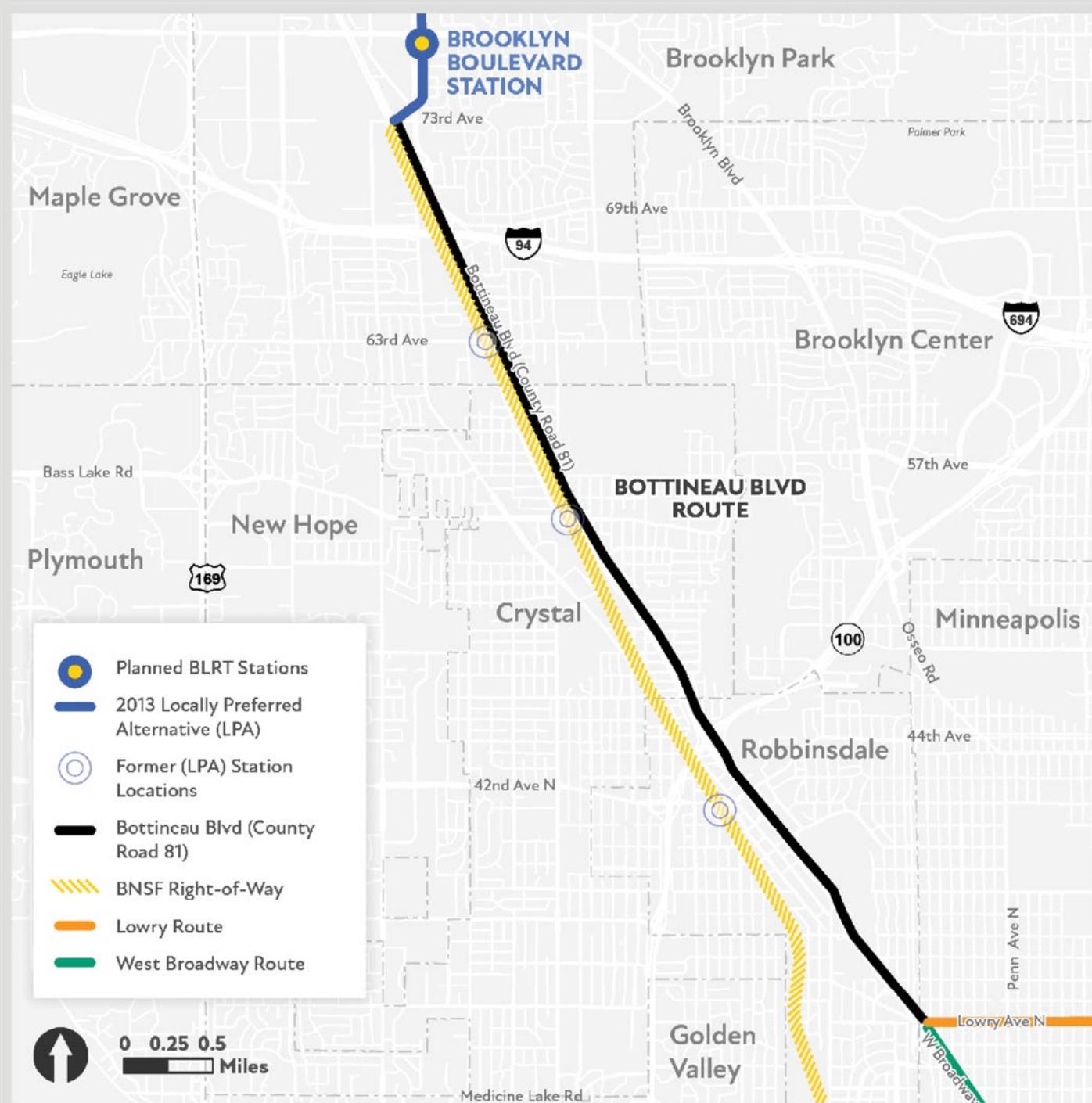
Area 1



Area 2 Considerations

- Consistent with Project Principle: Maintain existing alignment as much as possible
 - Multiple station area elements could be preserved
- Need to avoid geographic features such as Crystal Lake, Twin Lakes, and the Crystal Airport
- Serves major destinations including Crystal's business district, downtown Robbinsdale, North Memorial Campus
 - North Memorial Campus identified as most missed destination from former alignment

Area 2



Area 3 Considerations

- Review of options consistent with Project Principles:
 - Minimize residential, commercial and environmental impacts
 - Complement existing and planned METRO transitways
 - When appropriate, pursue opportunities to serve even more people and destinations, especially areas with lower rates of car ownership/vehicular access and those with mobility challenges

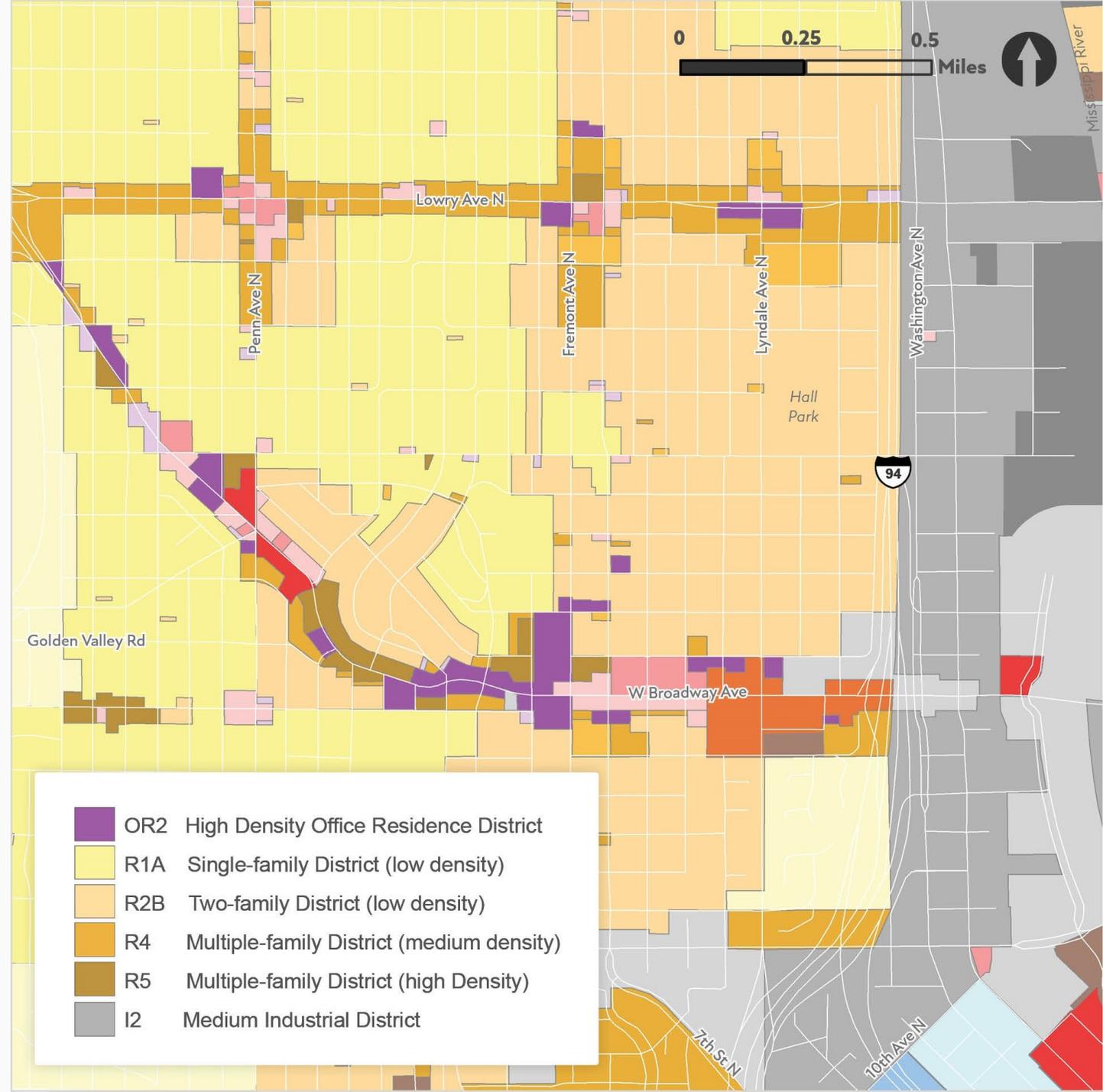
Area 3 Considerations: Public Right of Way

- To fit the LRT guideway, sidewalks, and two travel lanes about 75 feet of right of way is needed
- When additional right of way is available other elements can be included: boulevards, bikeways or street parking



Area 3 Considerations: Compatible Land Use

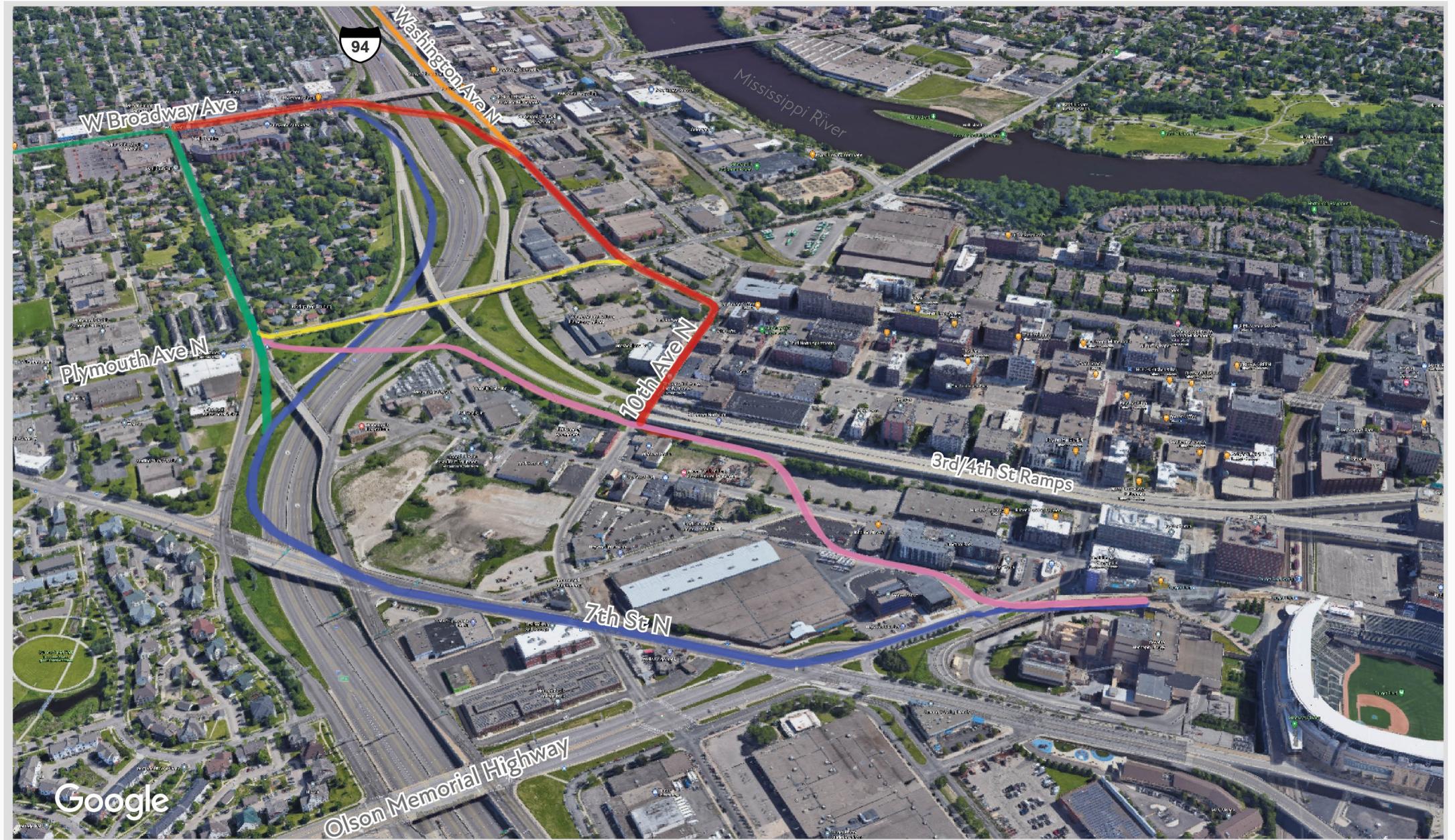
- Light rail is better suited to higher density residential and commercial areas
- Best to place routes where the LRT investment can also leverage related community benefits



Area 3

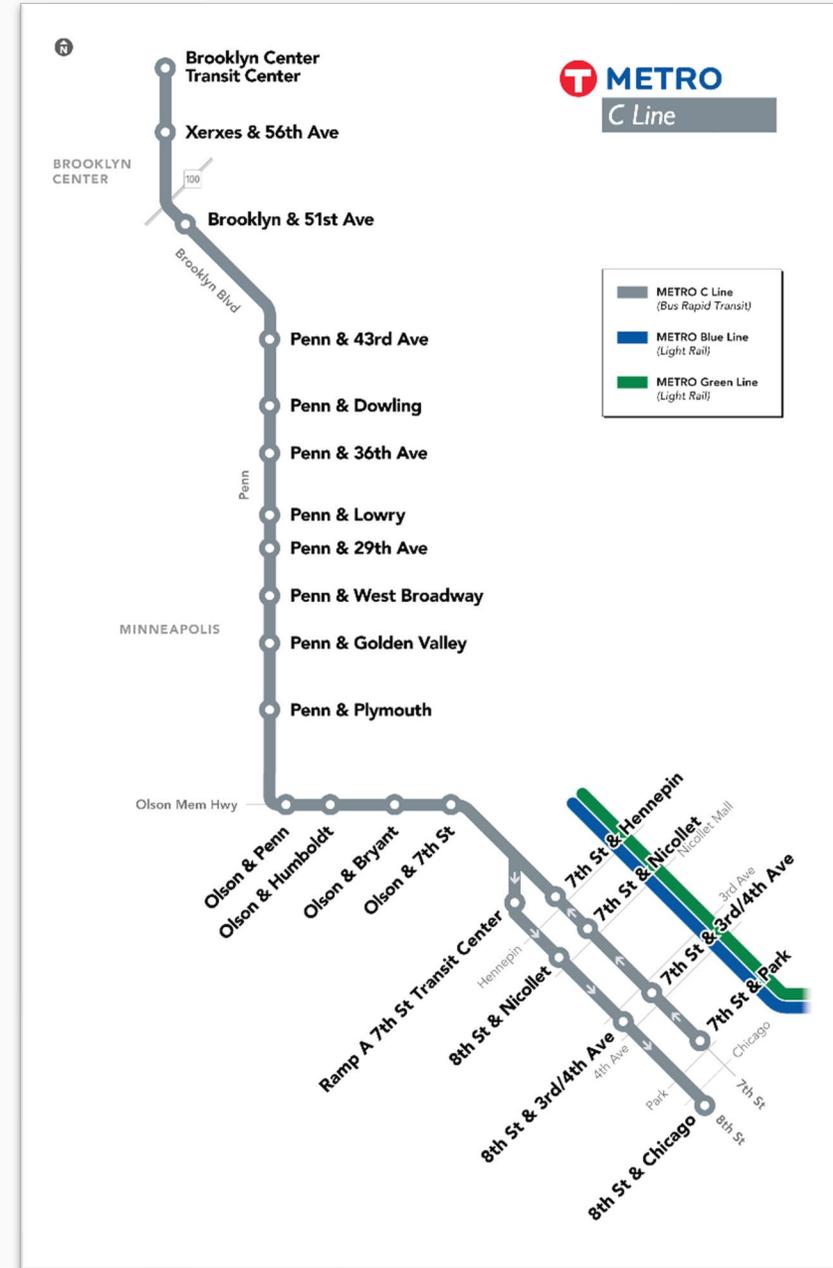


Area 3 Connections



Route Options: Not Recommended

- Penn & Emerson/Fremont were not recommended as they did not meet the multiple Project Principles:
 - Complement existing and planned METRO transitways
 - Minimize residential, commercial and environmental impacts
- Both roadways have narrow Right of Way
- METRO C & D Lines are a valuable part of transit network



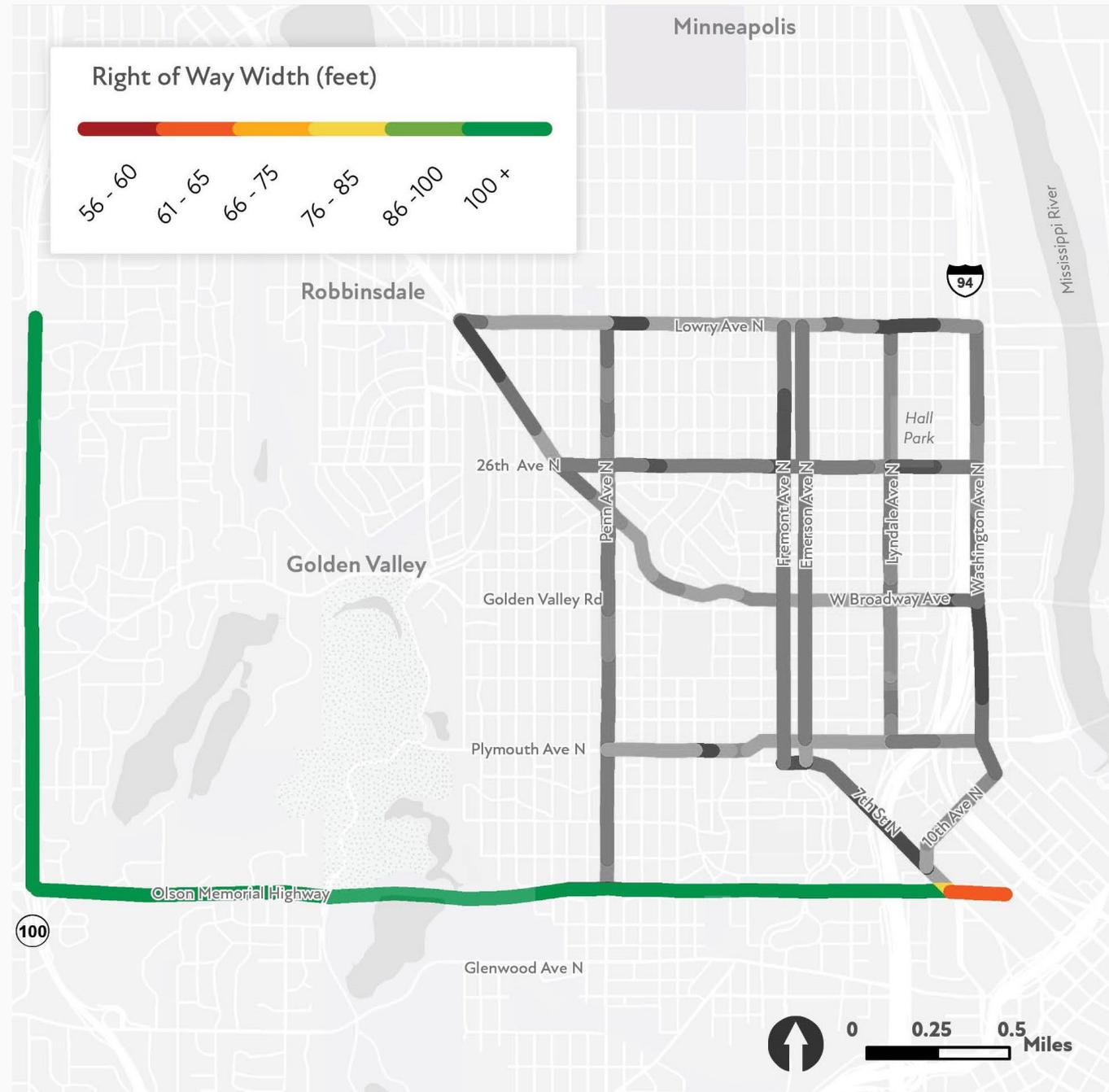
Route Options: Not Recommended

- Lyndale between West Broadway & Lowry
 - Narrower right of way
 - Significant residential impacts
 - Houses are closer to the sidewalk/street



Route Options: Not Recommended

- Highway 55 to Highway 100
 - Does not serve as many riders and destinations
 - Longer route could result in increased travel time
 - Greater diversion from previous alignment
 - Very little initial support for this corridor



Feedback Sought

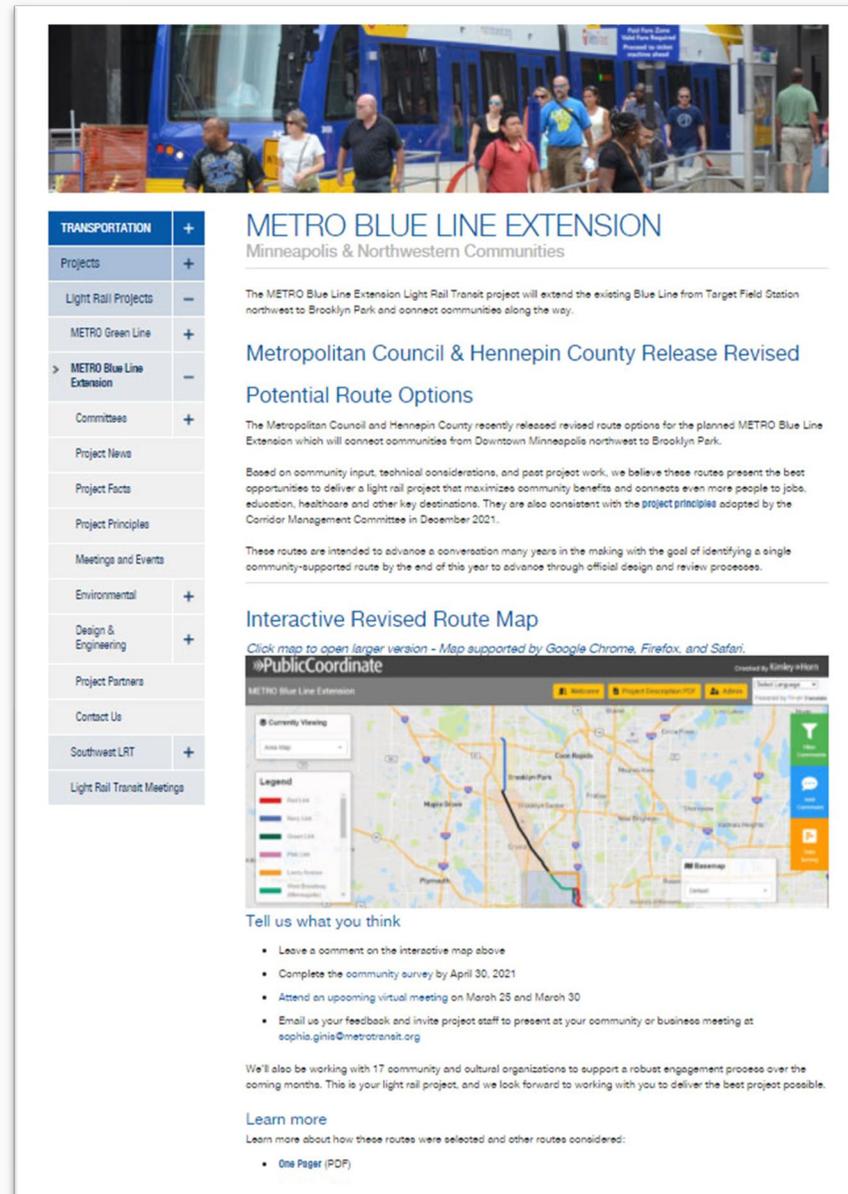
- Begin discussion on the new options to advance
 - Validate if the options presented seem right
 - Understand what options are resonating with residents and businesses
 - Identify if anything is missing
 - What opportunities or issues does the community see right away
 - What other information is needed to support a route option
 - Begin discussion about desired station locations along new portions of the route
- Evaluation goals, which will help refine objectives and evaluation criteria to help analyze the benefits and impacts between options

Communications & Engagement

- Ongoing communications & engagement effort through April 30, 2021:
 - Radio and newspaper ads reaching diverse communities
 - On-going social media efforts
 - Videos
 - Continued reach out to community & business stakeholders
 - Community consultants' kick-off efforts

Visit Project Website: BlueLineExt.org

- Tools to engage
- Information and maps
- Committee details
- Contact information



TRANSPORTATION +

- Projects +
- Light Rail Projects -
- METRO Green Line +
- > METRO Blue Line Extension -
- Committees +
- Project News
- Project Facts
- Project Principles
- Meetings and Events
- Environmental +
- Design & Engineering +
- Project Partners
- Contact Us
- Southwest LRT +
- Light Rail Transit Meetings

METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION

Minneapolis & Northwestern Communities

The METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit project will extend the existing Blue Line from Target Field Station northwest to Brooklyn Park and connect communities along the way.

Metropolitan Council & Hennepin County Release Revised Potential Route Options

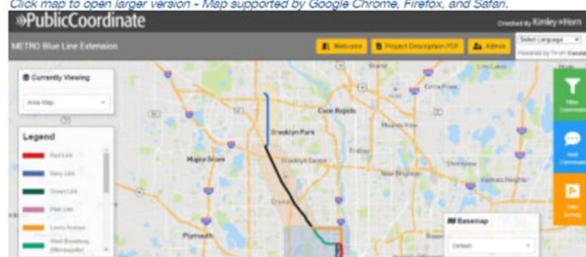
The Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County recently released revised route options for the planned METRO Blue Line Extension which will connect communities from Downtown Minneapolis northwest to Brooklyn Park.

Based on community input, technical considerations, and past project work, we believe these routes present the best opportunities to deliver a light rail project that maximizes community benefits and connects even more people to jobs, education, healthcare and other key destinations. They are also consistent with the project principles adopted by the Corridor Management Committee in December 2021.

These routes are intended to advance a conversation many years in the making with the goal of identifying a single community-supported route by the end of this year to advance through official design and review processes.

Interactive Revised Route Map

Click map to open larger version - Map supported by Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari.



Tell us what you think

- Leave a comment on the interactive map above
- Complete the community survey by April 30, 2021
- Attend an upcoming virtual meeting on March 25 and March 30
- Email us your feedback and invite project staff to present at your community or business meeting at sophia.ginia@metrotransit.org

We'll also be working with 17 community and cultural organizations to support a robust engagement process over the coming months. This is your light rail project, and we look forward to working with you to deliver the best project possible.

Learn more

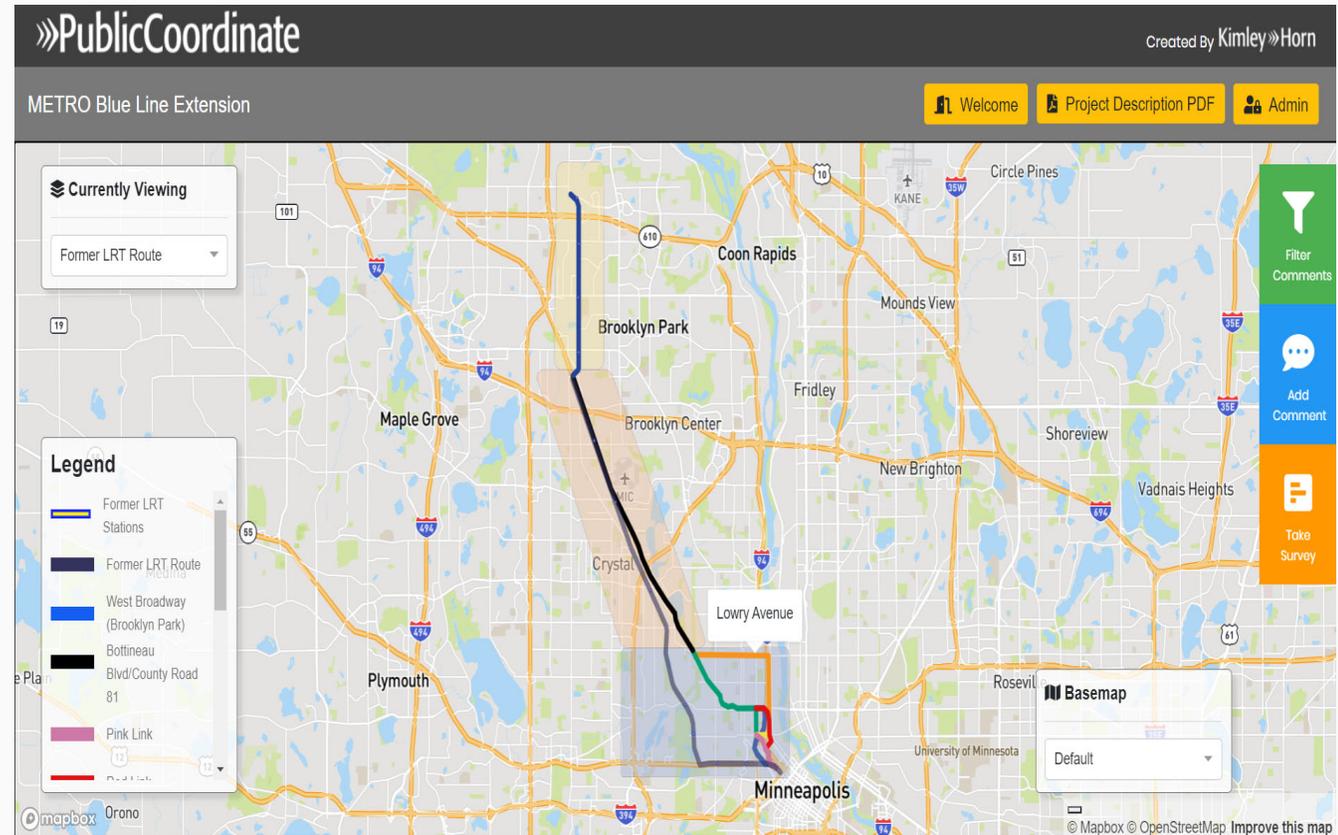
Learn more about how these routes were selected and other routes considered:

- [One Pager \(PDF\)](#)



Multiple Methods to Share Feedback

- Leave comments on the interactive map
- Take a survey
- Provide general comments online or by emailing sophia.ginis@metrotransit.org
- We will come to you: invite us to an event or gathering



Upcoming Virtual Townhalls

- A staff presentation followed by time for the community to ask questions and provide comments
- Events will be recorded and available on the project website via YouTube

- Thursday, March 25: 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, March 30: 12:00 – 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 30: 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Committee Discussion



Next Steps: Continue to Seek Solutions

Project Goals, Objectives and Criteria

Conceptual Engineering and Design

Engineering Analysis to Understand LRT &
Roadway Configurations

Potential Station Locations

Right of Way Impacts

Community Benefits

Further efforts to address anti-
displacement, equitable development and
community wealth building

Previous Project Commitments

Address investments related to the
previous alignment

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

