

Community Advisory Committee

April 5, 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)

Project Update



Blue Line LRT Extension

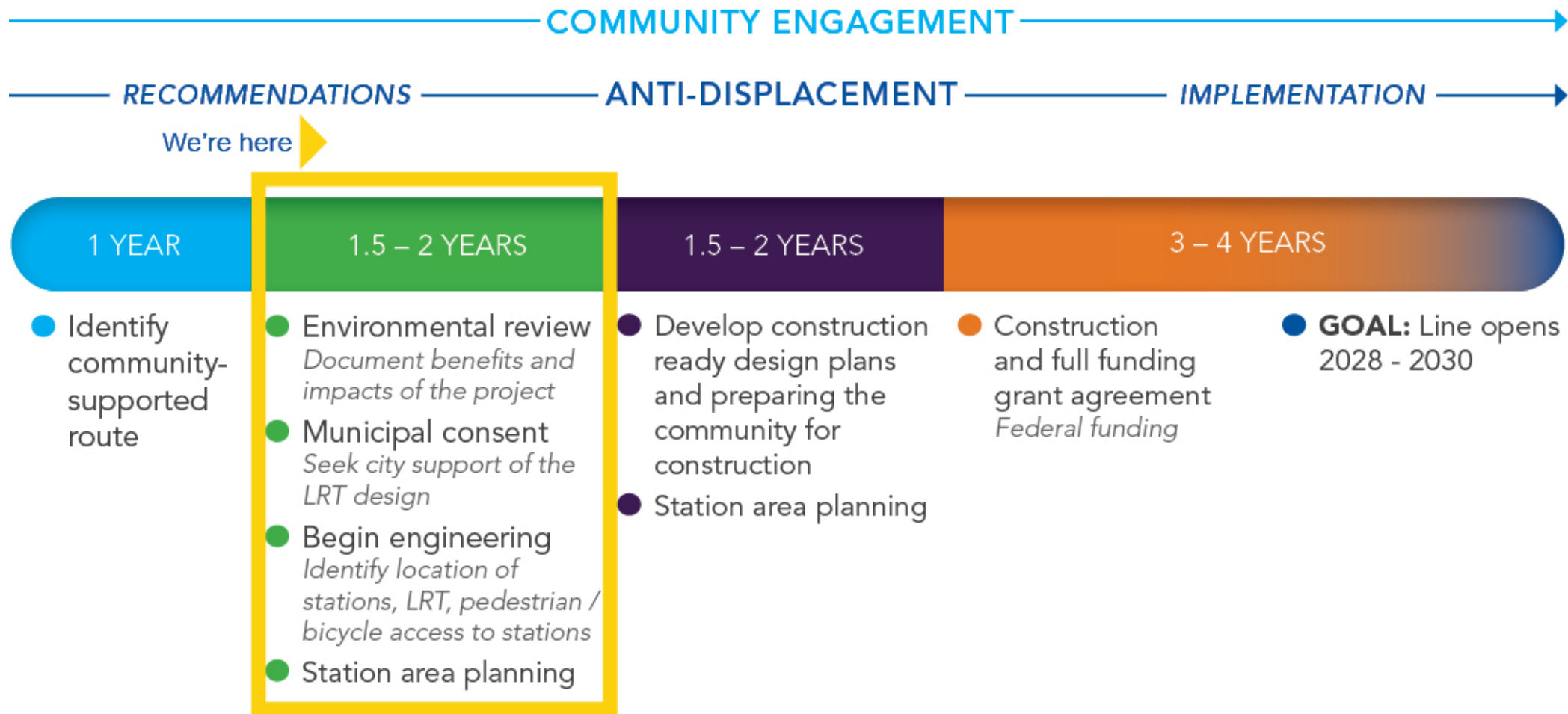
- Located in Hennepin County directly connecting downtown Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park and communities in the northwest metro
- Supplemental Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process underway for modified route adopted in June 2022
- Public engagement ongoing, 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 21st Ave
- Reduced property impacts, where possible
- Add a second station between Lyndale Ave and James Ave
- Explored pedestrian connections to/from Lowry Ave Station

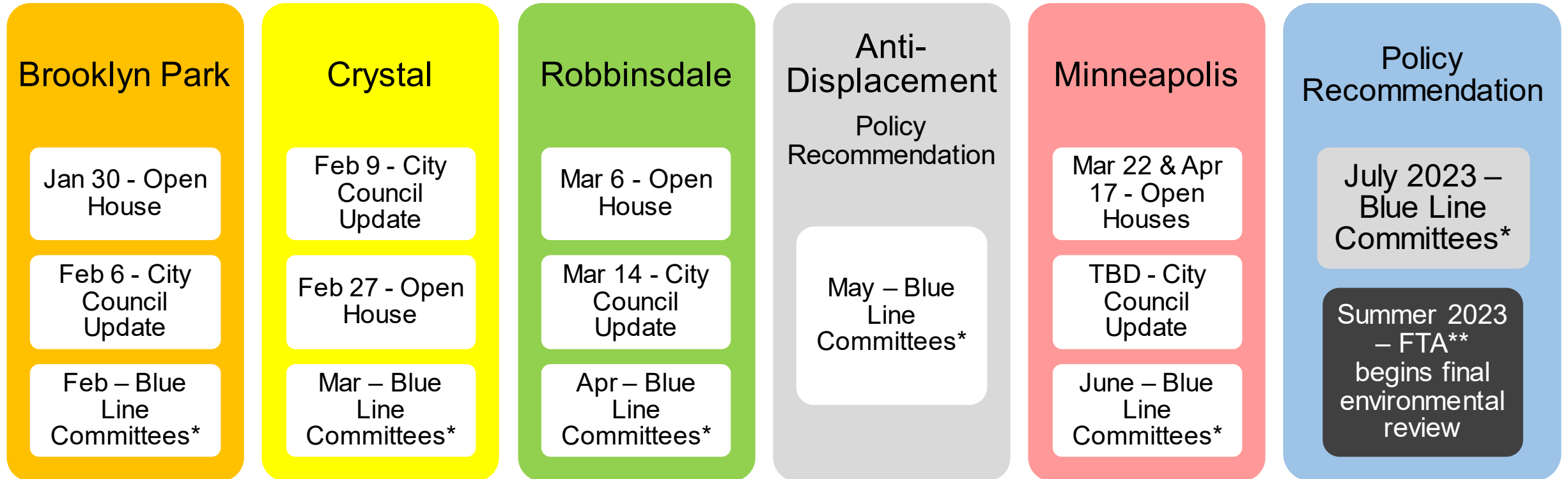


Blue Line Route Recommendation

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

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

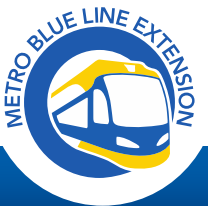
Federal Register Notice

- 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

- 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



Robbinsdale Design Decisions for SDEIS



Project Design Principles

Maintain BLRT Purpose and Need

Minimize travel time

Maximize ridership

Maximize community and economic development

Maximize Federal Transit Administration New Starts project rating

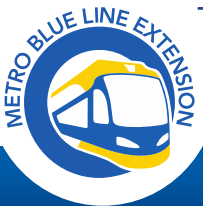
Pursue opportunities to serve even more people and destinations

Complement existing and planned METRO transitways

Minimize residential, commercial and environmental impacts

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

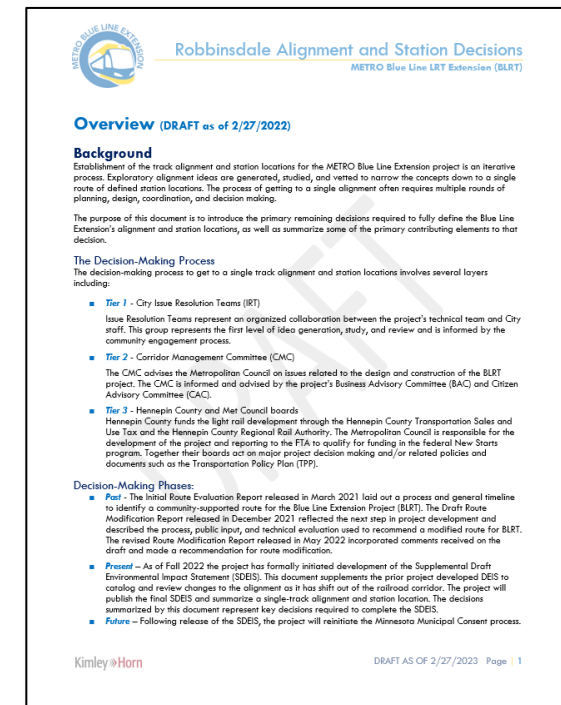
Maximize carbon pollution reduction



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

- 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

- 47th Avenue N. to 40th Avenue N.



BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION
CITY OF ROBBINSDALE - DRAFT ROLLALOT

02/28/2023



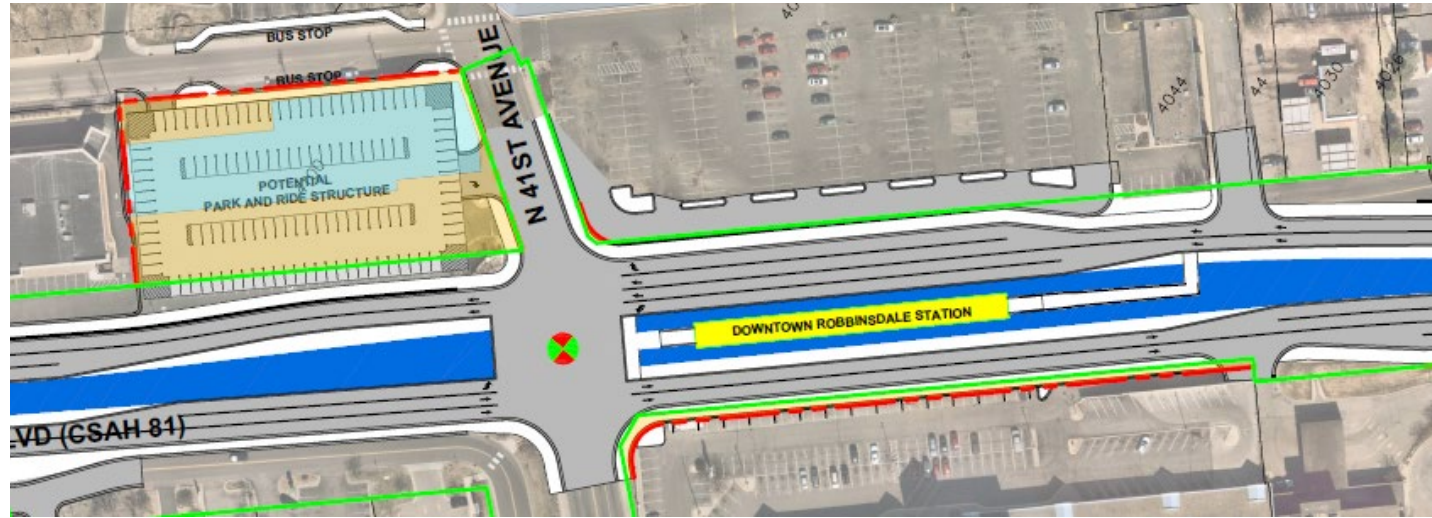
Robbinsdale Key Design Decisions

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

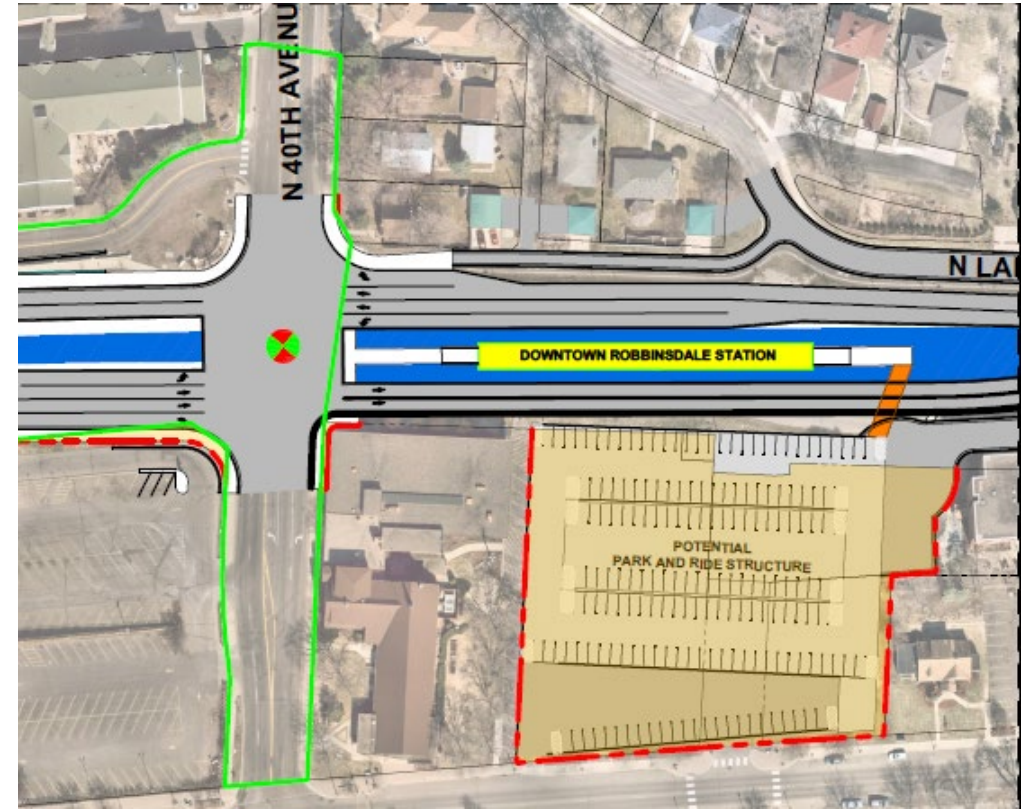


Downtown Station Options Evaluated

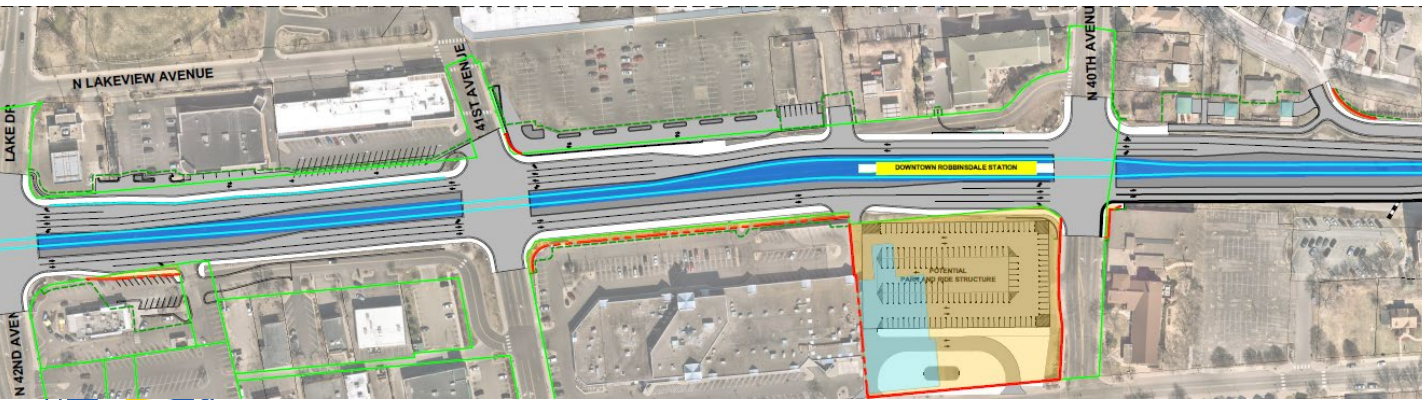
Example of options studied at 41st Ave and 40th Ave



Center Platform – south of 41st Ave



Center Platform – south of 40th Ave

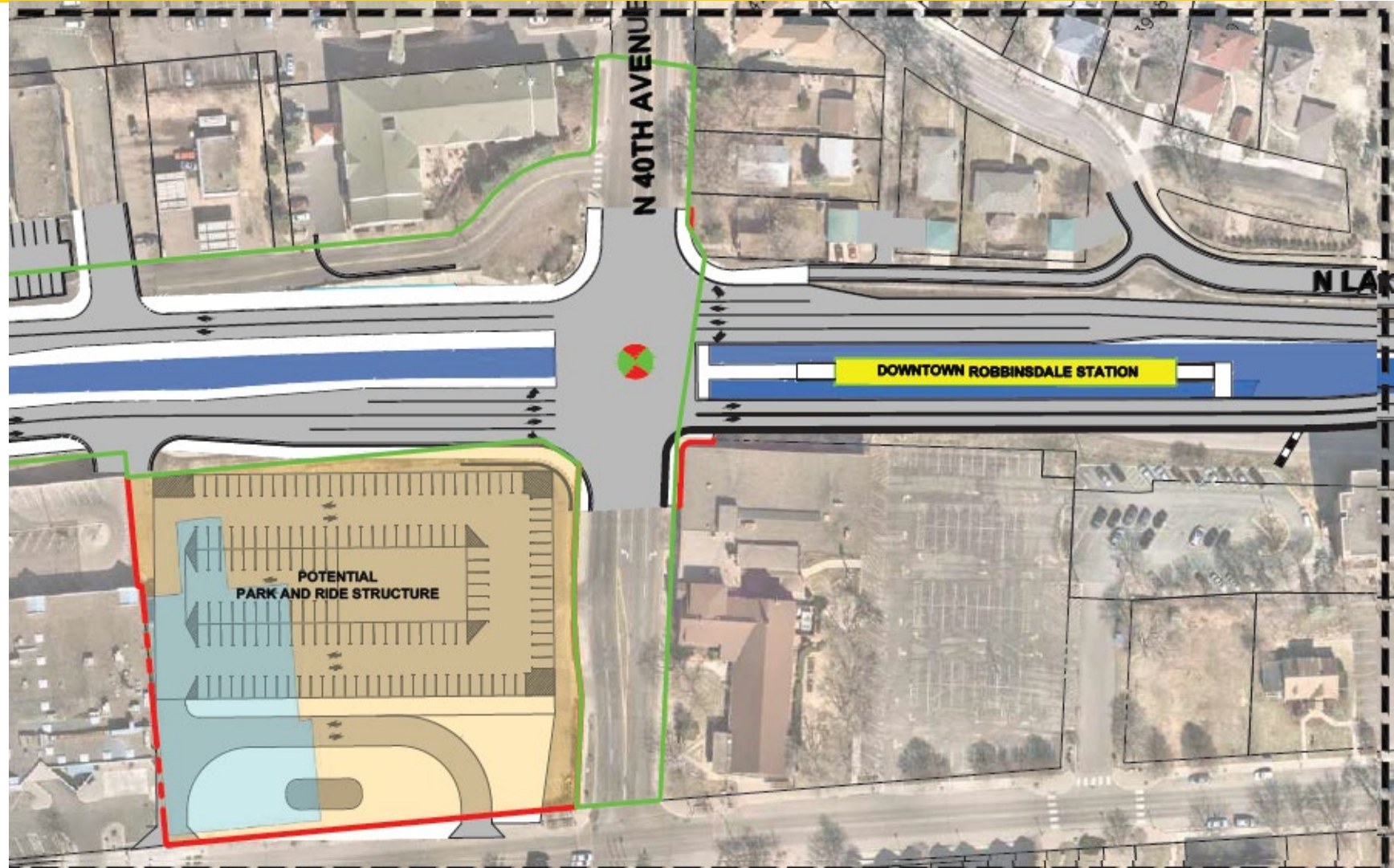


Center Platform – north of 40th Ave



Preferred Downtown Station and Park and Ride

- Station South of 40th 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

- 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

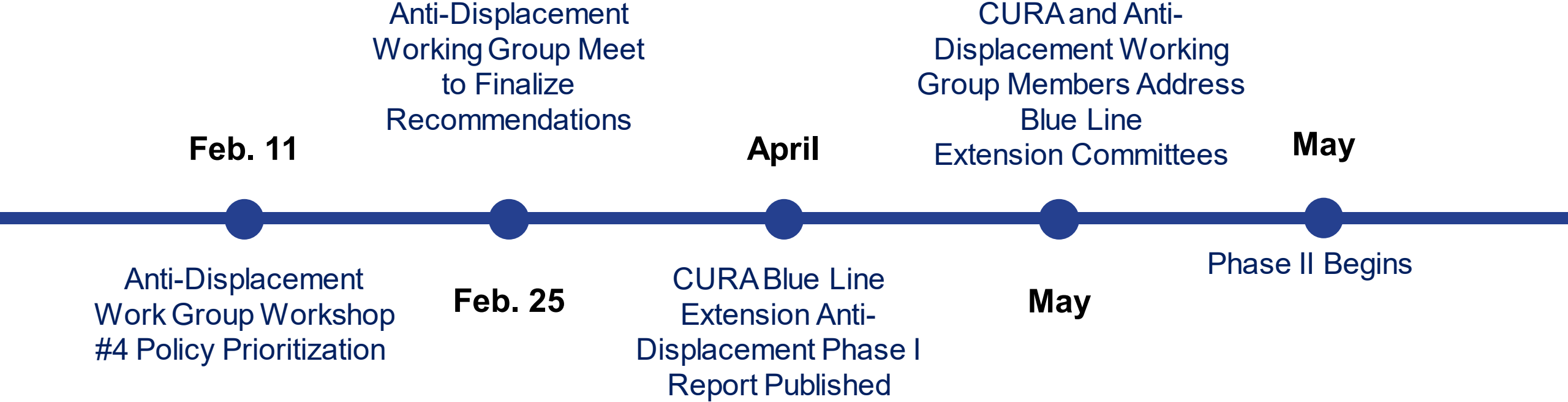
- Route option from Target Field Station to West Broadway
- Route option for LRT on West Broadway or 21st Avenue
- Number and Location of Stations
- Penn Avenue Station Location



Anti-Displacement Work Group Update



Anti-Displacement Timeline



Stay connected

- **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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