

June 8, 2023

METRO Blue Line Extension LRT Corridor Management Committee (CMC) Resolution

WHEREAS:

1. The Blue Line Extension Project will bring an important new transit amenity to currently underserved communities, and for businesses will help to create economic inclusion and opportunity, as well as fight global climate change.
2. Many people in the communities along the proposed line have expressed concern that the project and its economic impacts may result in the displacement of existing residents and businesses.
3. The Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee (“CMC”) and the project partners listened to community concerns and goals and are committed to addressing them, and we intend to strategize for reducing disparities throughout the development process and establish a framework for equity.
4. The Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County cooperated to contract with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (“CURA”) at the University of Minnesota to conduct a study of potential anti-displacement outcomes and strategies that could be implemented to support residents and businesses before, during, and after construction of the project, emphasizing the importance of providing resources to achieve the most desired outcomes.
5. CURA created and facilitated a community-based Anti-Displacement Work Group of 27 members who worked over 18 months to develop these recommended outcomes and potential strategies.
6. This community process involved diverse voices representing neighborhoods, local businesses, philanthropy, and partner agencies, who met for 5 day-long workshop sessions and engaged with hundreds of residents and businesses in the corridor.
7. On May 2, 2023, CURA released its Blue Line Extension Anti-Displacement Project Report (“Report”).
8. The Blue Line Extension CMC is grateful for the careful and quality work of CURA and all of the community members who participated in this process.
9. Project partners and policy makers have a responsibility to mitigate displacement, as well as create opportunities to maximize the benefits of light rail to create community abundance along the corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blue Line Extension CMC receives the Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Blue Line Extension CMC will work in partnership with the project sponsors to coordinate, explore, and develop a proposed framework and public engagement plan with community members, public, non-profit, philanthropic, and private sector partners in order for the project to attain the Report’s recommended outcomes, including securing funds needed for implementation for anti-displacement measures before, during and after the construction of the Blue Line Extension.