

# Corridor Management Committee

August 10, 2023



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



# Today's Topics

- Call to Order and Welcome & Public Invitation
- Approval of July 13 Meeting Summary
- Community and Business Advisory Committees Report
- Project Update
- Minneapolis Design Update
- Anti-Displacement
- Next Steps



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

# Approval of July 13 Meeting Summary



# Public Invitation

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- 15 minutes allotted to receive public comments
  - Up to 3 minutes per speaker
- Speakers who have pre-registered will be called in order
- If there are more speakers than the time allotted, comments may be submitted in writing to [Nkongo.Cigolo@metrotransit.org](mailto:Nkongo.Cigolo@metrotransit.org)



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# Community and Business Advisory Committees Report



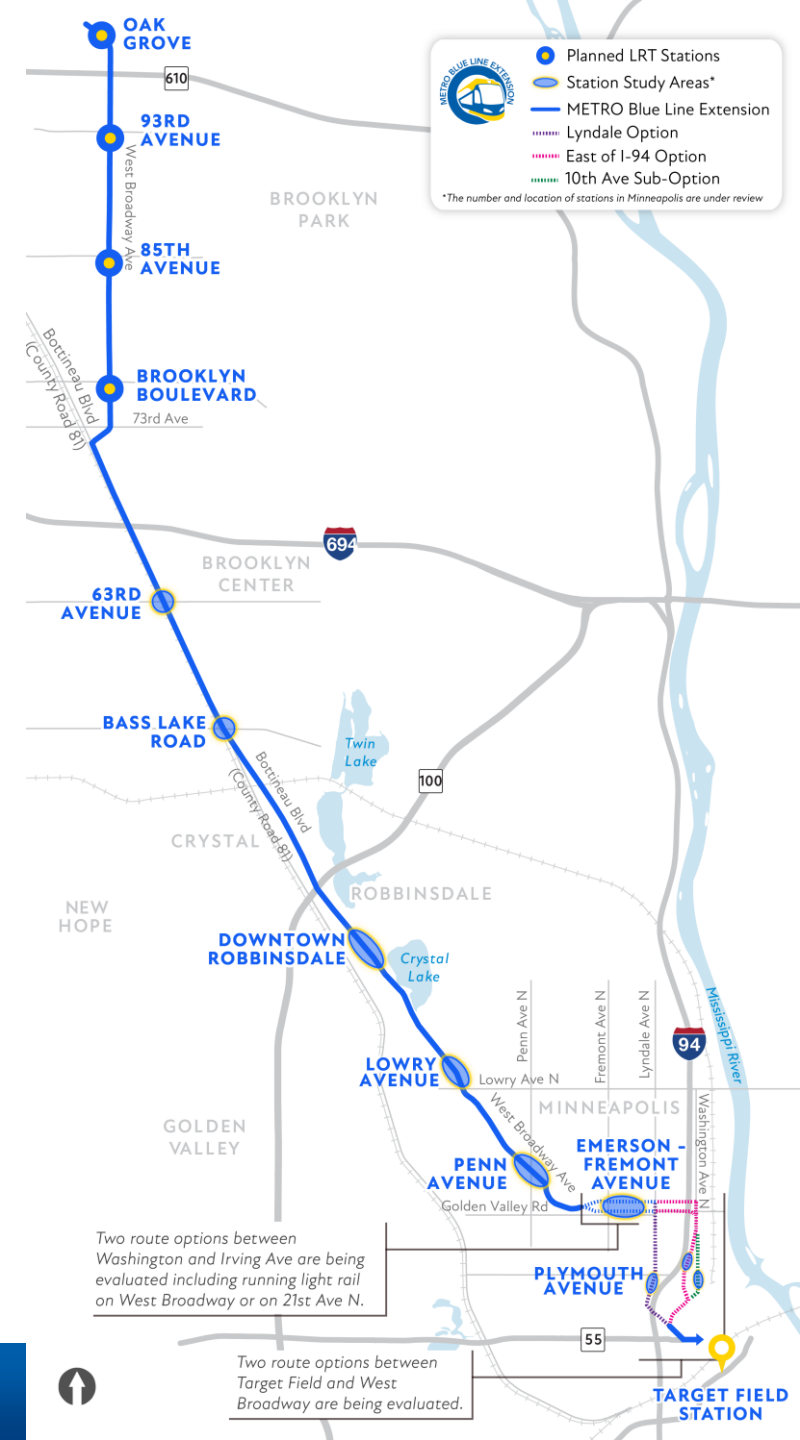
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# Project Update



# Blue Line LRT Extension

- BLRT Extension located in Hennepin County directly connecting downtown Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park and communities in the northwest metro
- Modified route adopted in June 2022, with options
- Anti-Displacement recommendations report published for comment in May 2023
- Policy recommendation on route in Sept 2023 for inclusion in Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement



# 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.





# Timeline to Publish SDEIS and Initiate Municipal Consent

**WE ARE HERE**

	2023												2024								
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
<b>CMC Meeting</b>	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑															
<b>Brooklyn Park</b>	X			X	X																
<b>Crystal</b>		X		X	X																
<b>Robbinsdale</b>			X	X	X																
<b>Minneapolis</b>				X	X	X															
<b>Anti-Displacement</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X															
<b>Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement</b>									FTA Review #1			FTA Review #2			FTA Review #3			Publish SDEIS		Prepare SFEIS...	
<b>Municipal Consent</b>																					➡ Municipal Consent...



# CMC Proposed Action in September

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- A proposed CMC resolution will confirm:
  - **Line** – a singular alignment for the Blue Line Extension tracks
  - **Lanes** – how the roadway system accommodates the tracks
  - **Stations** – the location for planned stations
- Guides the preparation of the environmental document for FTA's review
- Forms the basis for development of the Municipal Consent plans



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# Minneapolis Design Decisions for SDEIS



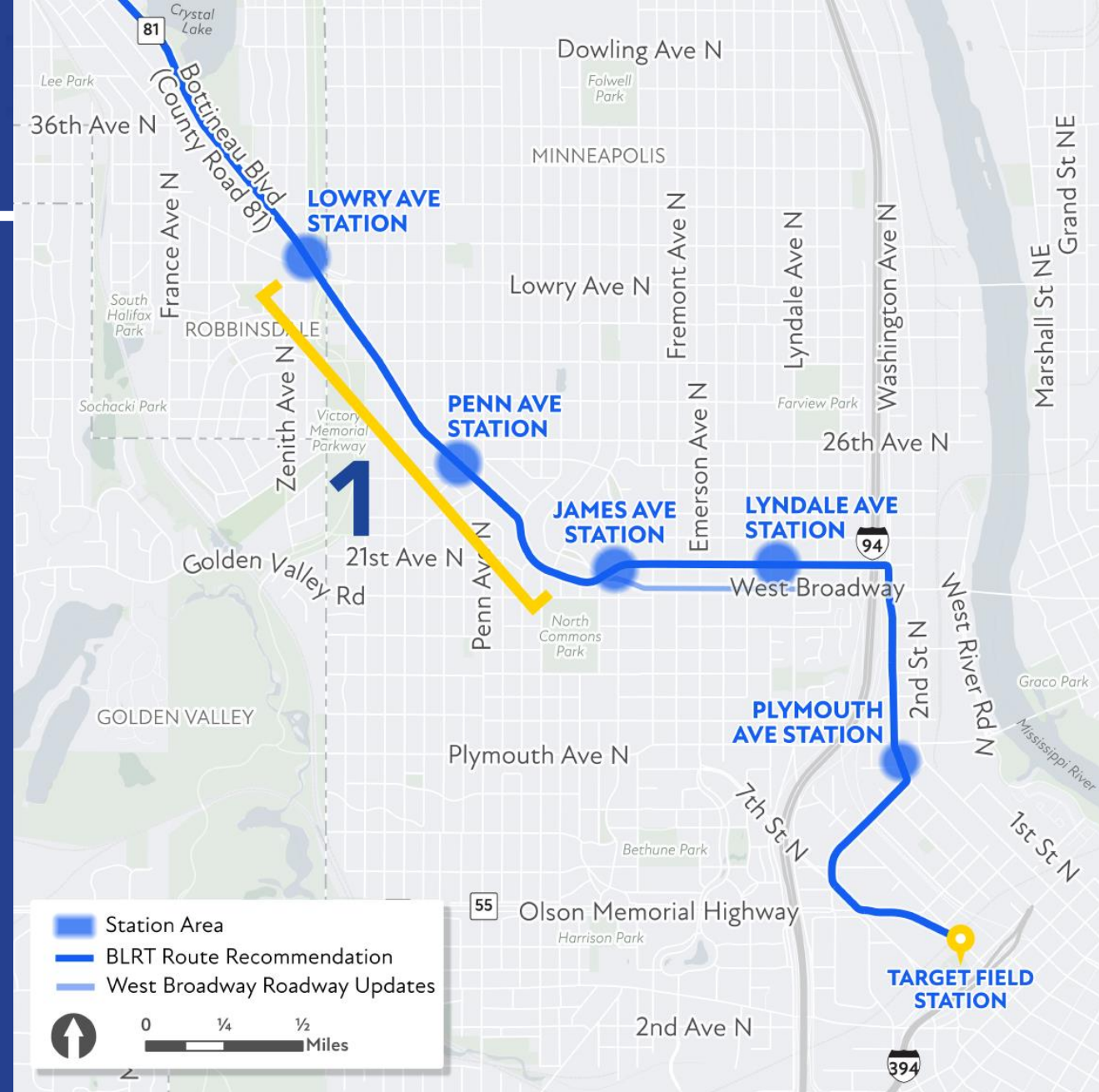
# Minneapolis Blue Line Route



1. Penn Avenue Station Area
2. West Broadway and 21st Avenue
3. 21st Avenue Extension
4. Plymouth Station on Washington Avenue
5. Transitway for a portion of 10th Avenue



# 1. Penn Avenue Station Area







# 1. Penn Avenue Station Area

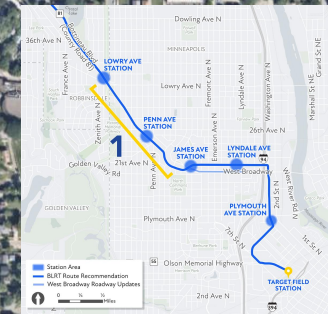
**LOWRY AVE STATION**

Tracks center running from Lowry Avenue to Irving Avenue

**PENN AVE STATION**

Penn Ave Station between 26<sup>th</sup> Ave N and Penn Ave

-  Station Area
-  BLRT Route Recommendation



# Penn Avenue Station

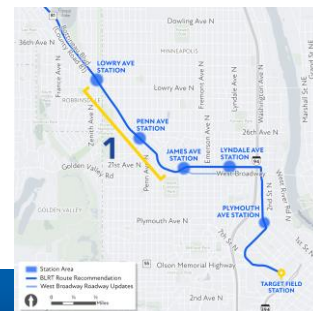
- METRO C Line connection
- Capri Theater
- NEON food incubator

Capri Theater



The Incubator Project\*

\*Photo Source: NEON





# Engagement Specific to this Segment

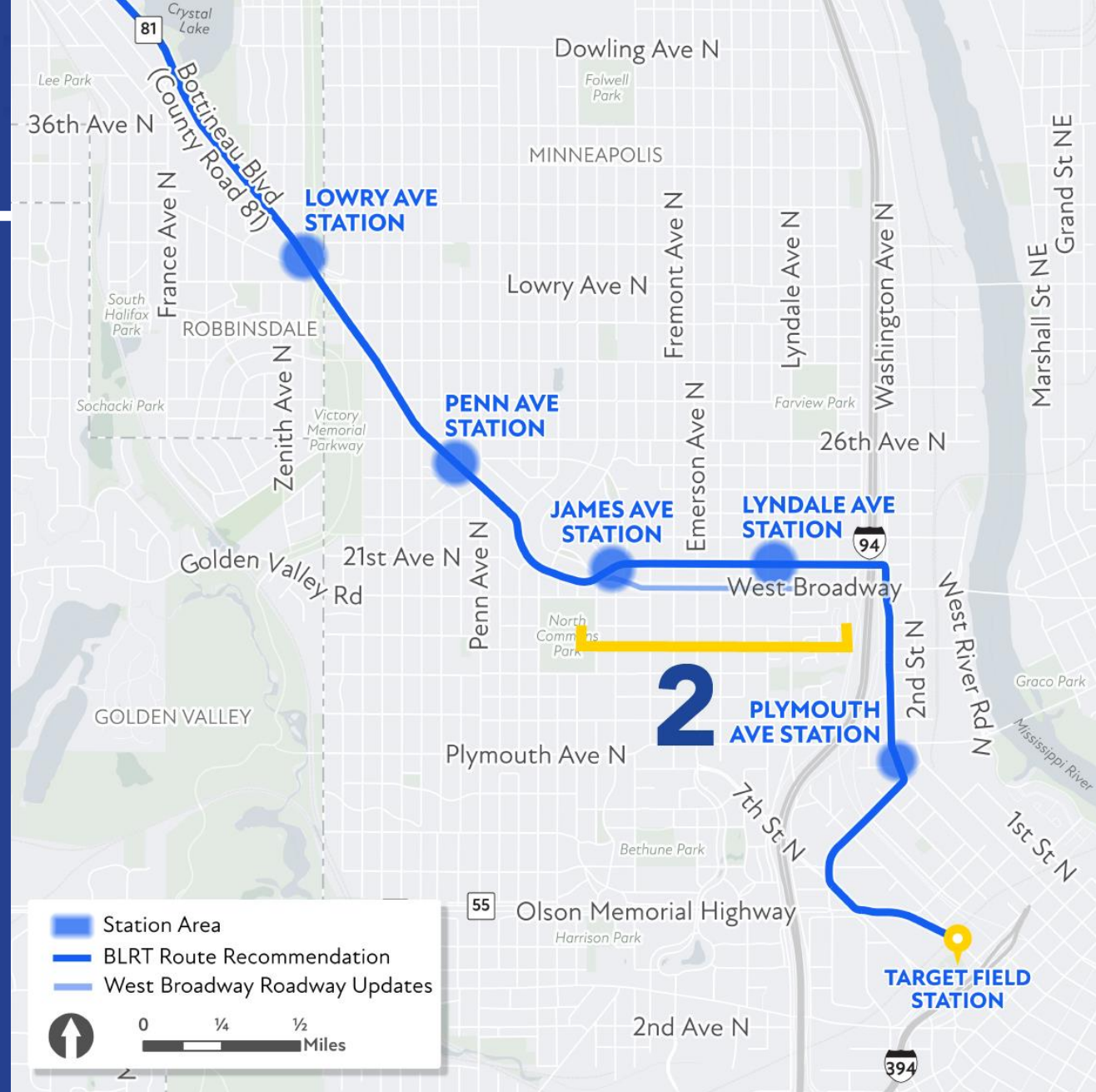
## West Broadway Business Meetings

- Parking
- Resources for businesses
- Safety and security
- Vision for West Broadway





# 2. West Broadway and 21<sup>st</sup>





# 2. West Broadway and 21st

**JAMES AVE STATION**

LRT Tracks on 21st

**LYNDALE AVE STATION**

21st Ave N

West Broadway

Golden Valley Rd

West Broadway Improvements

North Commons Park




Fremont Ave N

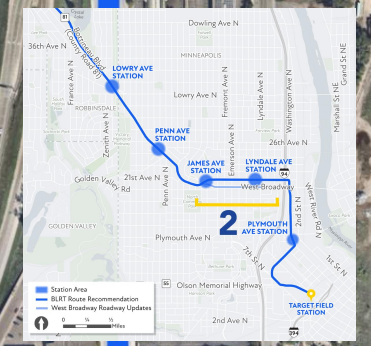
Emerson Ave N

Lyndale Ave N

Hall Park








2nd St N

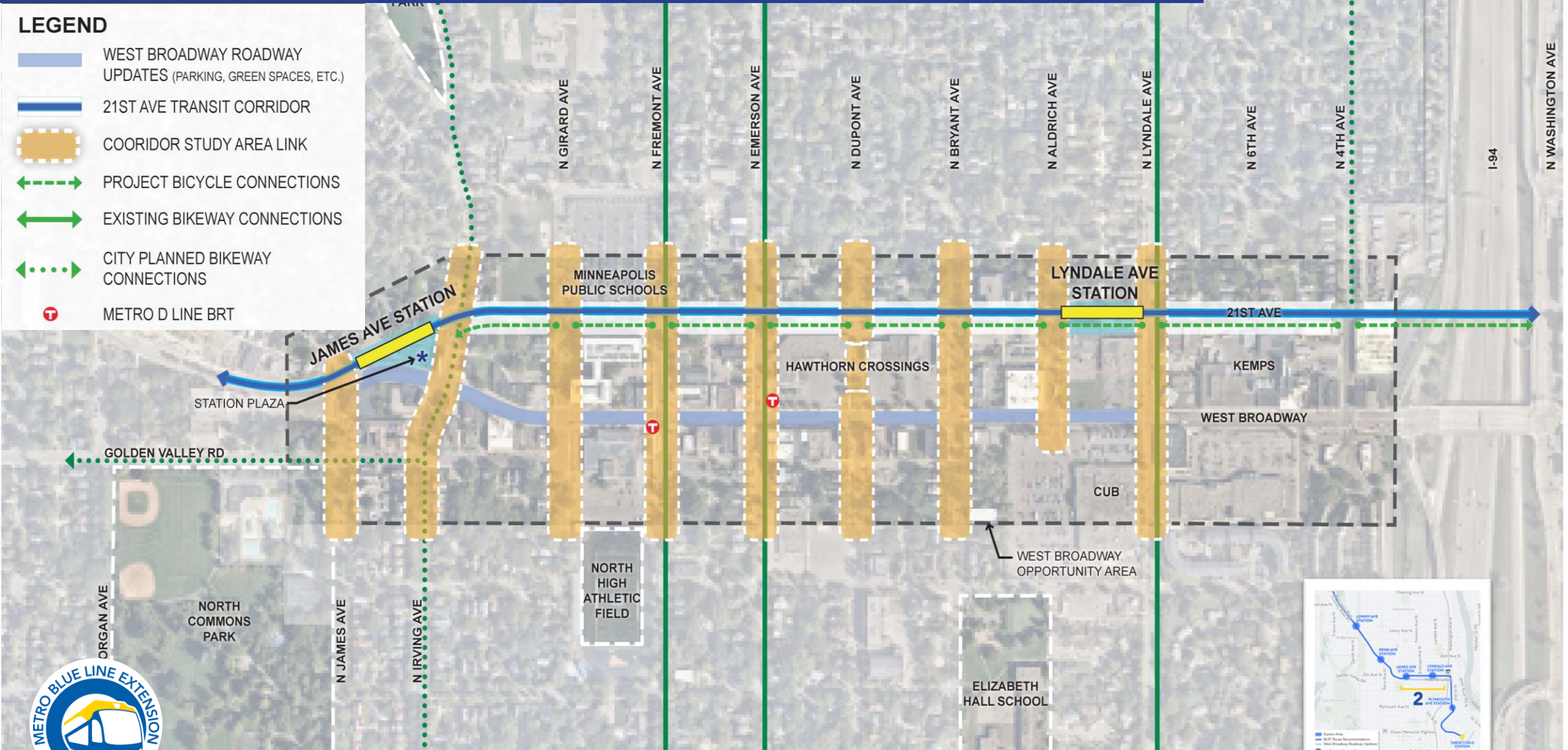
-  Station Area
-  BLRT Route Recommendation
-  West Broadway Roadway Updates



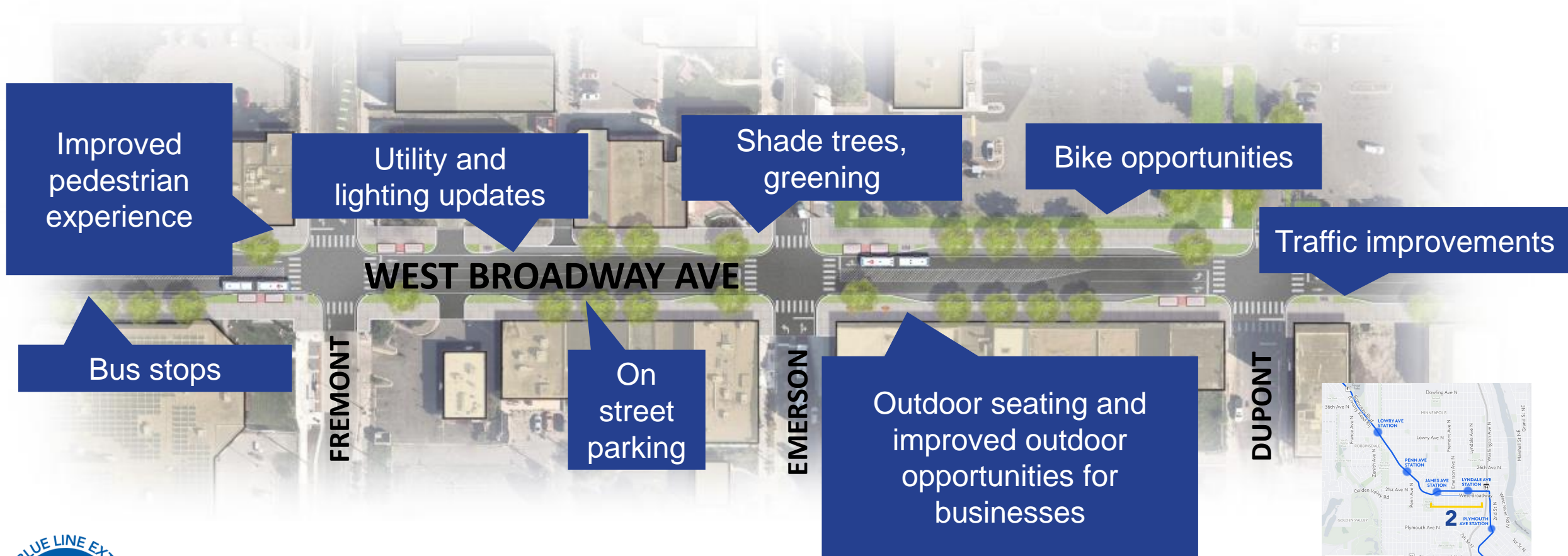
# West Broadway and 21<sup>st</sup> Connections

## LEGEND

-  WEST BROADWAY ROADWAY UPDATES (PARKING, GREEN SPACES, ETC.)
-  21ST AVE TRANSIT CORRIDOR
-  COORIDOR STUDY AREA LINK
-  PROJECT BICYCLE CONNECTIONS
-  EXISTING BIKEWAY CONNECTIONS
-  CITY PLANNED BIKEWAY CONNECTIONS
-  METRO D LINE BRT



# West Broadway Potential Improvements



# James Ave Station

- YMCA
- Minneapolis Public Schools Davis Center
- METRO D Line Service



North Commons Park



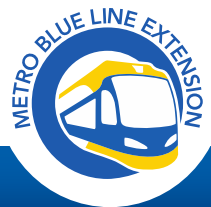
North High Athletic Field

Photo Sources: MPRB, North High Facebook Page



# Lyndale Ave Station

- Juxtaposition
- Masjid An-Nur
- Kemp's
- METRO D Line



Sanctuary Church



Cub Foods

Photo sources: Northwest Conference, Foursquare



# 21<sup>st</sup> Ave/West Broadway Engagement Overview

Began discussions of tracks on West Broadway or 21st Avenue in summer 2021

- Workshops
- One-on-one meetings
- Driveway chats
- Door-knocking
- Phone calls/emails
- Surveys
- Listening sessions
- Business meetings



*March 2023 21<sup>st</sup> and West Broadway Meetings at Cub Foods and the Capri*



# Engagement Summary – West Broadway/21<sup>st</sup> Avenue



Common themes for **supporting** 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue:

- Fewer impacts to environmental justice properties along West Broadway
- Less traffic impacts
- Potential for new housing
- Deter criminal activities
- West Broadway needs a new look

Common **concerns** about 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue:

- Residential building impacts
- Farther and less visible from the business destinations
- Concern about noise and safety near residential properties





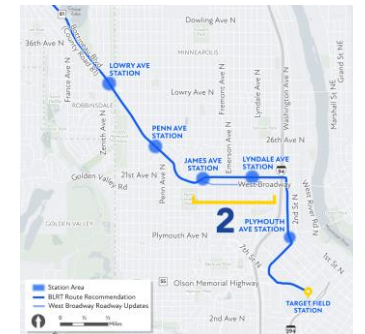
# Engagement Summary - Station Placement

## Positives

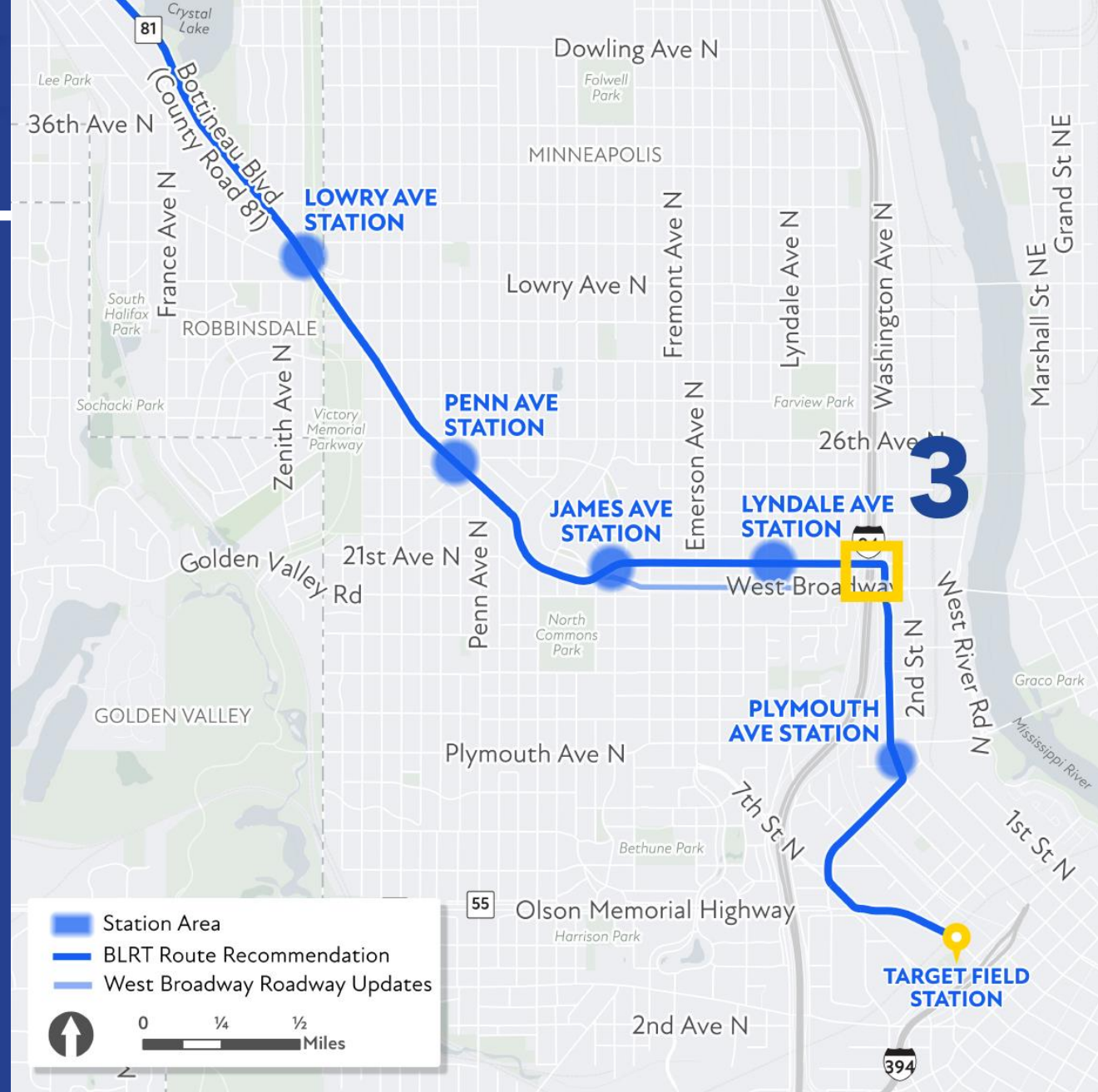
- Provides transit connections
- Additional stops
- Business opportunities to northside communities
- Spurring new developments
- Robust anti-displacement to bridge any gaps

## Concerns

- Delayed route selection impacts to business planning
- Loss of business during construction
- Loss of parking
- Building impacts
- Safety concerns and impacts on the community with various abilities



# 3. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Extension



# LYNDALE AVE STATION

# 3. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Extension



21st Ave N

New connection for bikes and pedestrians

West Broadway

Cross I-94 on an extension of 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue

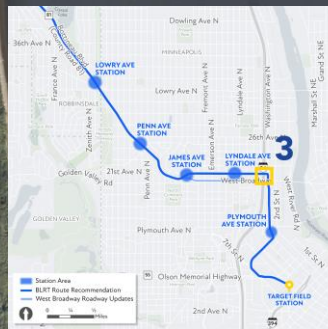
Lyndale Ave N

2nd St N

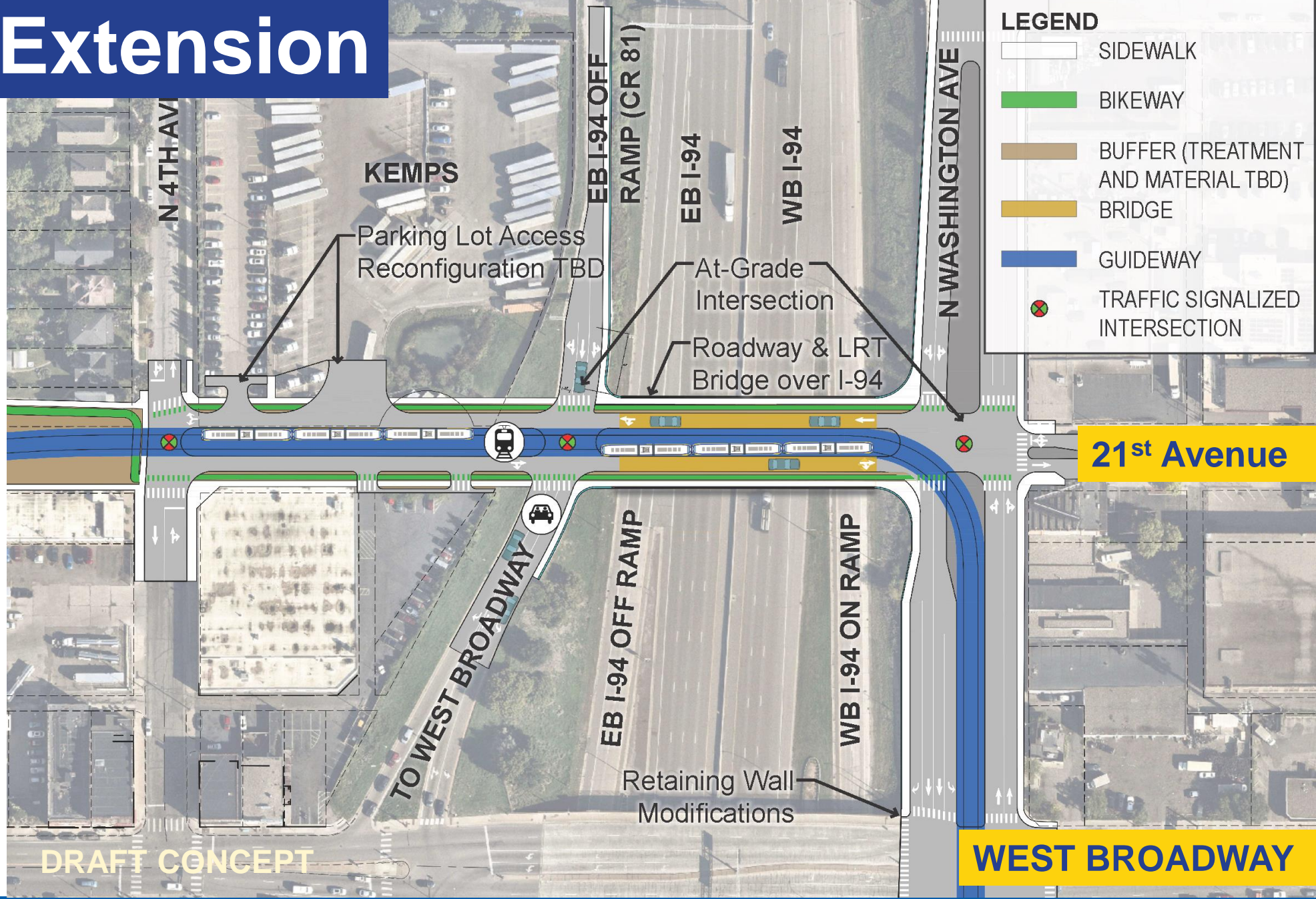
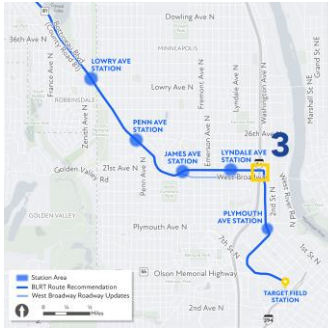
17th Ave N

West River Rd N

-  Station Area
-  BLRT Route Recommendation
-  West Broadway Roadway Updates



# 21st Ave Extension



DRAFT CONCEPT

21<sup>st</sup> Avenue

WEST BROADWAY

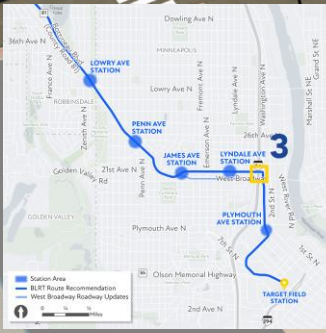


# Washington, looking South



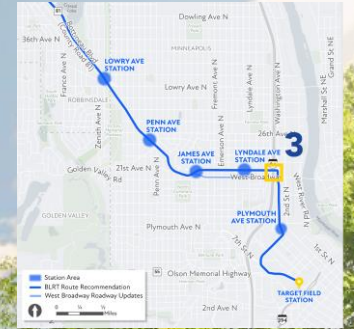
**INCLUDES SIDEWALK AND BIKE LANES**

Note: Trees, landscaping, pedestrian crossings, lanes and other features are an ongoing topic of design



DRAFT CONCEPT

# 21st Ave Extension Bridge, *looking East (toward river)*



Bike, Ped, Vehicle, LRT  
Crossing on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue



DRAFT CONCEPT

# 4. Plymouth Station on Washington





# 4. Plymouth Station on Washington



Industrial Jobs and opportunities

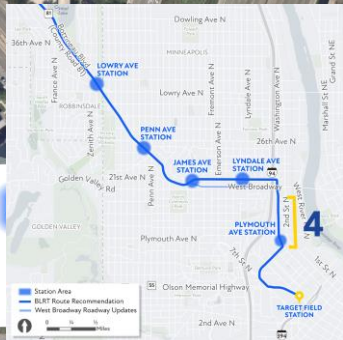
River access

Opportunity to update Washington Avenue roadway

Transit connection opportunities

V3 and other developments

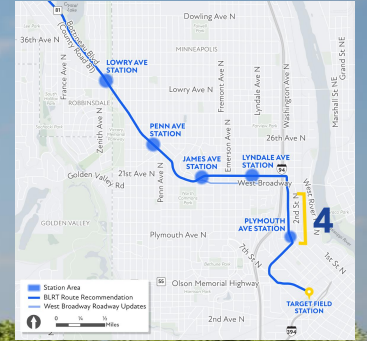
North Loop Neighborhood



Recommendation



# Plymouth Station on Washington Avenue, *looking South*



**DRAFT CONCEPT**

# Recent East of I-94 Engagement Overview

- **In-person meetings and events:**
  - Saturday 7/22, Twin Cities International School
  - Saturday 7/22, Outdoor Summer Event
  - Tuesday 7/25, Metro Transit North Loop Garage
  - Door-knocking on 7/17 and 7/27
  - In-person meetings with businesses
- **Virtual meetings and events:**
  - Thursday 7/27
  - Phone and email outreach to businesses, residents, neighborhood groups
- **Interactive feedback map**
- **On-going online survey**



7/25  
Community  
Meeting  
Presentation



7/22  
Community  
Meeting  
Presentation

# Recent East of I-94 Feedback

## Common themes supporting East of I-94:

- Serves affordable housing and high-density destinations, connects residents to/from North Loop neighborhood

## Common concerns

- Parking impacts on businesses/residents, additional traffic, safety for children around LRT

*Live polling at the 7/25 Community Meeting*

If light rail is advanced east of I-94 which option do you prefer: East of I-94 (east of the interstate) or East of I-94 sub-option (10th Ave)?

*7/25 Community meeting at the Twin Cities International School*



# 5. Transitway for a portion of 10<sup>th</sup> Ave



Plymouth Ave N

**PLYMOUTH  
AVE STATION**

Boom  
Island  
Park

Nicollet  
Island Park

94

7th St N

10th Ave N

Washington Ave N

1st St N

West River  
Parkway

55

Olson Memorial Hwy

5th St N

2nd Ave N



-  Station Area
-  BLRT Route Recommendation

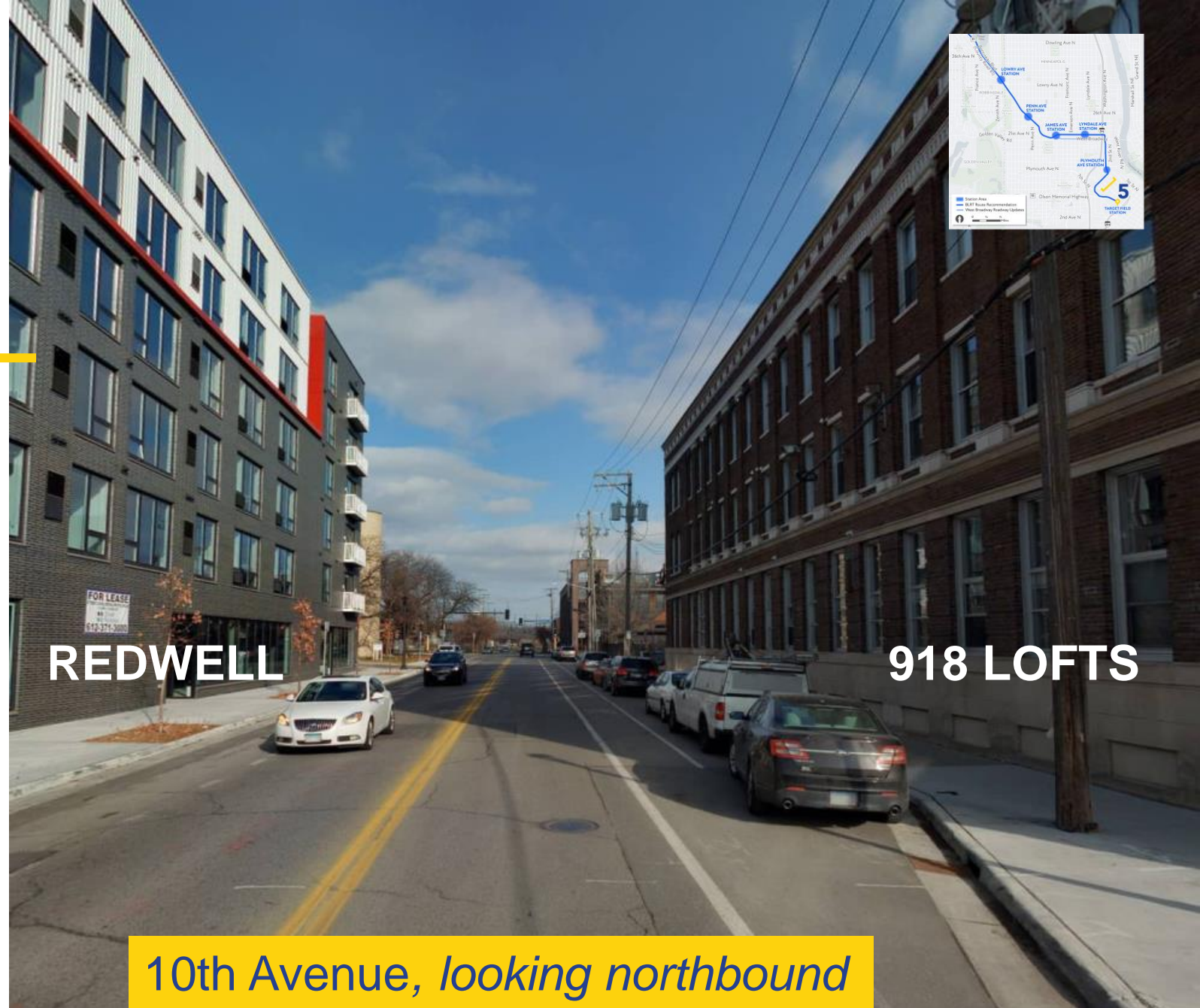
**TARGET FIELD  
STATION**



# 10th Ave: Existing Conditions

Roadway includes:

- Sidewalks
- Bike lanes
- Two-way car traffic
- Some on-street parking
- Some street trees



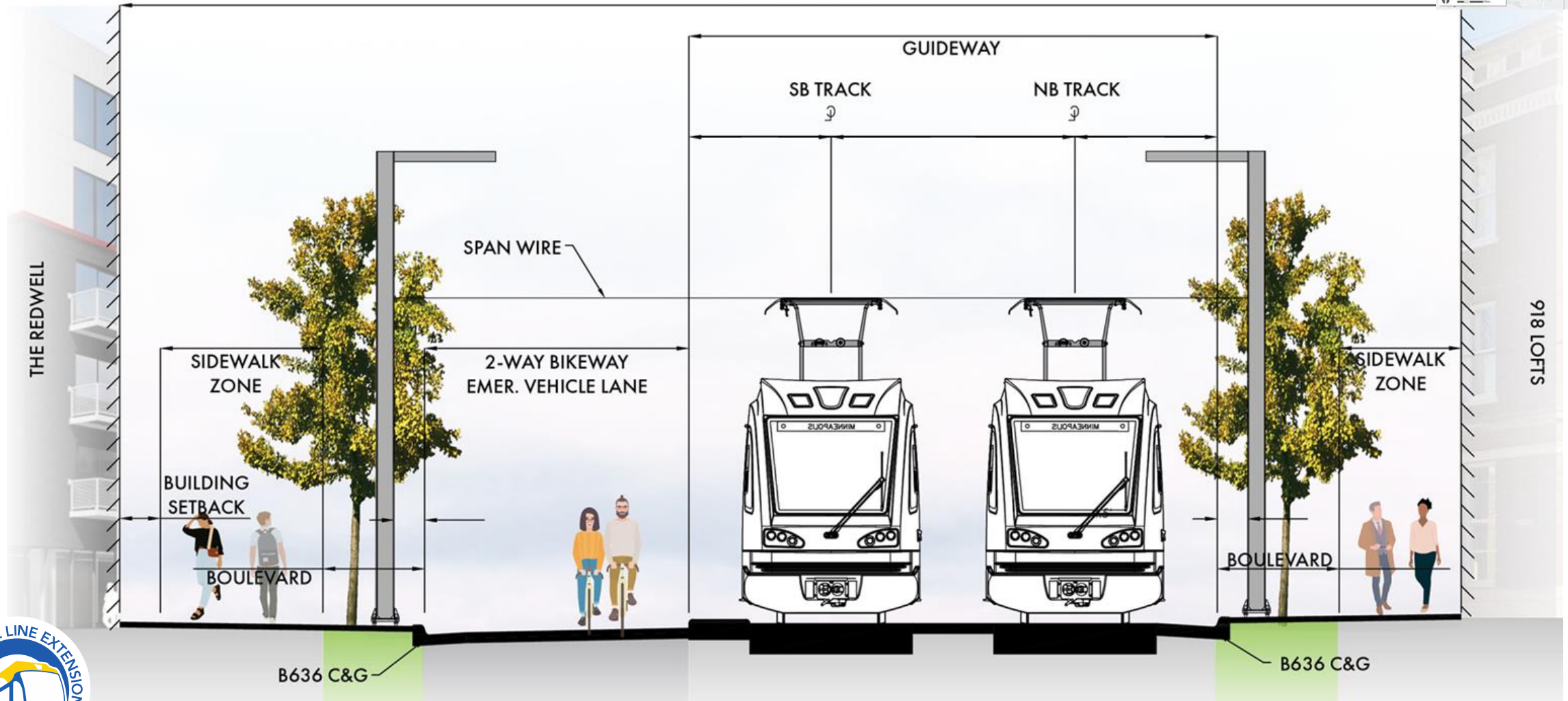
10th Avenue, *looking northbound*



# 10<sup>th</sup> Ave: Transit Mall Option



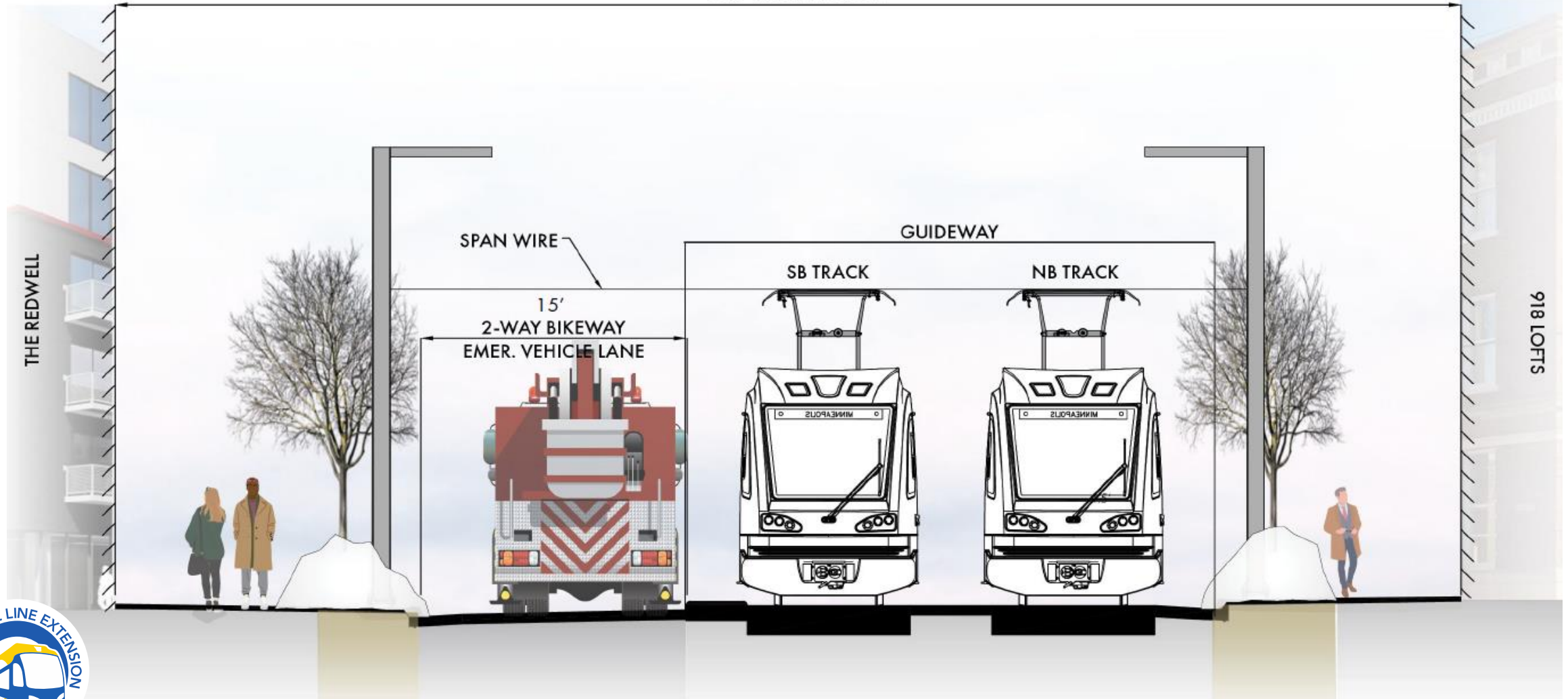
66.0' EXISTING ROW



# 10<sup>th</sup> Ave: Transit Mall Option

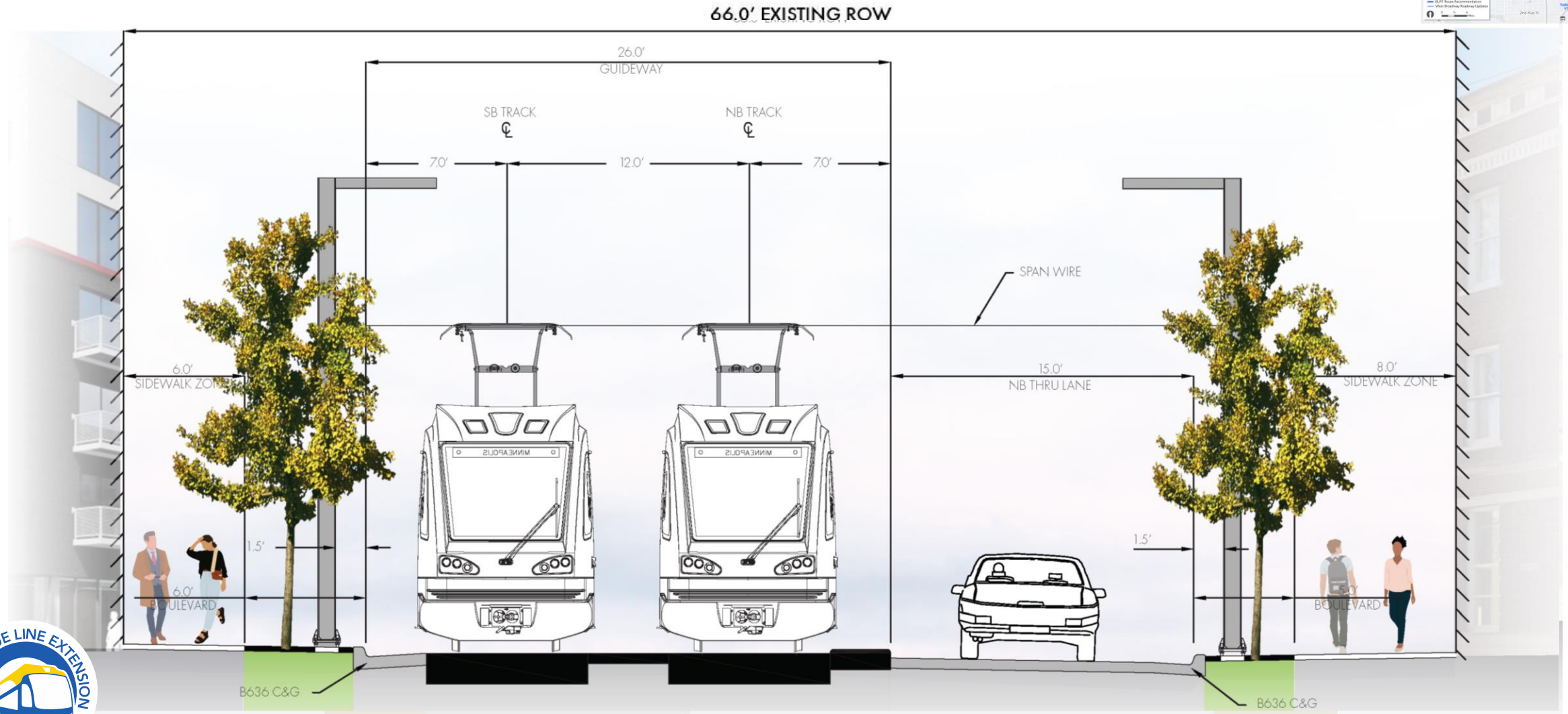


66.0' EXISTING ROW

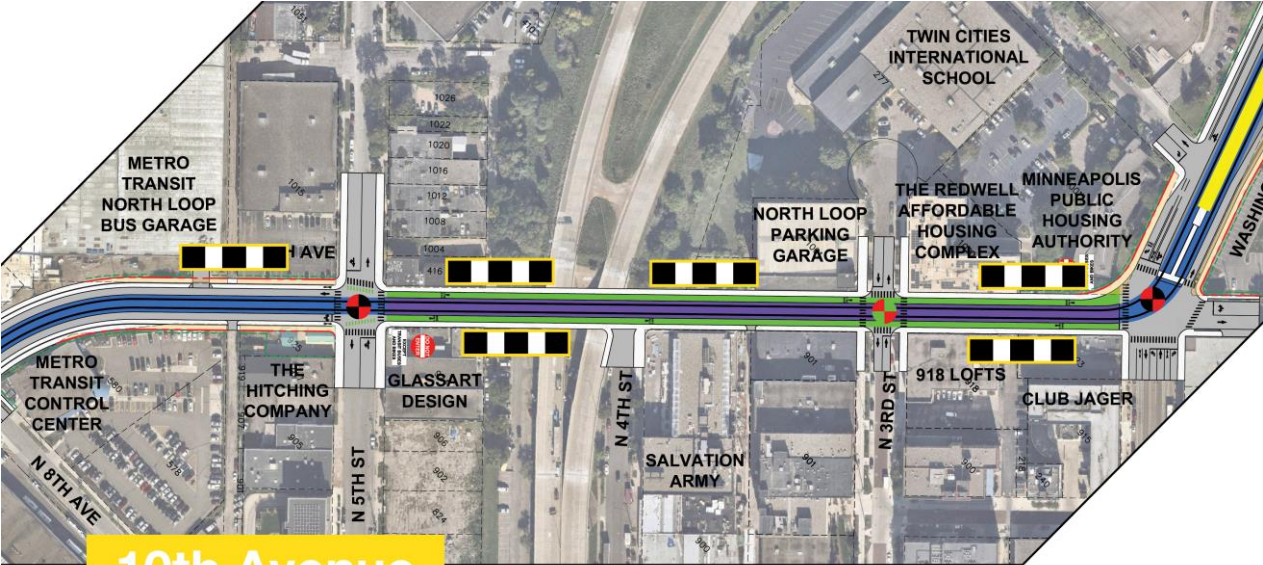




# 10<sup>th</sup> Ave: One-way Northbound



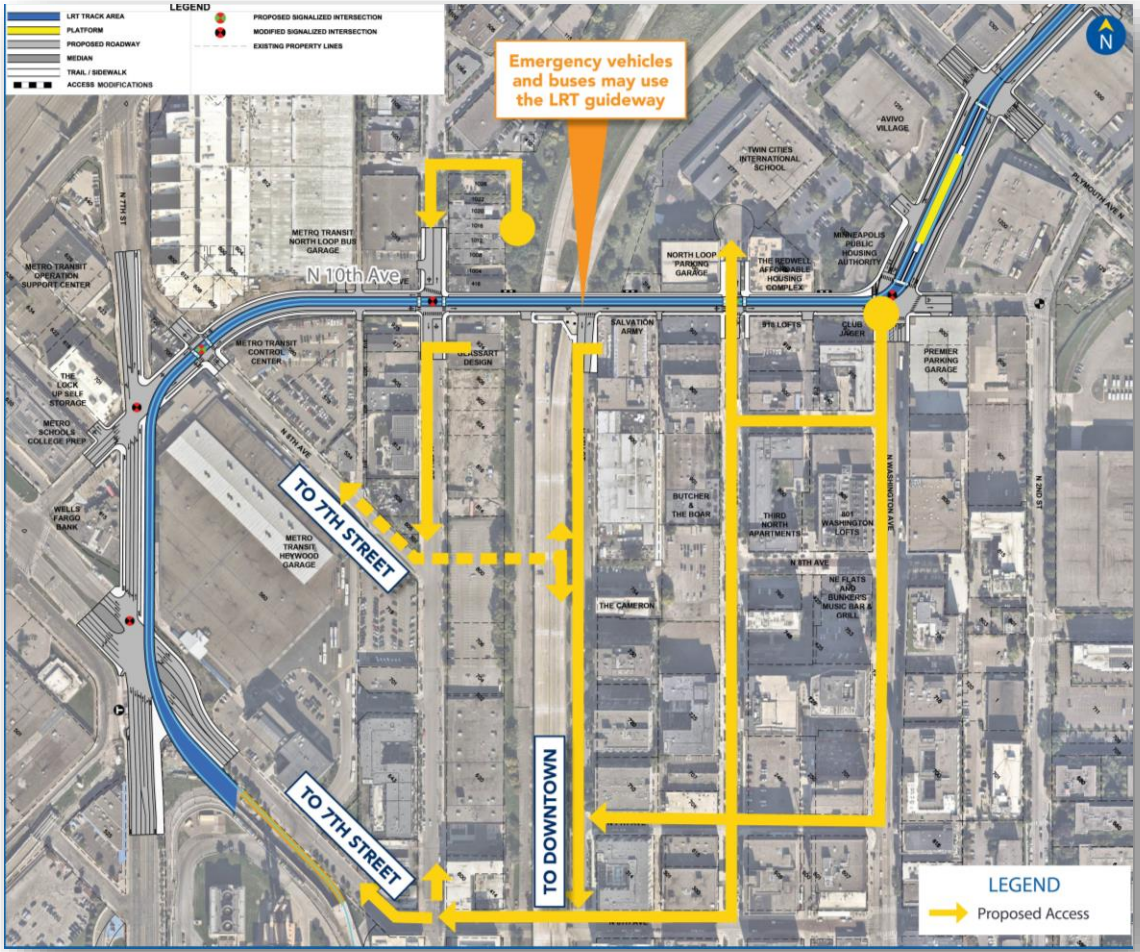
# 10th Ave Area: Potential Vehicle Access



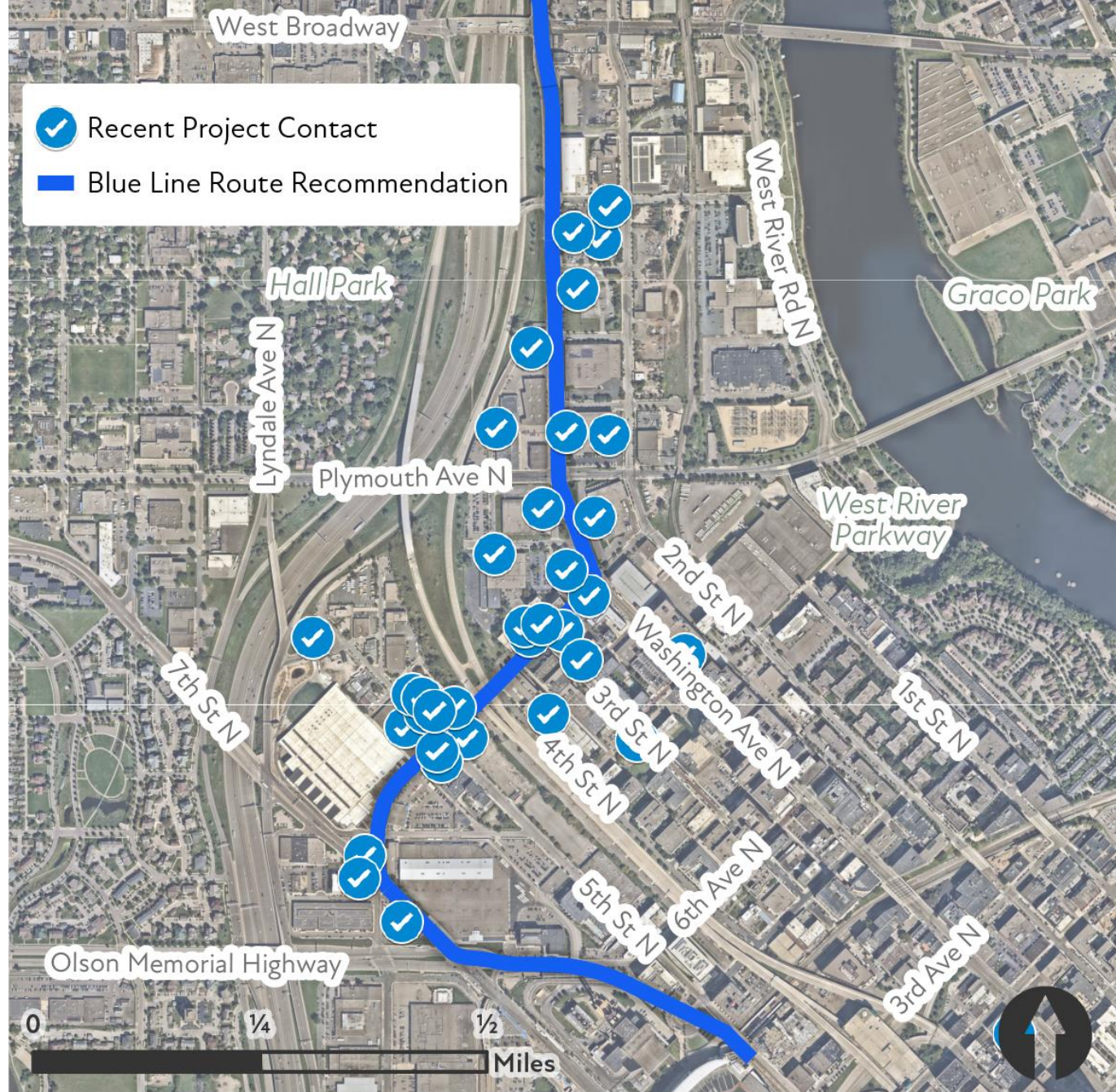
10th Avenue

**LEGEND**

Access Modifications



# 10th Ave Area: Continuing Engagement



# Interactive Feedback Map

54 comments from 3/19 through 7/22

## *Route Comments*

### **Prefer East of I-94**

- Displacement on Lyndale
- Development opportunities
- Impact on businesses (North Loop)
- Impact on residents (on Lyndale)

### **Prefer East of I-94 sub-option**

- More accessible/serves more people

### **Prefer Lyndale**

- Development opportunities
- Serves more people and destinations

### **Prefer West Broadway**

- Avoids impact on residents

### **Prefer 21st**

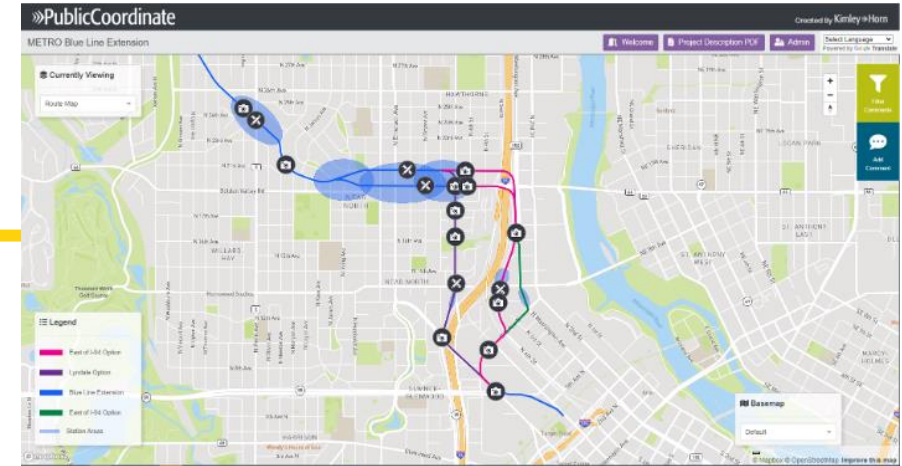
- West Broadway is too busy



# Interactive Feedback Map

## *General Comments*

- Concerns about displacement and project cost
- Concerns about parking
  - East of I-94 south of Plymouth
- Concerns about business impact
  - Flyover bridge south of 17<sup>th</sup> Ave
- Desire for lane reductions/lower traffic speeds on West Broadway
- Development opportunities
- Route needs to serve people and destinations



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# Anti-displacement Update



# Anti-displacement Update

- Survey responses
- Timeline for Anti-Displacement work
- Corridor partner meeting

[YourBlueLine.org/Anti-displacement](https://YourBlueLine.org/Anti-displacement)

✓ 6,300 unique visits to web page

✓ Full report downloaded more than 1,000 times



# Anti-displacement Survey Responses

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- **What desired outcomes of anti-displacement strategies are most important to you?**
  - Community empowerment and transparency in the decision-making process and support of residents and businesses throughout all phases of the project were the most desired outcomes of anti-displacement strategies
- **Which anti-displacement strategies would you personally prioritize?**
  - Affordable housing preservation/development, limitation of investor purchasing/corporate ownership, and small business support were anti-displacement strategies that should be prioritized
- **Are there other anti-displacement policies or strategies you think should be considered?**
  - Themes included commitment to community development that specifically increases safety, walkability and urban amenities in the corridor and economic renewal and opportunity to local businesses as a result of the Blue Line Extension





# Anti-displacement Timeline

	2023						2024								
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Project Timeline	Route Selection			FTA Review #1		FTA Review #2		FTA Review #3		Publish SDEIS		Prepare SFEIS			
														Municipal Consent	

## Anti-displacement Timeline

### Develop Implementation Framework

Release Draft

Finalize Framework

### Resourcing

Coordinated Budget/Staffing/IGR Strategies

### Engaging with Community and Agency Partners

Co-Develop Meeting Schedule and Engagement Strategy

### Community Engagement

Develop Community Engagement Plan

Late Q3 Convening with ADWG [Transition to Community Prosperity Advisory Committee]



# Corridor Partner Meeting

- Action per CMC Resolution:
  - Work in partnership with the project sponsors
  - 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.



Illustrations by  
Cori Nakamura Lin



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# Next Steps



# CMC Next Steps

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- Next CMC meeting is September 14
  - Proposed resolution for end-to-end track alignment and stations
  - Meeting has been extended to 2 hours



# 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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