

Corridor Management Committee

October 9, 2025



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



Today's Topics

- Call to Order & Welcome
- Approval of April 10 Meeting Summary
- Community and Business Advisory Committee Reports
- ACPP Board Update
- Metropolitan Council Anti-Displacement Update
- Project Update
- Environmental Mitigation Update
- Outreach Update
- Workforce Development Update
- Next Meeting: November 13, 2025



A service of the Metropolitan Council
Transit Improvement

Staffing Updates - Welcome

- Steve Pierce – Manager Engineering Track & Systems
- Pa Nhue Vue – Community Outreach Coordinator, Brooklyn Park
- Amada Marquez Simula – Community Outreach Coordinator, Crystal & Robbinsdale



Steve Pierce



Pa Nhue Vue



Amáda Márquez Simula



Approval of April 10 Meeting Summary



The public can submit written comments to BLE Outreach (nkongo.cigolo@metrotransit.org)

Community and Business Advisory Committee Reports



Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program Board Update



Anti Displacement Community Prosperity Program Board

Update for CMC

Thursday, October 9th, 2025



CURA Metrics



CURA Recommendations for Blue Line Displacement Metrics



Center for Urban and
Regional Affairs | **cura**

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**Recommendation #1:
Community Reporting Portal**

**Recommendation #2:
Displacement Dashboard**

**Recommendation #3:
Annual Displacement Tracker**

We recommend establishing a displacement monitoring system with three core elements:

Community Reporting Portal:

An online platform where residents, businesses, and community organizations can share experiences, concerns, and information related to displacement and displacement pressures.

Displacement Dashboard:

A regularly updated (quarterly) tool that reports key indicators of displacement risk, enabling the identification and tracking of emerging trends.

Annual Displacement Tracker

A yearly report that highlights long-term demographic shifts, housing affordability outcomes, and broader displacement dynamics along the corridor.

This system would combine qualitative and quantitative data and provide insight on daily lived experiences, short-term trends, and long-term outcomes. To our knowledge, no comparable model exists in the U.S., positioning Hennepin County and the Blue Line corridor to implement one of the most comprehensive displacement monitoring systems in the country.

Community Reporting Portal: Metrics

Metric	Category	Source	Recommendation?
Business accessibility during construction	Commercial	Business Owners	Strongly Recommend
Business Access to Support	Commercial	Business Owners	Strongly Recommend
Home Accessibility During Construction	Residential	Homeowners	Recommend

Board Updates



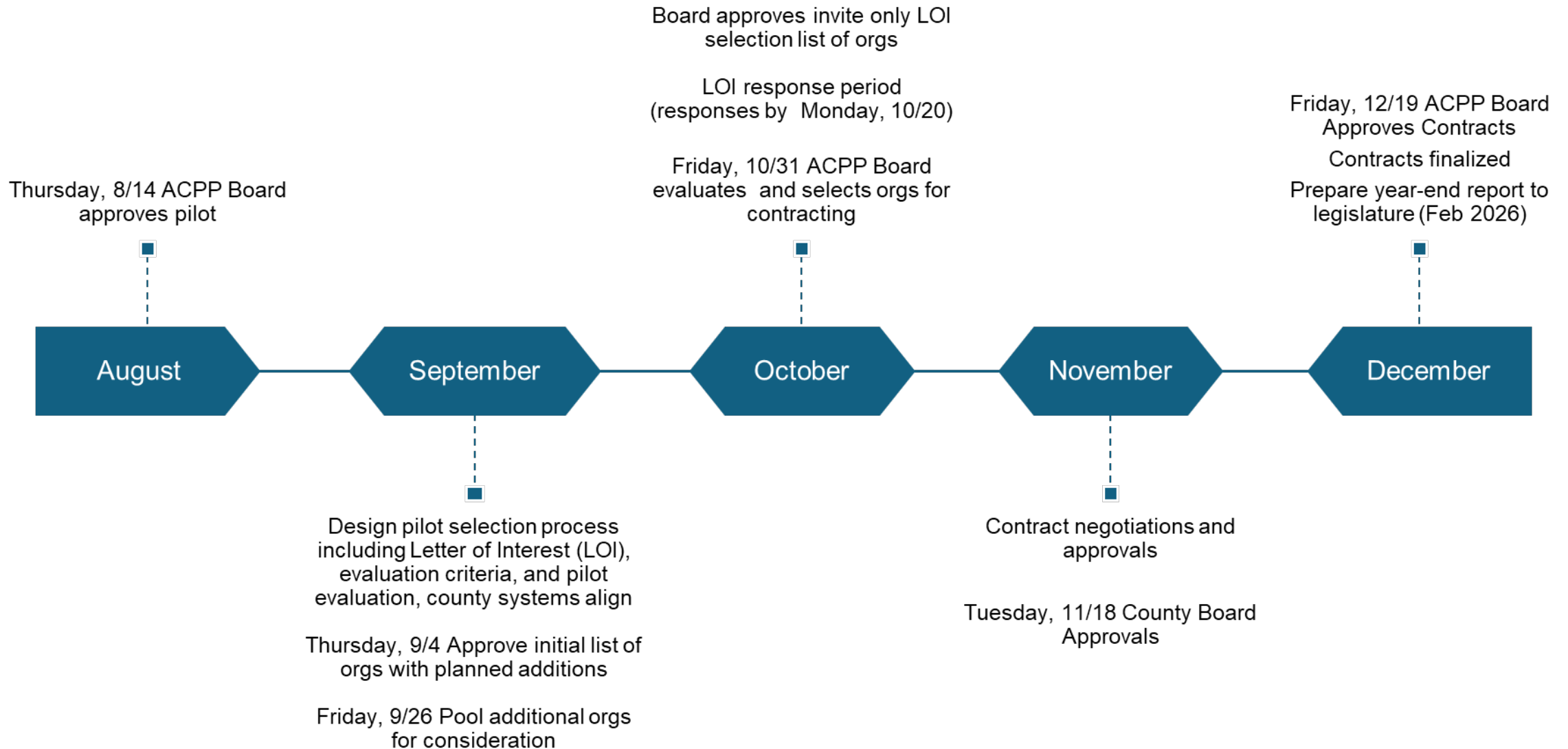
THE PILOT

- **Pilot Fund Size:** Cap Pilot Fund Size to \$2M
- **RFP:** Invite-Only, New Simplified Application and Budget Form (to be developed)- up to 20 invitations.
- **Strategic Scope:** Fund at least one project within each of the following qualifying purposes: housing stability, small business stability and real estate development.
- **Geographic Scope:** Ensure invited applicants are proposing projects along the impacted corridor, with specific concern for those most vulnerable to displacement pressures (ie. North Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park)

CRITERIA

- **Geographic:** Does the proposed work take place within the eligible geographic boundaries (i.e. within a mile radius of the current and previous LRT line)? YES or NO
- **Demographic:** Does the proposed project support communities and individuals and businesses along the LRT line who are most vulnerable to the pressure of displacement? *Note: Please refer to the social vulnerability index addendum to help you demonstrate this in your proposal.*
- **Use of Funds:** Does the proposed timeline of activities and use of requested funds meet the urgency of displacement pressures within the stated geography and community?
- **Financial:** Does the proposed project include matching funds, received or committed? *Note: This is not a requirement for award, but it is helpful information for ACP board to better understand matching support needs*
- **Community Impact:** Does the proposed project demonstrate a positive impact to residents, relative to the amount requested?
- **Community Impact and Evaluation Capacity:** To what extent the applicant can demonstrate the ability to measure and report direct program outputs and long-term anti-displacement outcomes
- **Previous Experience:** Does the applicant demonstrate experience and past achievements, and a likelihood of success to achieve the qualifying purpose described in the proposal?
- **BRT Project Stage:** Is this project helping communities prepare for construction?
- **BRT Project Stage:** Is this project helping communities brace for impacts during construction?
- **BRT Project Stage:** Is this project helping communities to sustain and thrive post-construction?

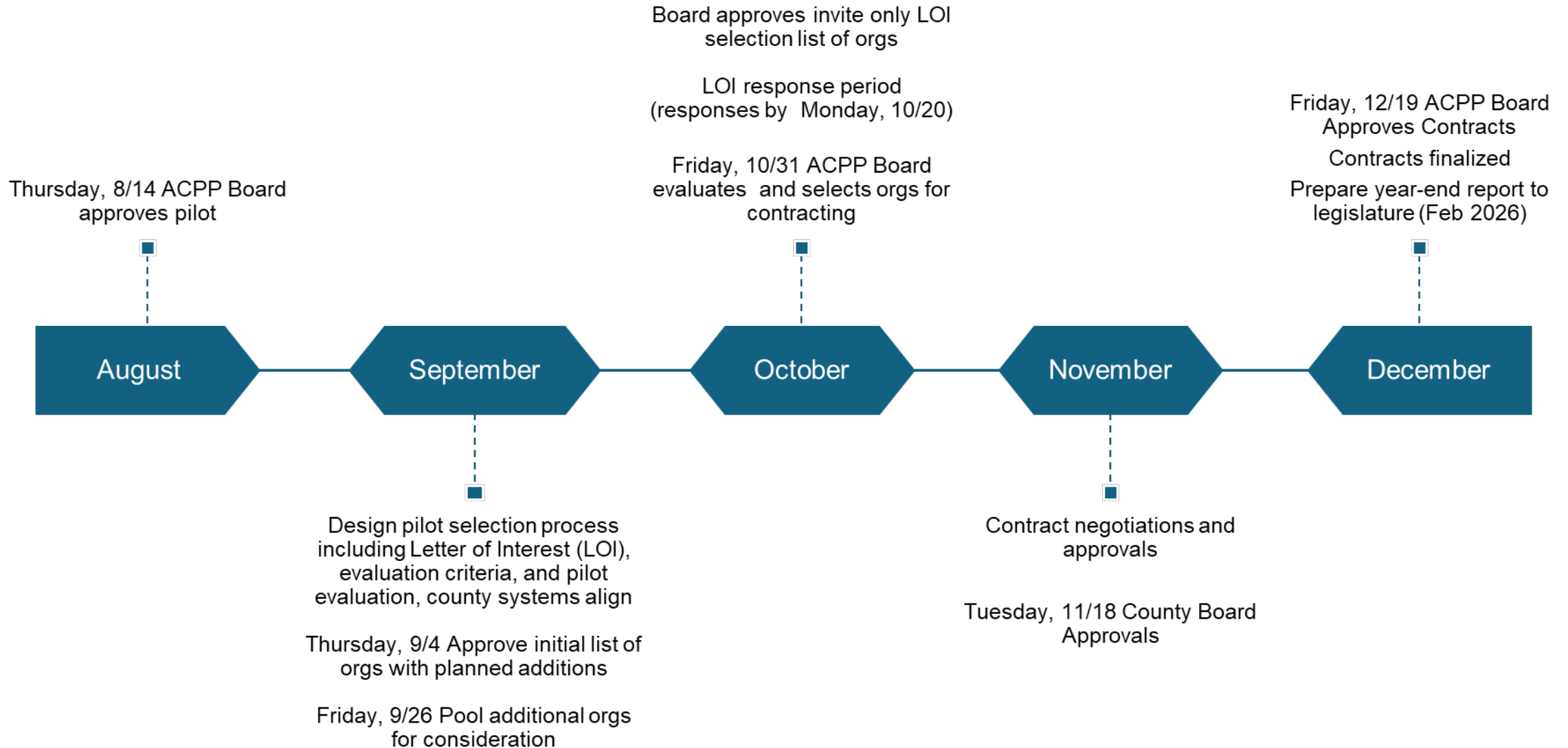
Timeline overview



PORTFOLIO LOOK

HOUSING STABILITY	BUSINESS STABILITY	REAL ESTATE
100% nonprofit 5/6 are Northside 1/6 Brooklyn Park	40% nonprofit 60% for-profit 4/5 are Northside 1/5 Brooklyn Park	16% nonprofit 84% for-profit 5/6 are Northside 1/6 corridor wide

Timeline overview



What's next?

- Recruitment of new board members
- Working towards public RFP
- Continue to build synergy with the project
- Fundraising activities



Anti-Displacement – Metropolitan Council Resources



Met Council's Anti-displacement Framework

- The objective of the anti-displacement framework is to enhance residents' ability to keep their housing, amenities, health, and sense of belonging in a neighborhood. The Met Council has identified three strategies to implement this framework.
 - Met Council investments go through an anti-displacement risk assessment.
 - Prioritize projects that support community connection and anti-displacement in our grant systems.
 - Provide best practices and resources through engagement and collaboration with overburdened communities.



Metropolitan Council Resources

Livable Communities Act (LCA) grants: awarded to participating cities in the 7-county metro region that are partnering with development teams on projects.

Key Program Features:

- Through nine different grant programs, LCA grants help communities achieve development goals that create more housing choice, support living wage job creation, and connect jobs, housing, and regional amenities to create a more equitable region.
- To be eligible to apply for Livable Communities grants, cities must enroll in the program. All BLE cities are currently enrolled and eligible for these grants.
- Each grant has their own deadlines and funding limits.
- More information: metro council.org/Communities/Services/Livable-Communities-Grants



Metropolitan Council Resources

- **Livable Communities Demonstration Account:** supports development and redevelopment projects
- **Transit Oriented Development Grants:** focused on high density projects along transit corridors
- **Pre-Development Grants:** teams defining or redefining a project that support Imagine 2050 goals
- **Policy Development Funds:** support development that emphasizes equitable development
- **Tax Base Revitalization Account:** cleans up contaminated land/buildings for development
- **Local Housing Incentives Account:** helps expand and preserve lifecycle and affordable rental housing
- **Affordable Homeownership Program:** provides grants to support affordable homeownership development, including acquisition and rehabilitation



Increase Community Wealth Building

- Review of contracting and procurement processes to reduce payment time
- Coordinate workforce training with contractors and trade unions
- Support community place-keeping and place-making
- Convene private, public, non-profit and philanthropic interests
- Share data and resources



Project Update



Project Update

- August
 - FTA approved Amended Record of Decision finalizing Federal environmental process
 - Project submitted information to FTA that will allow finalization of budget and schedule
- January/February/March
 - Final recommendations from FTA incorporated into project budget and schedule
 - County and Council approve final scope, schedule, and budget
 - Project team updates Corridor Management Committee



Environmental Mitigation Update



Environmental Review Milestones

- Supplemental Final EIS published May 2025
- Identifies final impacts and mitigation
- 30-day comment period
 - Comments responded to in Amended Record of Decision



Amended Record of Decision

- The BLE Light Rail transit project has reached a major milestone with the conclusion of the federal environmental review process.
- In August, the FTA published an AROD following comprehensive review of the project's environmental findings and proposed strategies to address environmental, economic, and social impacts.
- Next steps:
 - SFEIS mitigation strategies officially part of BLE project
 - \$5M Business Support Program
 - \$5M Community Investment Fund
 - Implementation after Full Funding Grant Agreement



Strategies to Address Impacts

- Mitigation within the Project is funded by the Project
- FTA approval via Amended Record of Decision
- Mitigation implementation after funding received
 - Continuing to define mitigation implementation through outreach with Project partners



Strategies to Address Impacts

- Mitigation strategies identified in Amended ROD:
 - Funding for community programs tied to housing stability
 - Cultural placekeeping design groups
 - Public realm improvements
 - Business support during construction
 - Storefront/virtual resource center
 - Workforce development
 - Parking near Penn/W Broadway



Community Investment Fund

- Invest in community organizations to strengthen community and offset construction impacts
- Funding will support community programs, address their needs, and strengthen community institutions
- Funding allocated based off effectiveness in offsetting impacts and ability to meet identified needs related to housing stability



Business Support During Construction

Construction Support:

- Online hotline and updates
- Advance notice of access and utility disruptions
- Staff as liaisons for communication between businesses and contractors
- Public Informational Sessions

Business support:

- Business Support Fund
- Business advertising
- Provide wayfinding for customers



Business Support During Construction

Business Support Fund:

- Up to \$30k per business, \$5M total
- Intended for businesses next to construction activities
- Funds to offset rent or mortgage payments
- Criteria and application process under development
 - Distance/time duration requirements
 - Small business definition and other requirements



Online Portal and Storefronts

Website for affected people and businesses:

- Relocation and anti-displacement resources
- Information regarding construction related disruptions and closures
- Other available information and resources

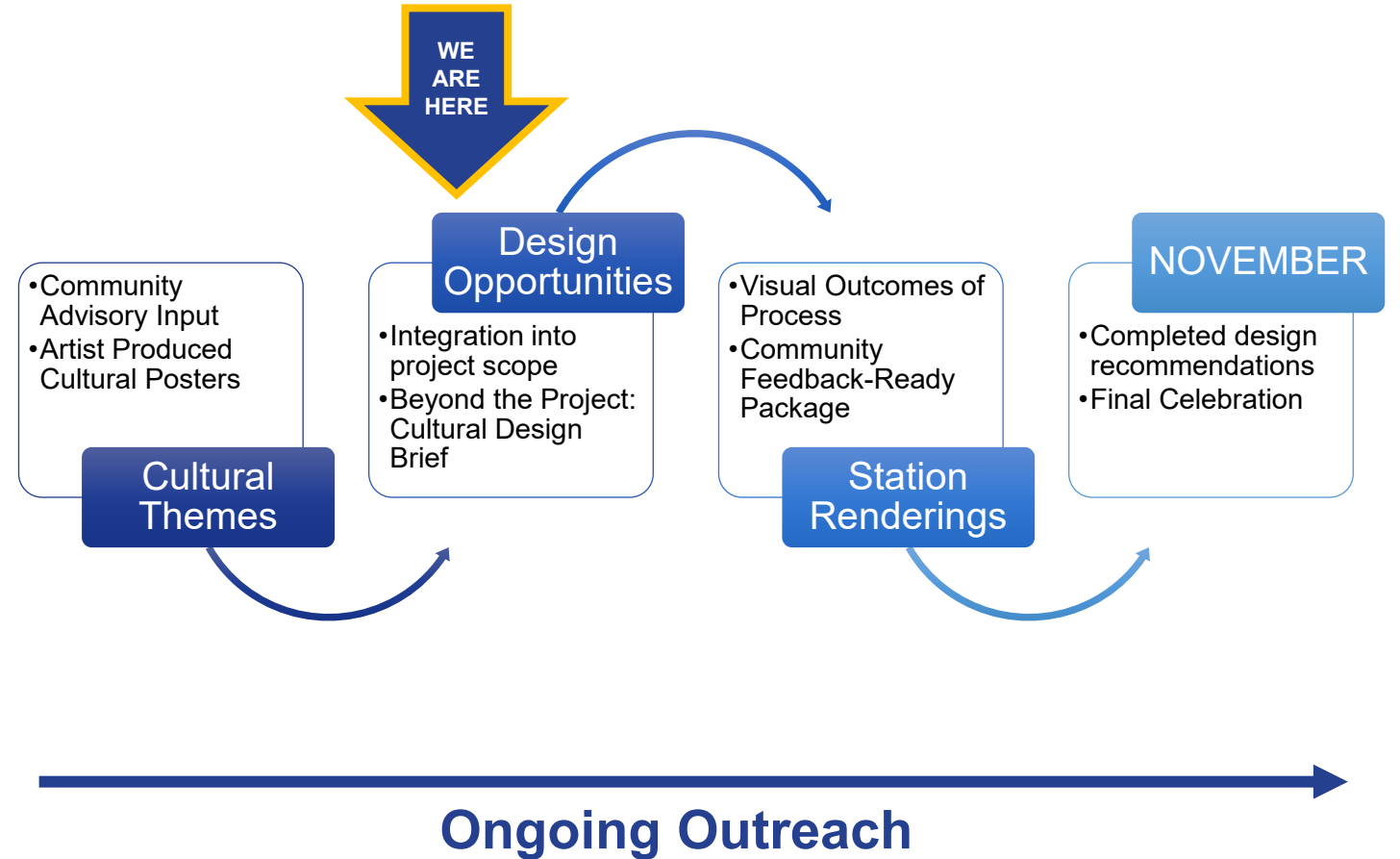
Storefronts in Brooklyn Park and Minneapolis:

- Gather information from contractors and staff
- Find resources during construction
- Ask project related questions
- Meeting, open house, and event space



Cultural Placekeeping

- Community Members, City Staff, Design Team, and Project Staff meeting monthly
- Cultural Themes Discovery
- Artistic Translation
- Design Opportunities
- Outreach Feedback Loop



Outreach Update



Engagement Metrics: Aug 2020-Sept 2025

- **955** events resulting in nearly **46,000** points of contact with the public
- **430,000+** reach on social media and **10 million+** reach through newsletters and paid ads on community and cultural media (as of June 2025)
- Approximately **7,300** survey responses, written comments, and comments on the interactive map
- Corridor postcards mailed to **+250,000** properties
- Over **40,000** emails and phone calls



DREAM Sessions

- DREAM is a strategic visioning framework. Through guided facilitation, participants are able to navigate complex systems to create a shared vision for their community
- The DREAM team are teaming up with Hennepin Co. and the Met Council to facilitate sessions in all BLE corridor cities



North Minneapolis DREAM Session, May 2025

DREAM Sessions – Overall Themes

- Increased pedestrian safety improvements
- No gentrification - protect current families living in the corridor
- Hope this will create vibrancy for businesses
- Excitement about new opportunities and accessibility



- Desire for additional green spaces
- Be family friendly and have school programs to show kids how to use transit
- Desire for affordable groceries



DREAM Bus Tour

- May 7 & June 10



BLE Bus Tour May 2025



DREAM Sessions in Each City

- **Completed 8 DREAM sessions in 2025**

- 2 each in Brooklyn Park, Crystal/Robbinsdale, Minneapolis and North Loop
- Brooklyn Park and North Minneapolis best attended
- Over 400 survey response captures
 - Top concerns: safety/security, cost (who's going to pay for it)
 - Top aspirations: entertainment districts, youth activities, increased regional connections and mobility, services for seniors and differently-abled, employment and business development opportunities



DREAM Youth Summit

Youth Summit at the Northside YMCA on August 9

- Engaged (~38) youth to share information about the project and gather feedback through art activities, bus tour, and podcast and video interviews



August 2025 DREAM Youth Summit

Regional DREAM Summit

Regional Summit at UROC on October 4

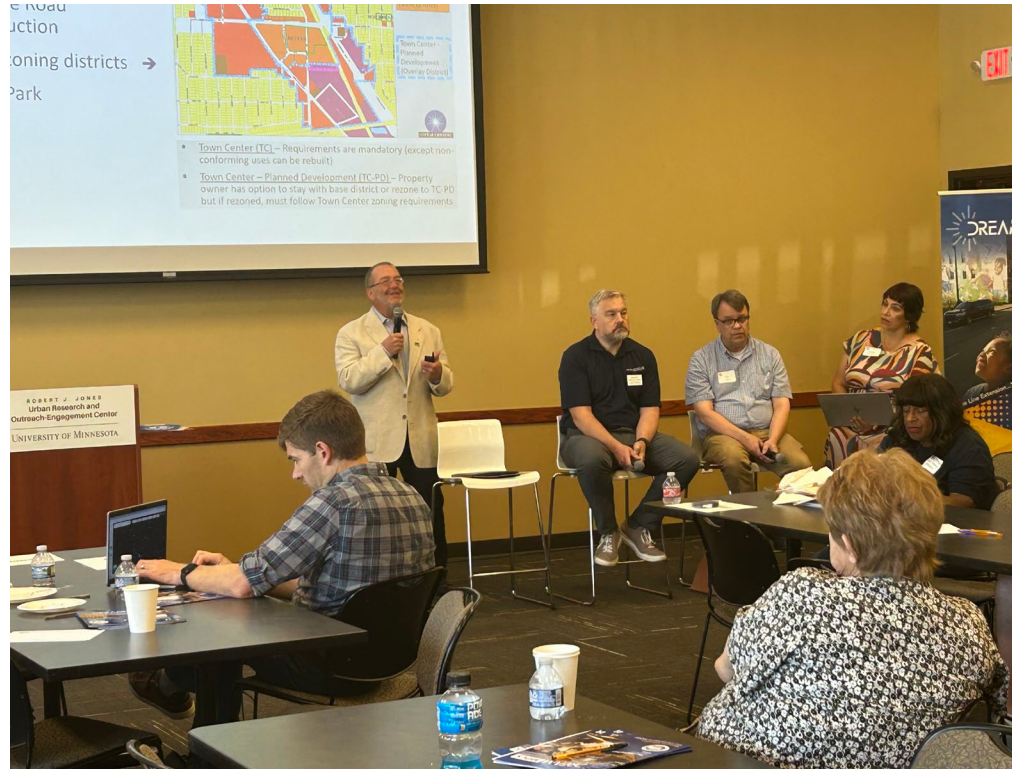
- Community members and policy makers recapped feedback from the DREAM sessions in each city and discussed next steps



Regional DREAM Summit

Topics included:

- Status of project and anti-displacement work
- Development potential around LRT in the Twin Cities
- Lessons learned from the Green Line
- Updates from city staff on station area planning and anti-displacement work
- Safety and security update



Approximately 60 in-person attendees & 160 virtual attendees



Upcoming Engagement Events

Event Name	Location	Day	Time
Cultural Placekeeping Meeting	Elim Lutheran Church	Wed, Oct 22	5-7pm
Spooktacular	Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center	Sat, Oct 25	2-4pm
Cultural Placekeeping Meeting	Elim Lutheran Church	Wed, Nov 19	5-7pm
Quarter 4 Community Update Meeting	Crystal Community Center	Thu, Nov 20	5-7pm



Workforce Development Update



Blue Line Extension Workforce Development

BLUE LINE EXTENSION ANTI-DISPLACEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Prepared for Hennepin County
April 2023

 Center for Urban and
Regional Affairs | **cura**
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Coordinated Action Plan for Anti-Displacement

Blue Line Extension Corridor

August 2024



Workforce Development Goals

Navigation & Outreach

- Connect people with services through community-based organizations

Employment & Training Support

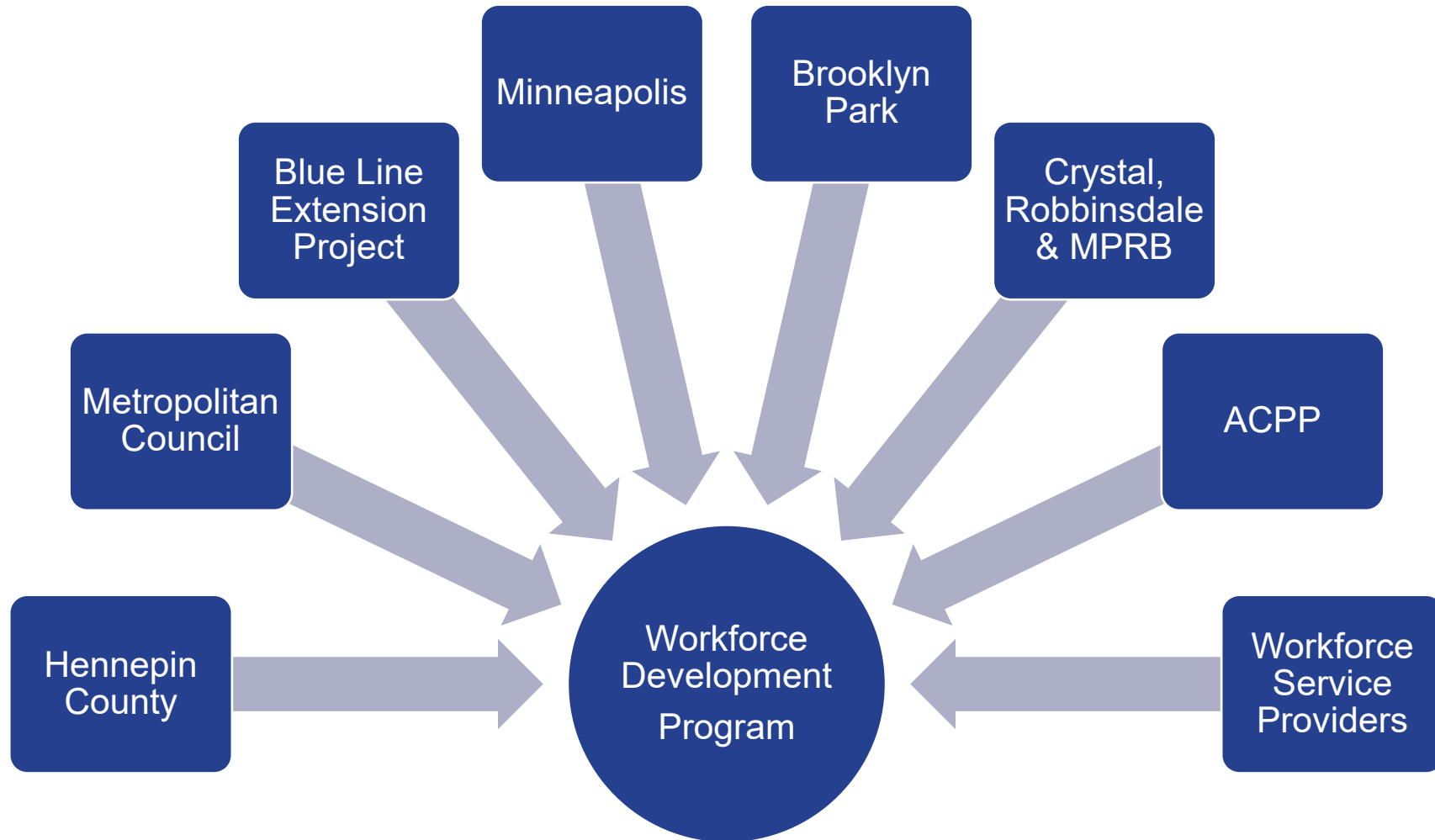
- Monitor employment trends, and community feedback to identify employment & training opportunities

BLE Jobs

- Create local hiring preference, prepare and connect corridor residents to BLE jobs



WFD Program Partnership

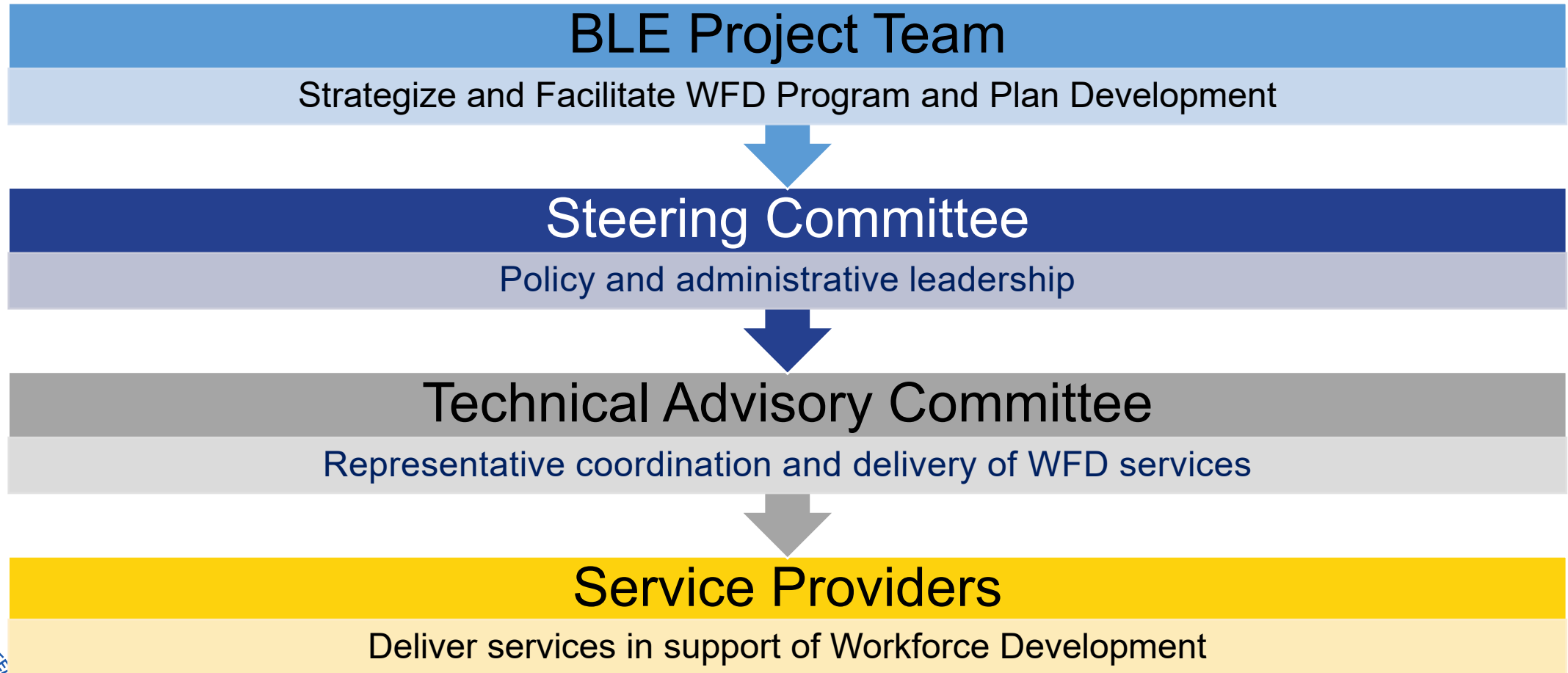


Project's Workforce Commitments

- Identified in the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS), and approved by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Implement a Project Workforce Development Program
 - Local hiring preference requirements in construction contracts
 - Potential workforce development opportunities (trainings, mentorships, apprenticeships, scholarships, career fairs, information sessions)
- Require Contractors to identify workforce approach in their proposals
- Small Business Goals



BLE Workforce Organization Structure



Current BLE WFD Status



Marketing & Communications Plan

Goals

Make training and job opportunities visible, clear, and relatable to target audiences.



Awareness

Inspire & Motivate
Show the transformational potential of BLE jobs/training



Trust

Build Trust & Transparency
Share updates consistently, openly, and in accessible formats



Enrollment

Connect Communities to Opportunity
Provide pathways from outreach to training to employment



Stay connected

- Engagement email:
 - BLEoutreach@metrotransit.org
- **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:
 - Instagram: Blue_Line_Extension
 - BlueSky: @BlueLineExt.bsky.social
 - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension
 - X/Twitter: @BlueLineExt



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