



Minneapolis Update: November 15, 2021



Brooklyn Park | Crystal | Robbinsdale | Golden Valley | Minneapolis



Today's Topics


- Project Background & Schedule
- Minneapolis Design Update
- Anti-Displacement Working Group



View Design Online: BlueLineExt.org

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TRANSPORTATION	+
Projects	+
Light Rail Projects	-
METRO Green Line	+
> METRO Blue Line Extension	-
Committees	+

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.

[Interactive map of potential station locations and visualizations](#)

As of November 5, 2021 the interactive map located below has been updated with new information including new station



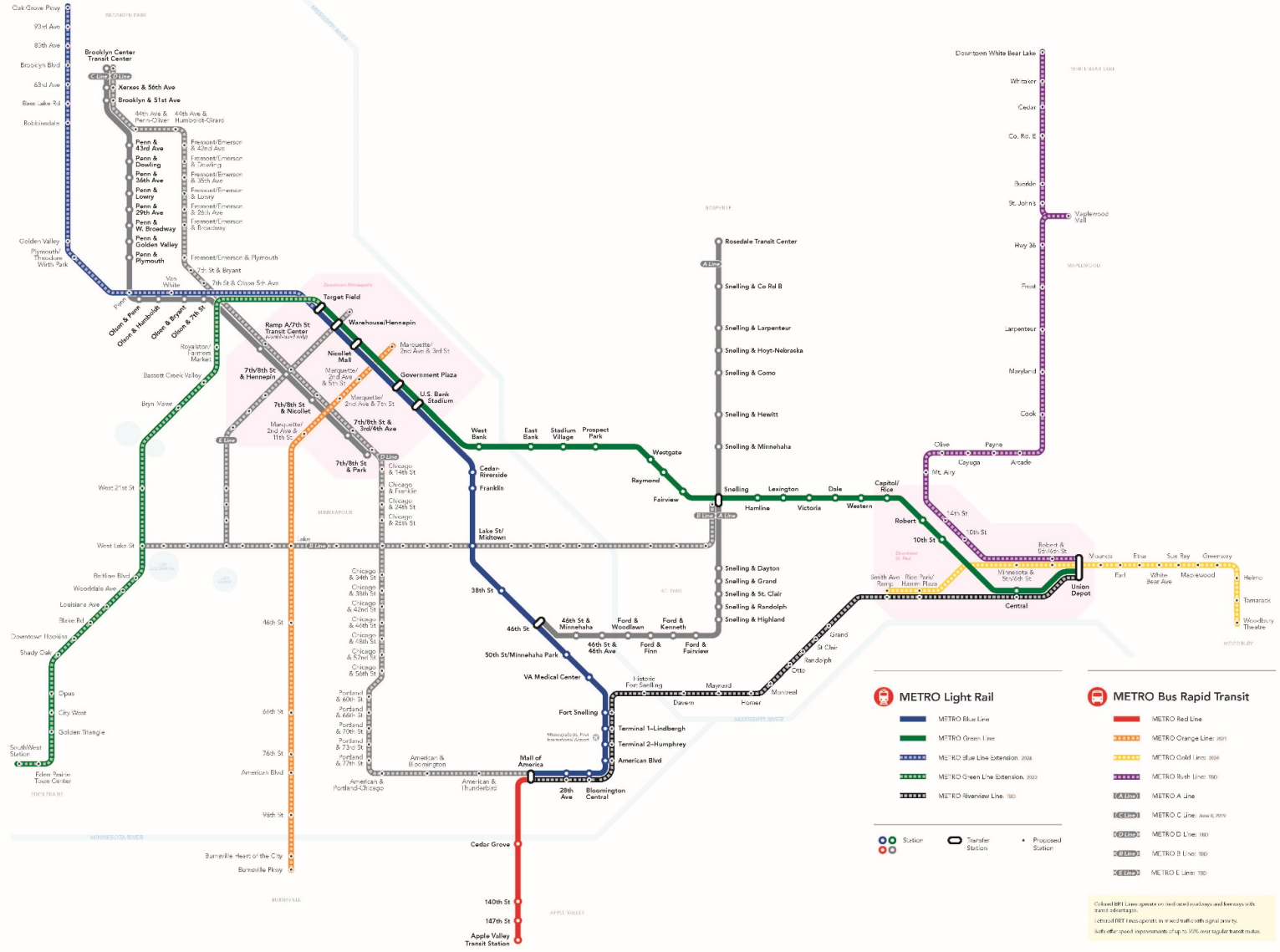
Blue Line Extension

- Connecting communities to fast, frequent, reliable transportation
- Will provide single seat trips to downtown Minneapolis, Minneapolis – St. Paul International Airport, and Mall of America



Fast. Frequent. All day. All yours.

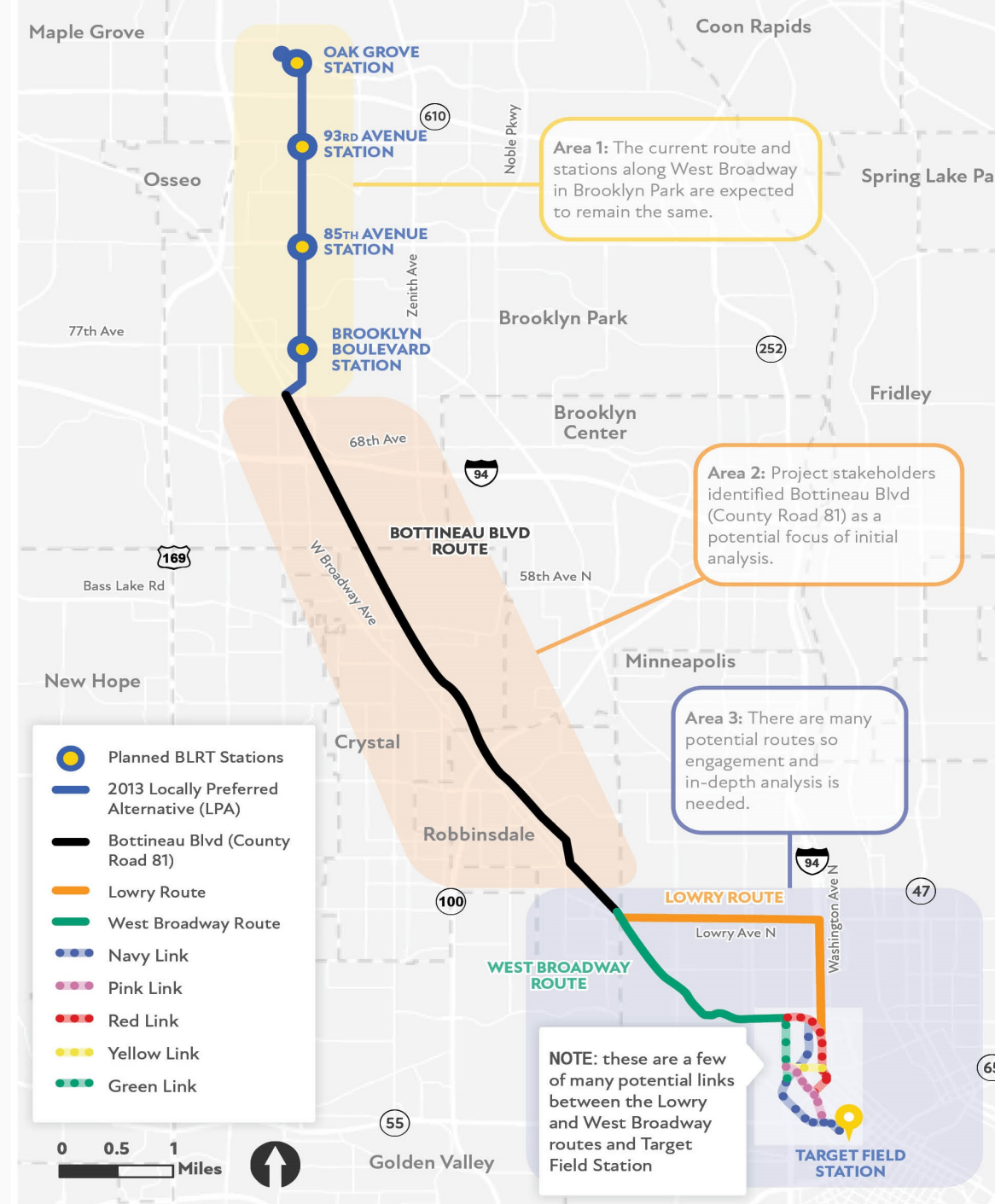
Future Rapid Transit Network



Colored BRT Lines operate on dedicated roadways and have the right-of-way priority over all other traffic. Grey BRT Lines operate on mixed traffic roadways and have the right-of-way priority over all other traffic. Grey BRT Lines have a maximum speed of up to 200 mph and rapid transit routes.

March Route Options

- Project route options
 - Confirmation of route options for Areas 1 & 2
 - Preliminary options for Area 3
- Options based on:
 - Adopted Project Principles
 - Conceptual review of LRT right of way and operational needs
 - Applicable previous work
 - Community feedback on key destinations and connections



Project Schedule

ONGOING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We're here 

AUGUST
2020

Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council issued a joint statement on advancing the project without using 8 miles of railroad right-of-way

MARCH
2021

Release of the Initial Route Evaluation Report that identified potential route options

JULY
2021

Release of potential station study areas and visualizations of light rail

NOVEMBER
2021

Release of preliminary design options of how LRT could fit into each community



Project Schedule

We're here ▶



■ Identify community supported route

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

■ Environmental review
Document benefits and impacts of the project

Municipal Consent
Seek city support of the LRT design

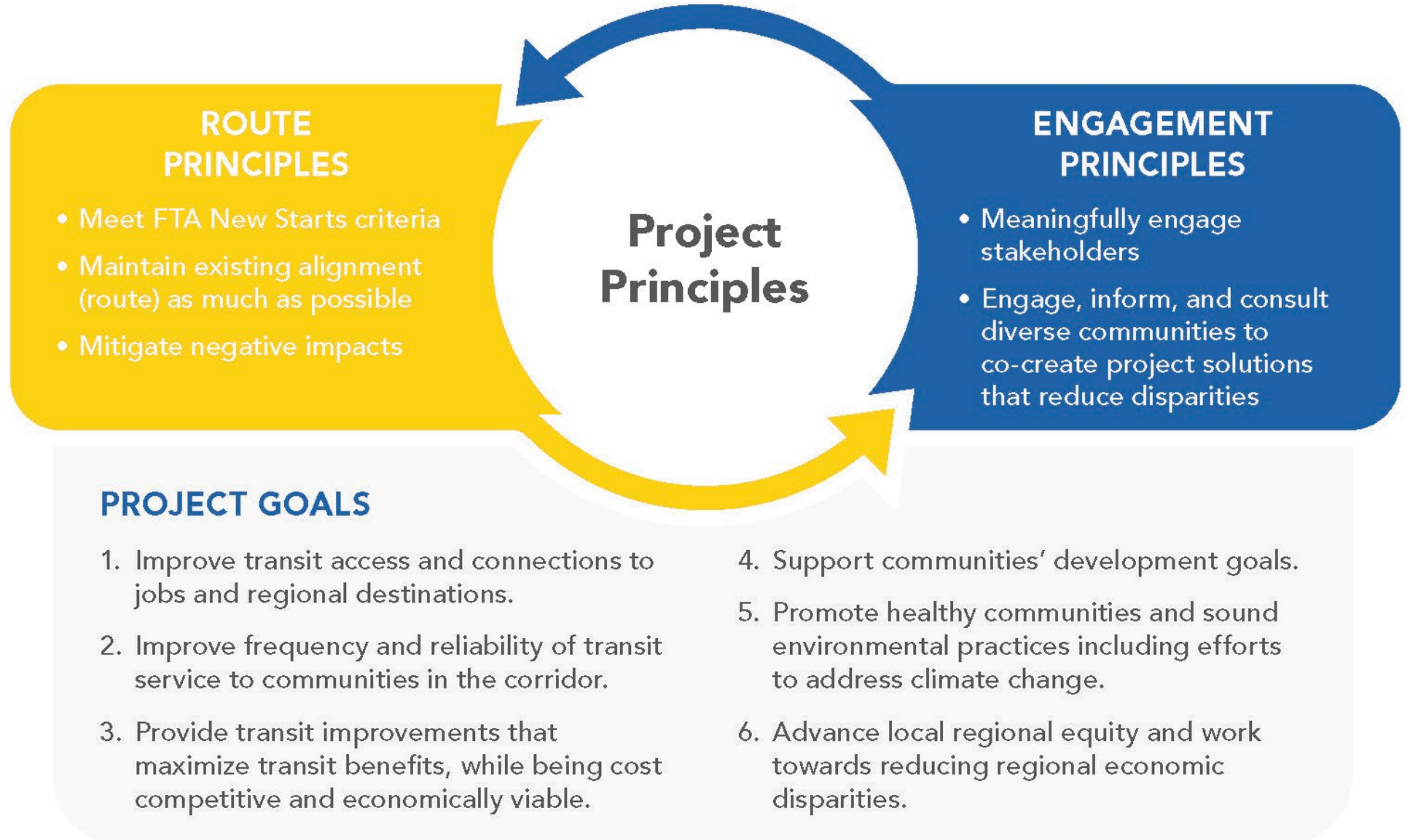
■ Engineering
Develop construction ready design plans

■ Construction and Full Funding Grant Agreement
Federal funding

■ Goal— Line opens in 2028

Light Rail Transit projects are complex and unforeseen challenges arise. Schedules and timelines are subject to change.

Evaluation Framework



Minneapolis Design Update



November Community Workshops

- The purpose of the November workshops is to show how LRT could fit into and serve the community with basic design details and potential station locations
- Feedback received from the workshops and subsequent community conversations will inform:
 - Draft Route Modification Report (December 2021)
 - Final recommendation for a community supported alignment (March 2022)

Minneapolis Routes

- Sections are used to help organize designs and alternatives
- Sections 1-4: W. Broadway
- Sections 5-7: Lowry/Washington



Highlights

- Simplified links area going into Downtown
- Route options along 21st Avenue for West Broadway
- Two options for West Broadway near North Memorial



Minneapolis Sections

- Each section has multiple alternatives
- The alternative show different challenges and opportunities
- After route selection alternatives can carry into design



Seeking Community Feedback

- This information is being shown to help the community evaluate and then decide whether a West Broadway or a Lowry route advances
- Multiple options for a section of West Broadway or Lowry can be evaluated further as the project advances
- Details and refinement of the designs will be the focus of the environmental and engineering work over the next couple years for the single, community supported alignment
- The project team will capture community feedback through the end of November to include in the draft report
 - Draft report: 45-day comment period
 - Final report: 30-day comment period




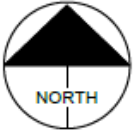
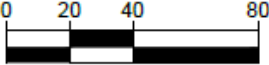

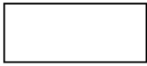










Example Options

- Review of Lowry Avenue Section 7
- Review of West Broadway Section 3

Design Drawings

- How to read the design drawings

LEGEND

	LRT TRACK AREA		RETAINING WALL		PROPOSED DIRECTIONAL LANE USE	 
	STATION PLATFORM		SIDEWALK / TRAIL		PROPOSED SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION	
	ROADWAY		MEDIAN		PROPOSED LRT ALIGNMENT	
	BRIDGE		BUILDING IMPACTS		ACCESS CLOSURE	
	PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES		PROPERTY LINES		BUS RAPID TRANSIT STATION	

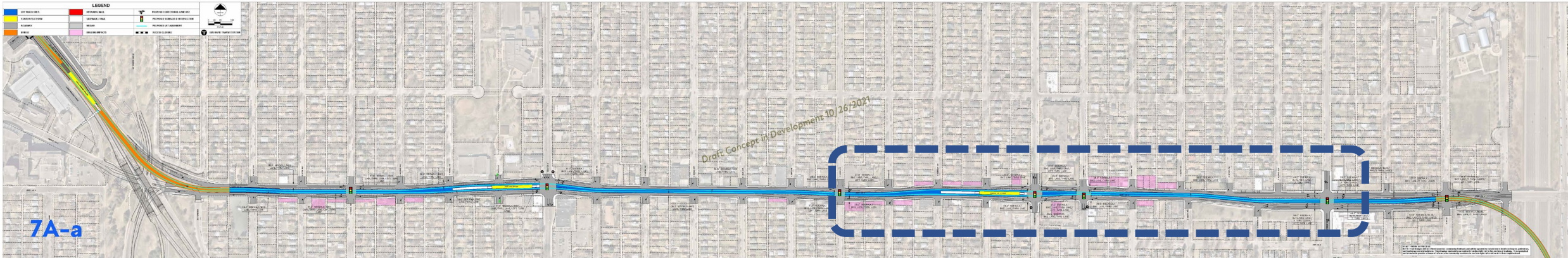
Section 7













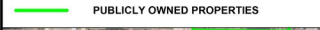
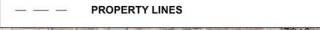
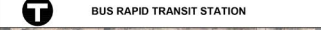
- Design challenges include currently unsignalized intersections, mostly residential land use and property impacts
- Potential for more building impacts as pedestrian crossings are added
- Options in this section focus on geometry adjustments

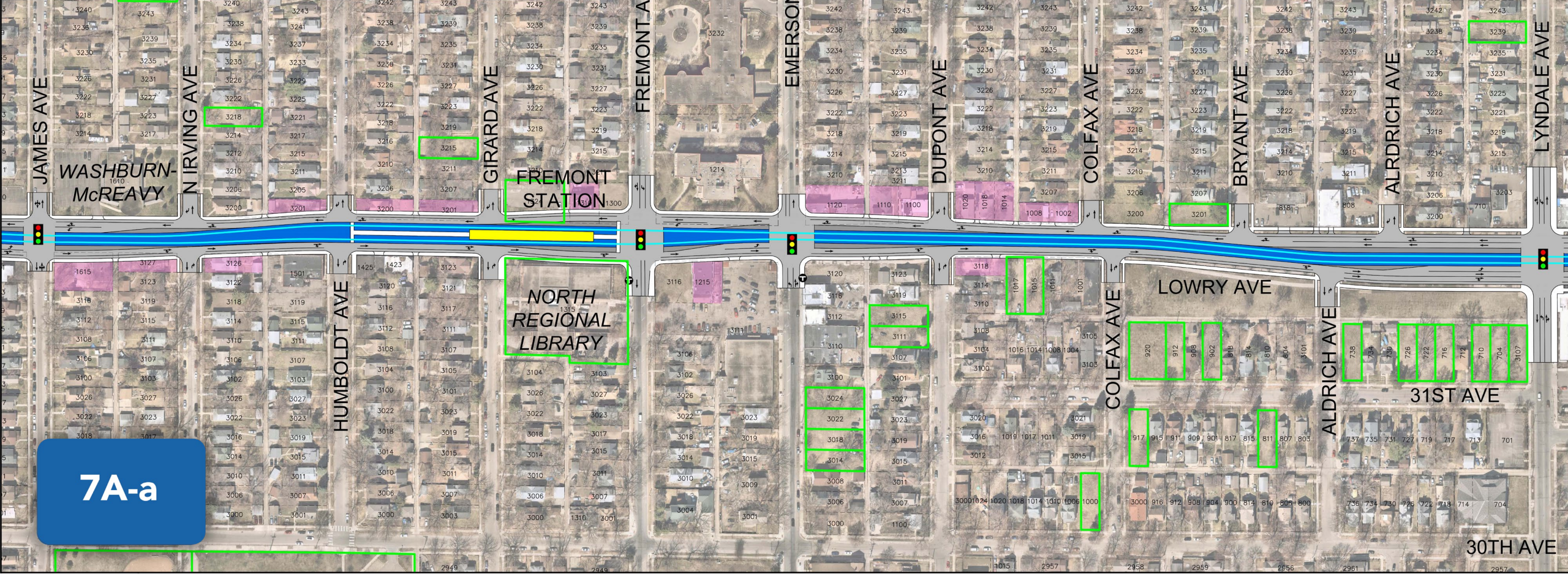


7A-a

- View of the Section 7A-a
- More design detail can be seen on zoomed in sections
- Example between James Avenue and Lyndale Avenue

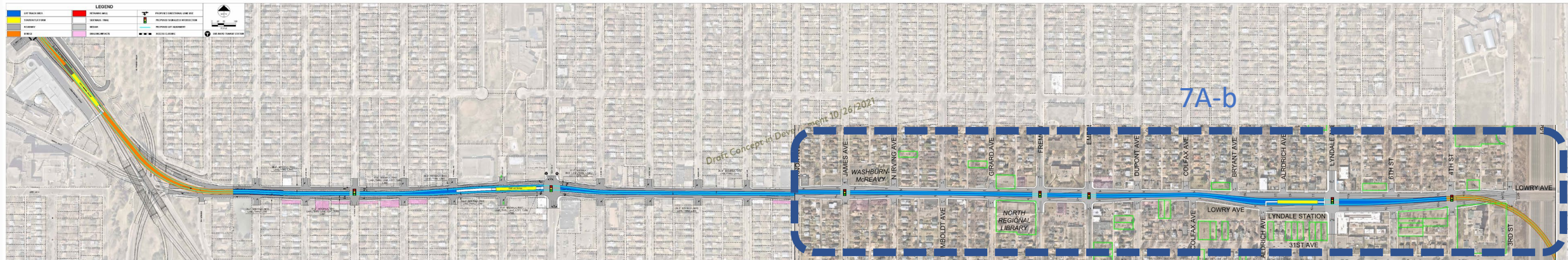


LEGEND					
	LRT TRACK AREA		RETAINING WALL		PROPOSED DIRECTIONAL LANE USE
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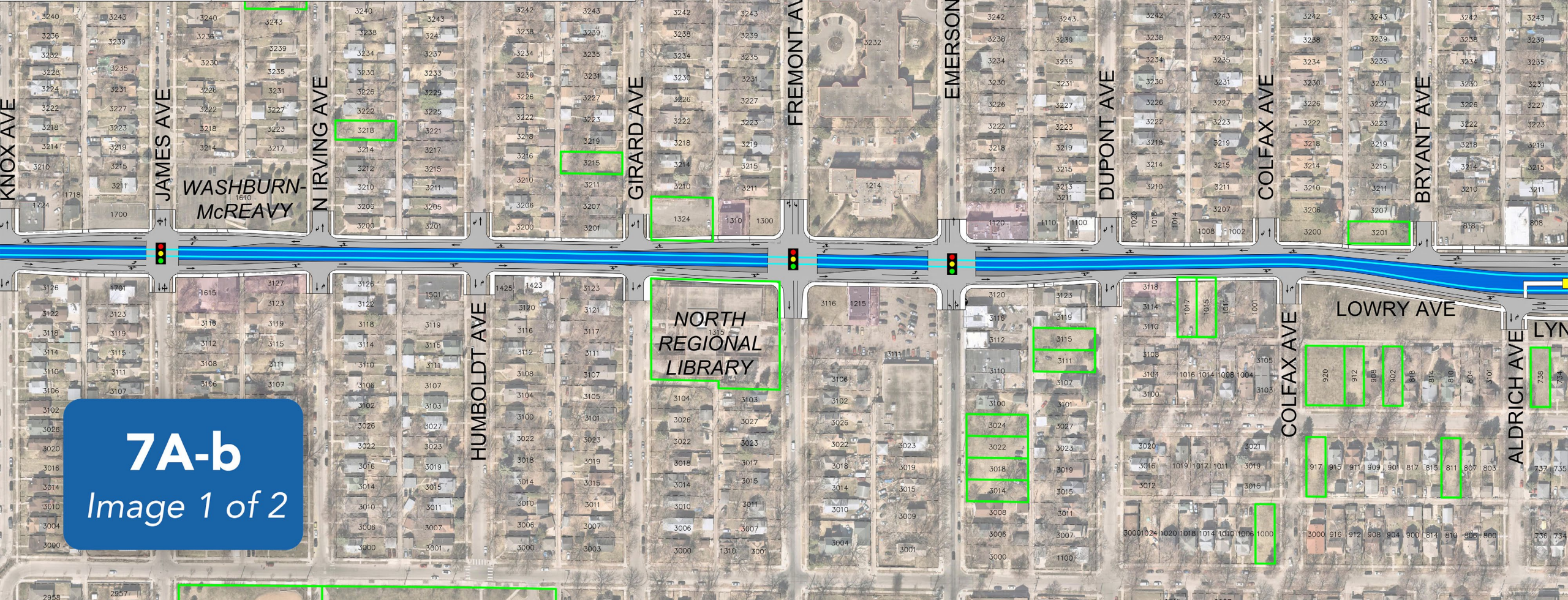
7A-b

- View of the Section 7A-b
- More design detail can be seen on zoomed in sections
- Example between Knox Avenue and 3rd Street



LEGEND

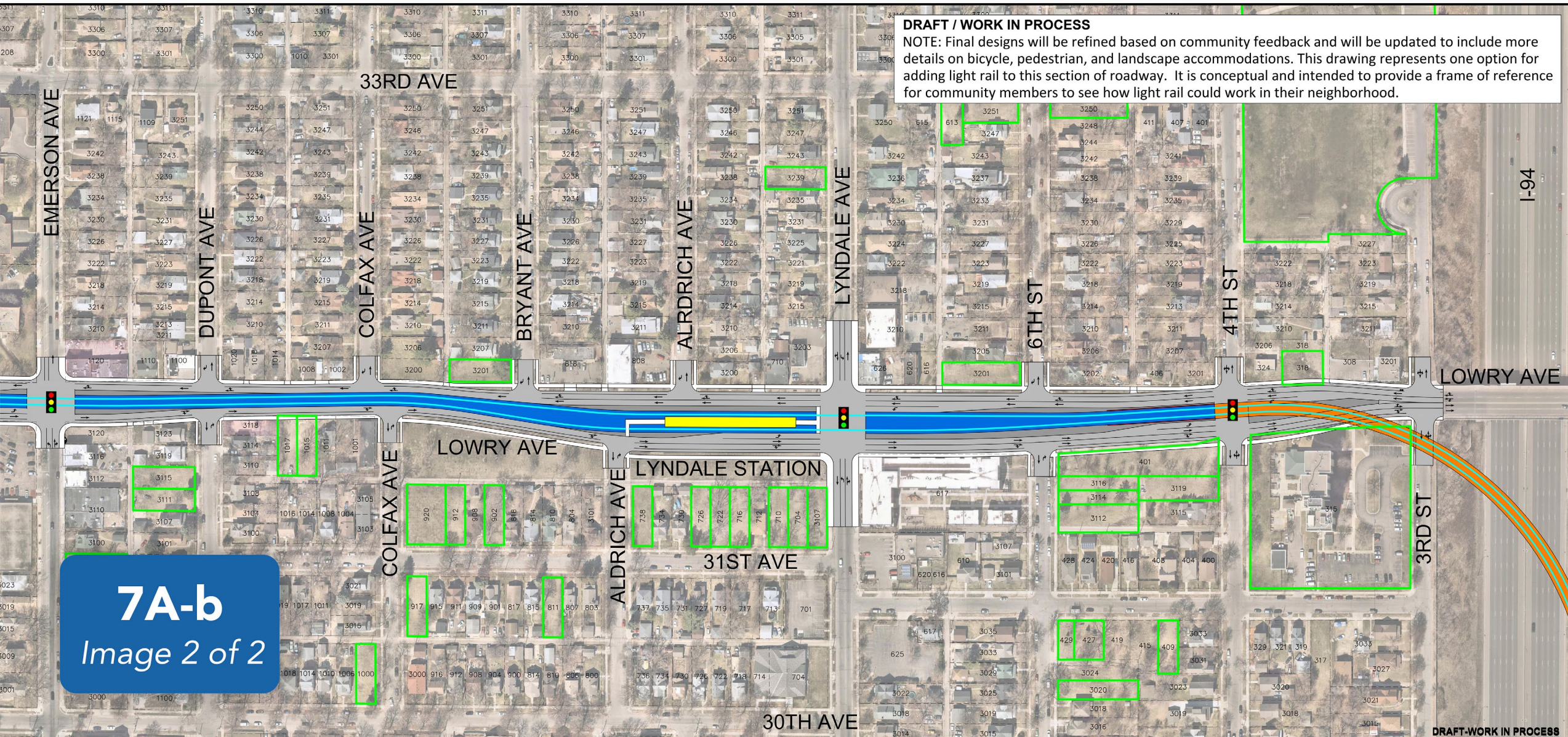
	LRT TRACK AREA		RETAINING WALL		PROPOSED DIRECTIONAL LANE USE
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7A-b
Image 1 of 2

DRAFT / WORK IN PROCESS

NOTE: Final designs will be refined based on community feedback and will be updated to include more details on bicycle, pedestrian, and landscape accommodations. This drawing represents one option for adding light rail to this section of roadway. It is conceptual and intended to provide a frame of reference for community members to see how light rail could work in their neighborhood.



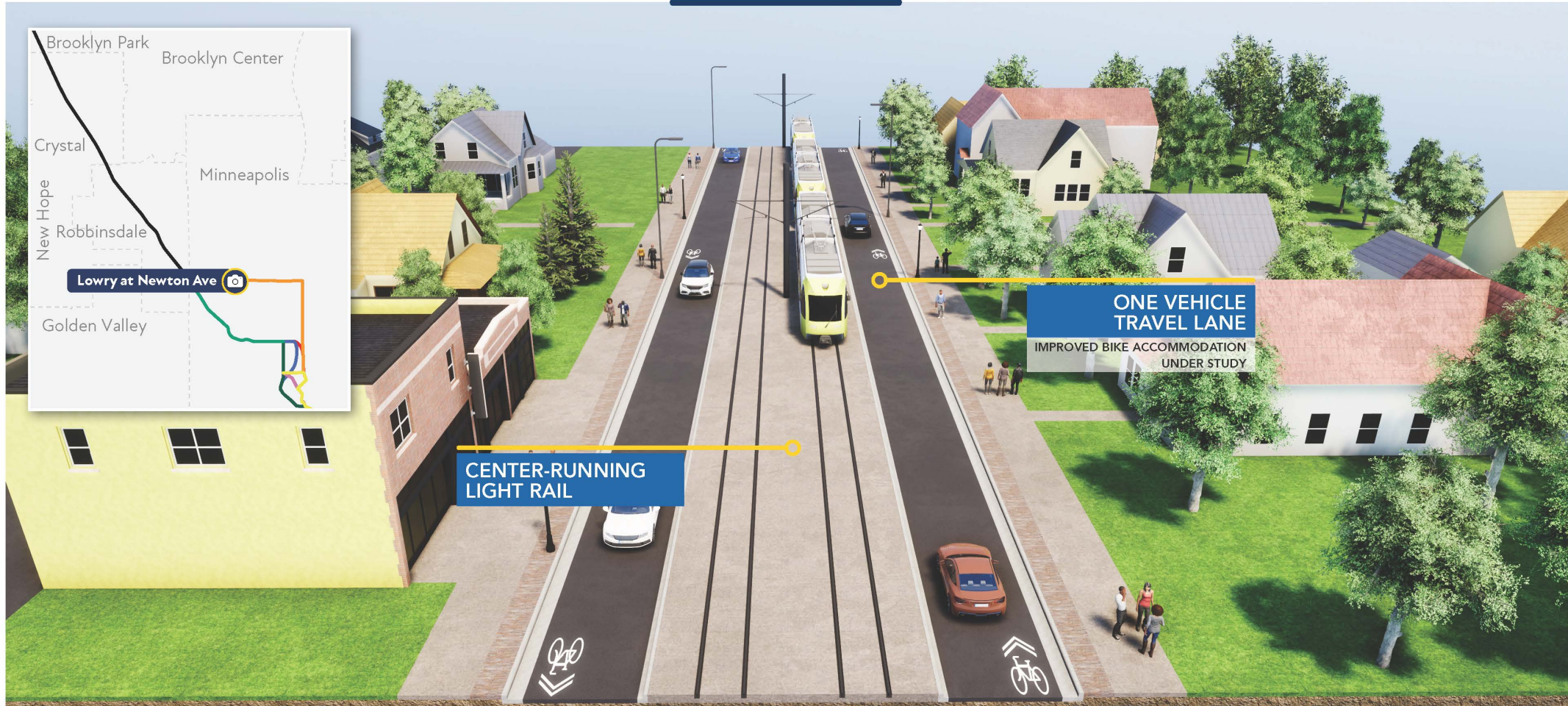
7A-b
Image 2 of 2

DRAFT-WORK IN PROCESS



LOWRY AVE AT NEWTON AVE, MINNEAPOLIS: CONCEPT

This visualization represents how light rail could fit in North Minneapolis along Lowry Avenue.



CENTER-RUNNING LIGHT RAIL

ONE VEHICLE TRAVEL LANE
IMPROVED BIKE ACCOMMODATION UNDER STUDY

NOTE: Proposed trees and other landscape material omitted for visual clarity. These elements will be added as the design progresses.

DRAFT: CONCEPT IN DEVELOPMENT



JULY 2021
METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION



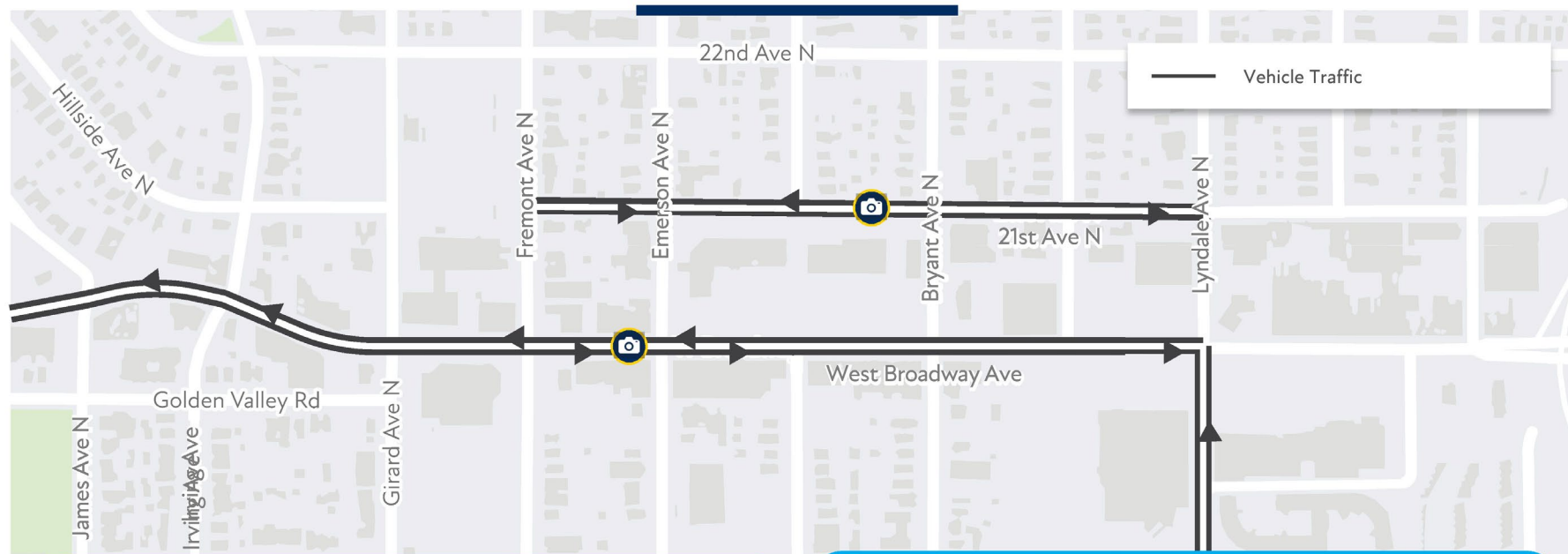
Section 3

- Many concepts designed to avoid building impacts
- Design challenges include curves, necessary turn lanes and overall tight right of way
- Alternatives focus on geometry as well as roadway and LRT operational adjustments



SECTION 3: EXISTING CONDITIONS

WEST BROADWAY AVE FROM LYNDALE TO IRVING AVE



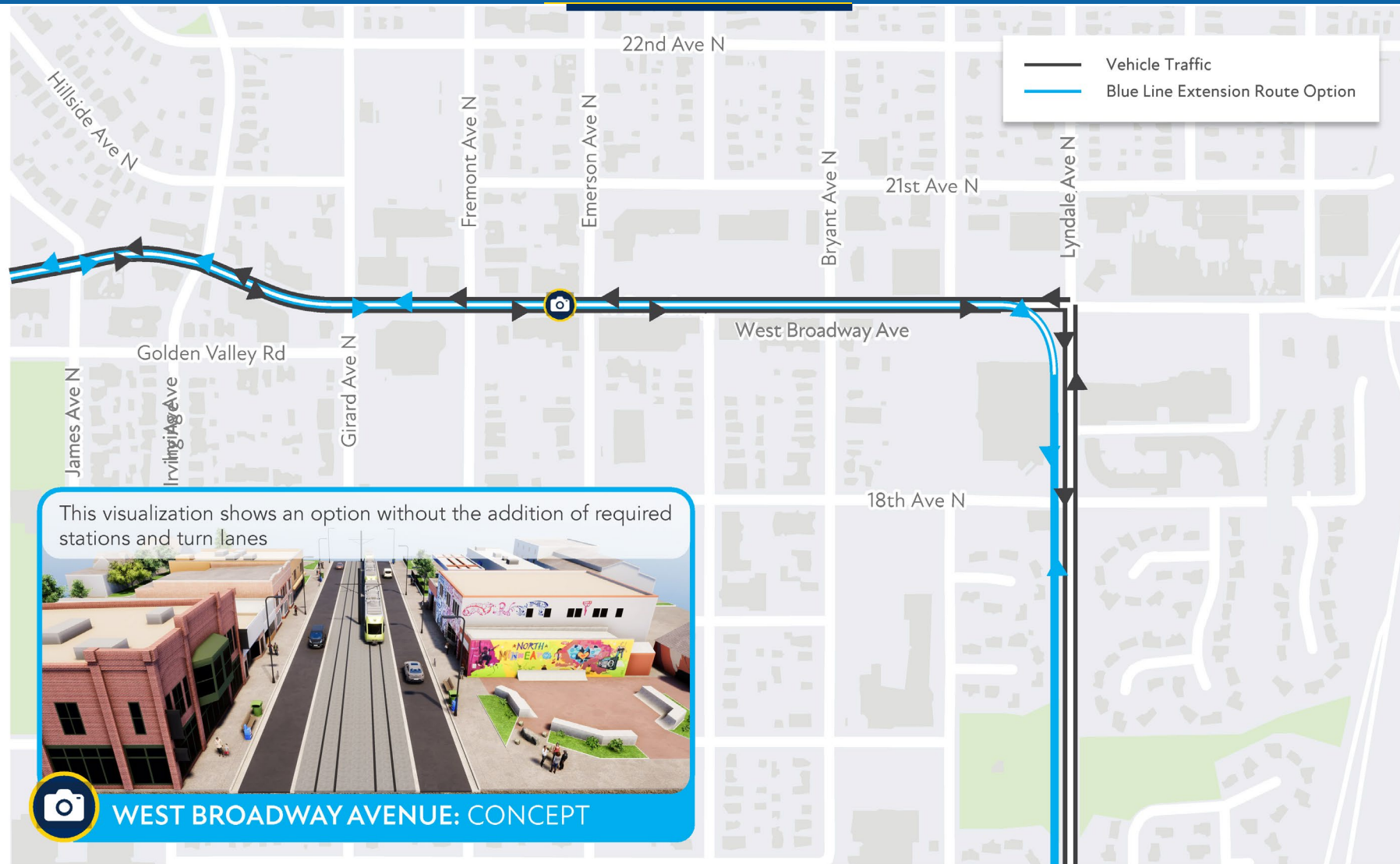
 WEST BROADWAY AVE: EXISTING



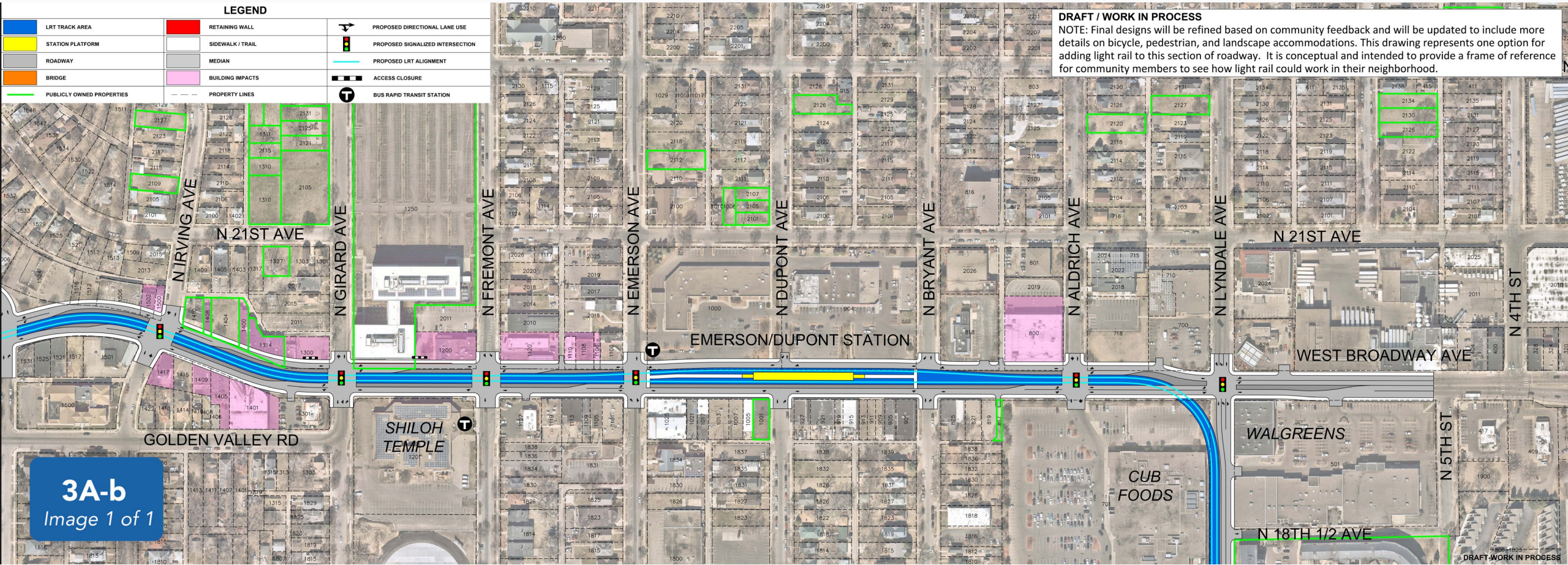
 21ST AVE N: EXISTING

SECTION 3: 3A-b

WEST BROADWAY AVE FROM LYNDALE TO IRVING AVE

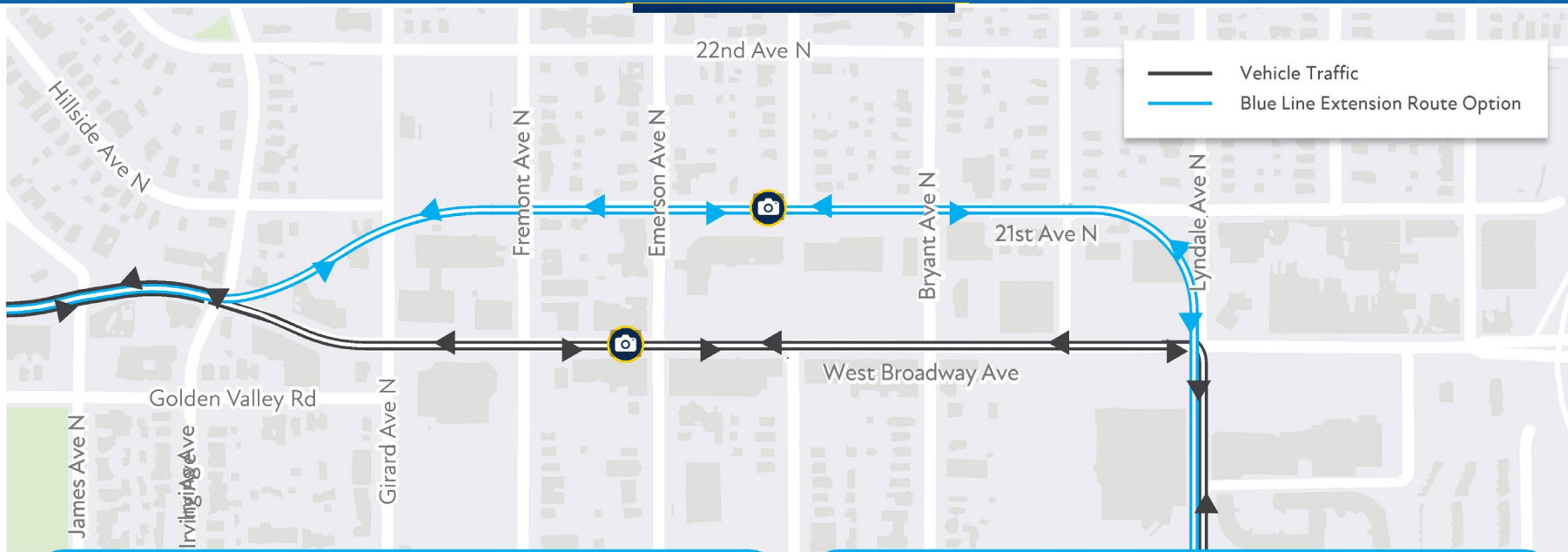


3A-b



SECTION 3: 3D-a

WEST BROADWAY AVE FROM LYNDALE TO IRVING AVE















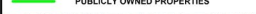


WEST BROADWAY AVENUE: MAINTAINS EXISTING



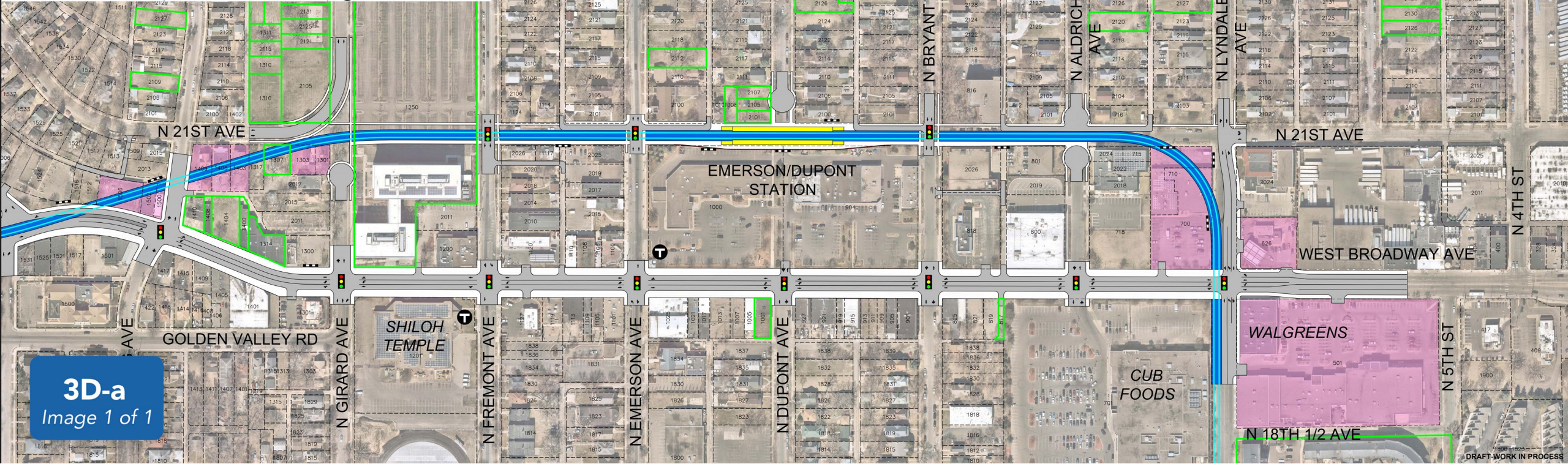
21ST AVE N: CONCEPT



3D-a

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DRAFT / WORK IN PROCESS
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3D-a
 Image 1 of 1



Update on Anti-Displacement Working Group



Community Wealth Building Through Investment

- Forming an Anti-Displacement Working Group
 - To develop and implement a comprehensive, innovative set of strategies:
 - To ensure this investment builds on, supports, and protects existing community assets
 - Benefit existing corridor residents
 - Provide more opportunities for equitable housing, employment, business development, cultural experiences, and other activities of daily life

Anti-Displacement Working Group Update

- Currently onboarding with project team
- Connecting with community and stakeholders
- Developing the proposal to form the anti-displacement table
- Organizing for research and engagement work

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)

