

### Blue Line Coalition Hosted Listening Session









# Today's Topics

- Project Transition
- Decision Framework
- 2021 Overview







## Project Transition

 August 2020: After a multi-year effort to negotiate with BNSF that included many levels of government and offers including buying the corridor, it was time to move the project forward



Richard E. Walcher Vice President and Senior General Counsel richard weicher@brof.co BNSF Railwa

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August 16, 2016

#### VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY AND EMAIL

Kathryn O'Brien Assistant Director, Environmental and Agreements Metro Transif – Blue Line Extension Project Office 5512 West Broadway Avenue, Suite 200 Crystal, MN 55428 BlueLineExtigmetrotransit.org

RE: METRO Blue Line Extension Final Environmental Impa

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

On behalf of BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), I write in respor Statement (Final EIS) for the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Extension of Transit Administration and the Metropolitan Council (Met Council) date:

At the outset, I would like to note that BNSF continues to revier significant portion of BNSF's Monticello Subdivision to construct and of expressed in numerous settings with representatives of Met Council an have overriding concerns because of the impact of these proposals or mobility of our freight movements, the existing Metro Transit system ult fluidity of our interstate network, do not appear to have been addressed.

As we have expressed in our prior discussions and meetings w March, 2015, and then in face-to-face meetings at the Dallas-Fort Worf potential impact on our freight operations and statements by Minnesoti our freight movement, the current proposed use of BNSF right of way it hese statements, BNSF is concerned that this project will put at risk the freight operations both in the Minneapolis terminal area in general and light of previous governmental activity and public statements regarding effective solution has been proposed or developed by the public sector action, for which we do not have a solution; but will continue to listen for binding and enforceable arrangement to protect our freight capacity.

In addition to concerns we have communicated regarding the d areas, below is a summary of specific concerns BNSF has with the Fin

REGARDING SHARED USE OF EXISTING BNSF RIGHT OF WAY:

The Final EIS contemplates that 7.8 miles of the Project, or six length, will require a shared use of BNSF's existing railroad right of way



RECKARD E. WEICHER Vice President & Sr. General Counsel ENSF Railway Company

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January 9, 2018

Daniel E Soler Project Dir.-Blue Line Extension Project METRO Blue Inle LRT Extension 5514 West Broadway, Suite 200 Crystall, MN 55428

Mr. Soler:

This is in response to your letter of December 22 concerning the Blue Line Extension (BLRT) light rail project.

BNSF is not prepared to proceed with any discussion of passenger rail in this corridor at this time. As we explained in discussions some time ago, we do not believe the Blue Line light rail project would be consistent with our passenger principles or protect the long-term viability of freight service along the Monticello Subdivision.

Very truly yours,

Richard E. Weinker

Richard E Weicher

#### REW/tmo

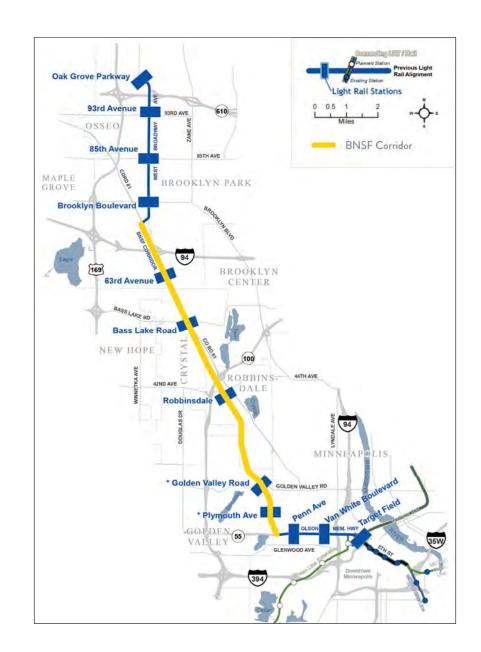
Alene Tchourumoff, Chair, Metropolitan Council
Travis Talvitie, Legislative Director for Senator Amy Klobuchar
Mark Fuhrman, Program Director New Starts, Metropolitan Council



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# **Project Transition**

- We remain deeply committed to working closely with community and city partners to determine the best course forward for the METRO Blue Line Extension project
- Advancing this project will require continued strong partnerships and sincere collaboration





### **BLRT Issue Resolution & Advisory Process**

Issue Identification Teams Technical Project Advisory Committee Community and Business Advisory Committees

Corridor Management Committee Met Council/ Hennepin County

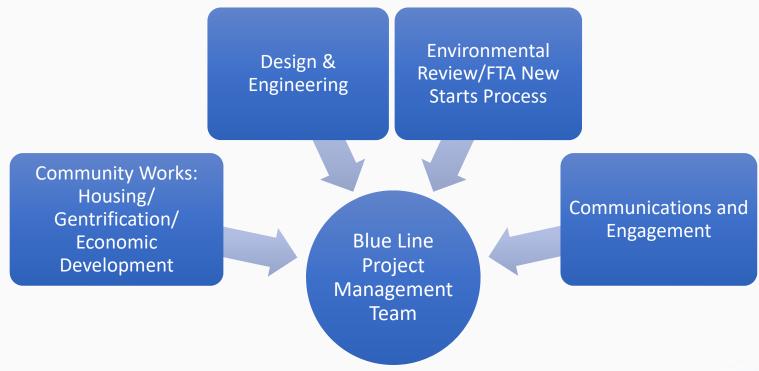






# Blue Line Extension Project Staff

Met Council & Hennepin County staff working together to bring multiple elements of the project forward

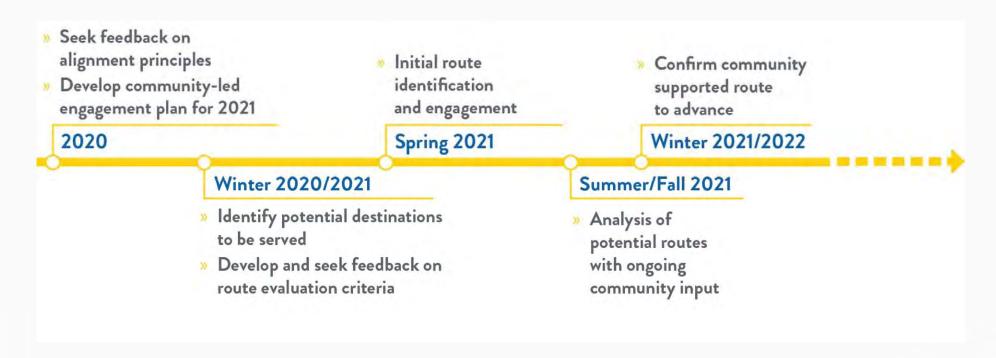








# 2021 Engagement & Communications Milestones



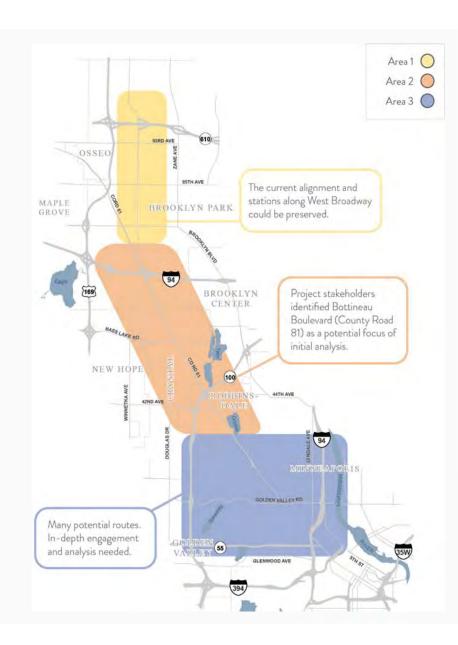






# Community Specific Engagement Goals

- Identify the framework and types of questions for each community
- Clearly communicate the technical analysis specific to each community
- Keep every community informed throughout the process





#### 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
- Follow us on Twitter: @BlueLineExt



