



METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION

Route Modification Report Summary • April 2022

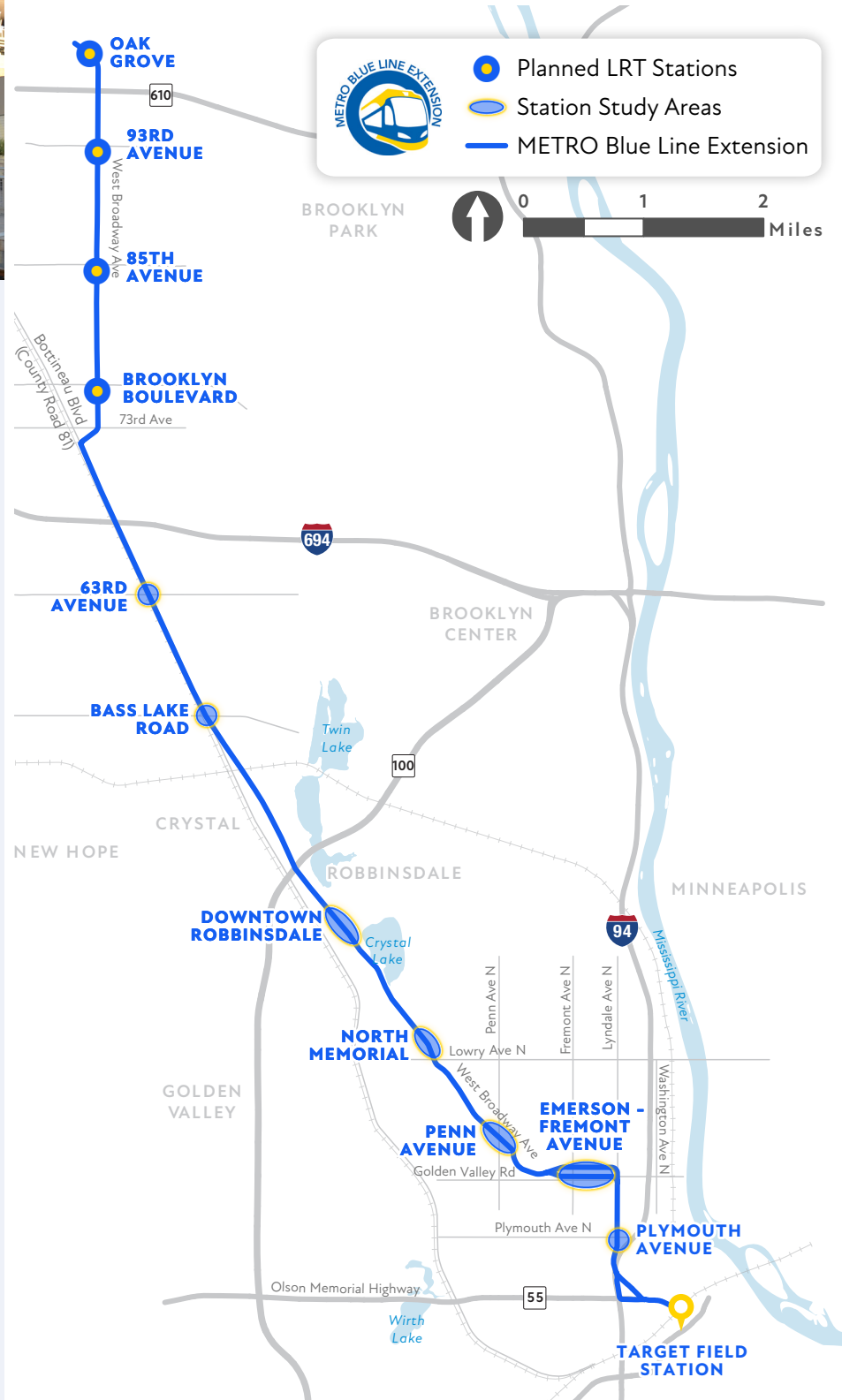


Route Recommendation

The Blue Line Extension will run from downtown Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park, connecting some of our region's most diverse communities to jobs, education, and opportunities. In Minneapolis, where two route options were evaluated, the West Broadway route is recommended.

The following full route, described from north to south, meets the project's principles and stated goals and is recommended to move forward for further evaluation:

- West Broadway Avenue from Oak Grove Parkway to 73rd Avenue in Brooklyn Park. Includes stations at Oak Grove, 93rd Avenue, 85th Avenue, and Brooklyn Boulevard.
- Bottineau Boulevard (County Road 81) between 73rd Avenue in Brooklyn Park to the intersection of County Road 81 and West Broadway Avenue. Includes stations at 63rd Avenue and Bass Lake Road in Crystal, and stations in the downtown and at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale.
- West Broadway Avenue from County Road 81 to Lyndale Avenue through North Minneapolis. This includes a design option along 21st Avenue North from Irving Avenue to Lyndale Avenue, one block to the north of West Broadway Avenue.
- Lyndale Avenue to 7th Street or Olson Memorial Highway, eventually terminating at the existing Target Field Station in Downtown Minneapolis.





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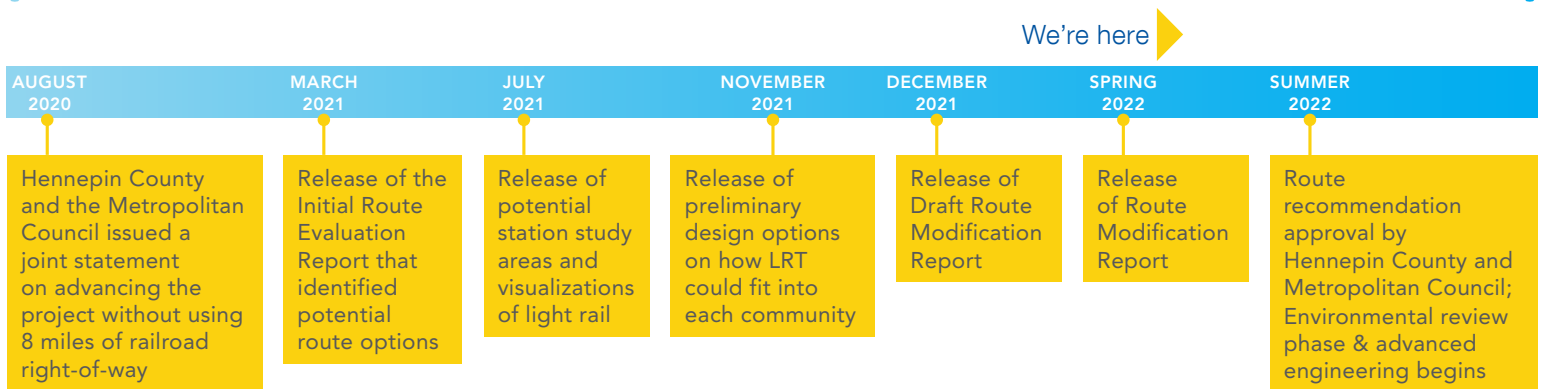
This route will:

- Connect people to new opportunities and destinations.
- Link people more efficiently to educational and employment opportunities, reduce transit commute times, and increase access to goods and services in an area where building community wealth is a priority.
- Improve public health and reduce pollution by connecting people to quality health care and providing clean active transportation options.
- Make a generational and unprecedented transit investment in a corridor that has experienced a history of systemic racism and high percentage of zero-car households.



Schedule

ONGOING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



To find the best possible route for the communities around BLRT and the region as a whole, the project team needs your feedback. As you review the route recommendation, consider the following questions:



Do you agree with the route recommendation? Why or why not?



What else do decision-makers need to know?



How can the route continue to be improved through the next phase of the project?

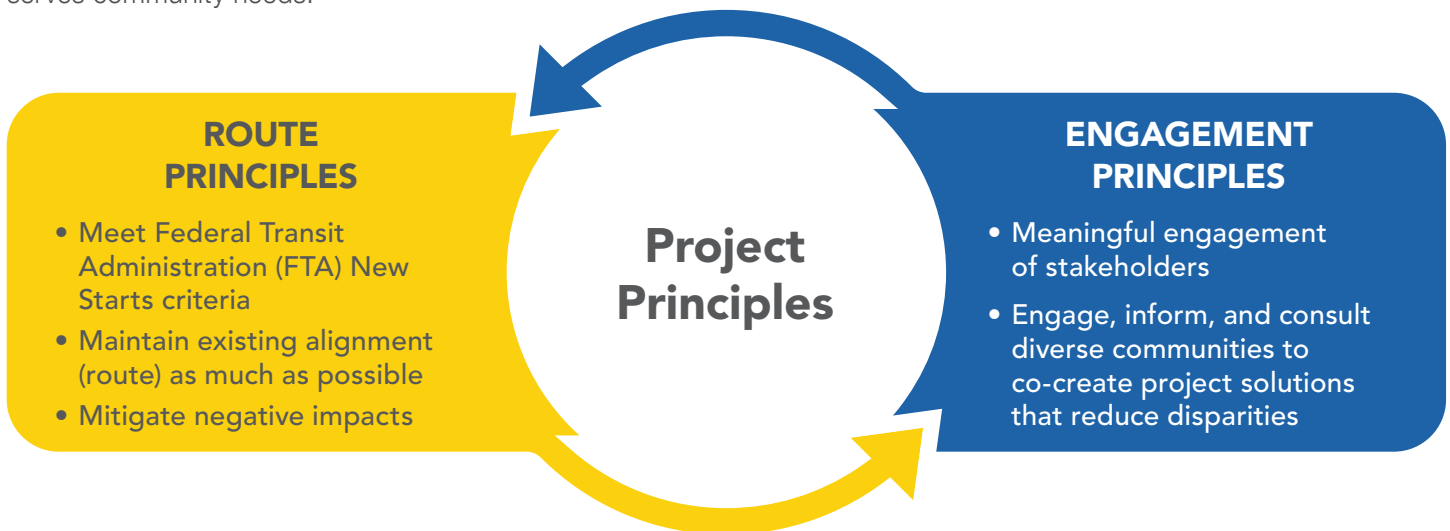


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Evaluation Process

To determine a community-supported route, the project team considered Project Principles and goals, community and business feedback, and engineering requirements. Each route was evaluated against the project goals to see how it serves community needs.



All the routes have received an overall assessment of “good” in their ability to serve the community. In some cases these routes achieve an excellent rating based on unique features and the potential to deliver exemplary positive benefits. None of the routes have been assessed as “poor,” which would mean they did not meet the project goals.

ASSESSMENT OF ROUTE OPTIONS TO DEFINED GOALS

PROJECT GOAL	BOTTINEAU BOULEVARD (COUNTY ROAD 81) IN BROOKLYN PARK AND CRYSTAL	BOTTINEAU BOULEVARD (COUNTY ROAD 81) IN ROBBINSDALE	LOWRY ROUTE	WEST BROADWAY ROUTE
Goal 1: Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Goal 2: Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	GOOD	GOOD
Goal 3: Provide transit improvements that maximize transit benefits, while being cost competitive and economically viable	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Goal 4: Support communities’ development goals	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Goal 5: Promote healthy communities and sound environmental practices including efforts to address climate change	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Goal 6: Advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional racial disparities	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT



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Next Steps

Further robust community engagement will continue through these and future phases. To submit your comments on the report and for a list of upcoming community meetings, visit BlueLineExt.org. The Route Modification Report is available for public review, and comments will be accepted through **May 18, 2022**. The Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County will carefully review the community input received to make any additional modifications before the recommended community-supported route moves forward for further evaluation in 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We're here



LRT projects are complex and unforeseen challenges arise. Schedules and timelines are subject to change.

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

Stay Connected!

For project questions or to invite us to an event, contact:

Brooklyn Park/Minneapolis:

Pa Nhue Vue – PaNhue.Vue@metrotransit.org

Robbinsdale/Crystal:

Kjerstin Yager – Kjerstin.Yager@metrotransit.org

Share your Blue Line Extension story at: mybluelineext.org



Visit BlueLineExt.org for more information, to sign-up for the project newsletter, share your comments, questions and concerns on our interactive map.

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