



Community Meeting Summary

METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE)

Ward 5 Blue Line Ext Community Discussion

Monday, October 30, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Juxtaposition Arts, 2007 N Emerson Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Attendance: 46

Format: 30-minute presentation followed by a 1-hour Q & A. Focus was on 21st Avenue

Comment Summary/Themes:

- Parking
 - Concern that loss of parking on West Broadway will negatively impact businesses by decreasing accessibility
 - More data on future parking and vehicle usage should be available
- Anti-displacement
 - Concern that residents and businesses will be bought out and replaced
 - Worry that the light rail will change neighborhood character, especially along West Broadway
 - Desire to advance anti-displacement strategies and funding
- Community empowerment and representation
 - Jobs and workforce training for community members
 - Community well-being needs to be prioritized
 - The project should help build generational wealth
 - Desire to have the homeless population represented on committees
 - Engagement should focus on ensuring the voices of younger generations are heard
- Staff accountability
 - The project office needs to offer solutions to recurring project concerns such as public safety, parking, displacement, etc.
 - Fear that promises will not be fulfilled

Flip Chart /Q&A Comments

- Increase representation from people experiencing homelessness through engagement
- Support for homeless relocation
- Address parking needs for small businesses; removal of on-street parking specifically around Penn Ave
 - Can parking be protected for future use?
 - **Project Response:** *With LRT on 21st Ave, road improvements are still planned for West Broadway and includes on-street parking between Irving Ave and Lyndale Ave. In coordination with project partners, staff are taking steps to understand parking needs and potential mitigation strategies for parking around Penn Ave area.*
- Support access on Penn/Broadway for customers from outside Minneapolis
 - Suggest multi-jurisdiction coordination to address parking
- Public safety
- Greening the Blue Line
 - Envision what tomorrow looks like
 - Climate change needs to be considered
 - Thinking of ways to make the project serve the community



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- Gets involved: ways to participate
 - Community Advisory Committee
 - Business Advisory Committee
 - Community meetings
 - Proposed neighborhood committee to have voices heard
- Design project for people with disabilities and seniors
- The project office needs to come to the community with solutions
 - Parking: provide a proposal to the community and collect their feedback
 - Anti-displacement: what is the budget?
 - **Project Response:** *The Anti-Displacement team is actively working to finalize the collective legislative strategy to advance anti-displacement recommendations to fund and implement them. For more information, visit: yourblueline.org/anti-displacement*
- Transit investment needs to benefit the community
 - What are the project benefits?
 - **Project Response:** *There are many community benefits that come along with this generational investment. For more information, check out the project website and the overview video at BlueLineExt.org*
 - Northside makes up a large % of transit riders
- Whose vision is this? The project staff needs to listen to residents and the community
- Need representation from young people
 - Reach generation of new transit users
 - Reach out to clubs, high schools, JXTA
- Displacement
 - Residents: concerned about predatory buyers, compensation of replacement costs, loss of homes as a result of the project
 - Businesses: learning from University Ave (green Line)
 - It is not apples to apples when it comes to displacement. Some businesses will not be replaced and more attention should be given to them
- What are strategies to address existing concerns such as public safety, business support and parking?
 - Staff need to return to the community with solutions
 - Government needs to identify roles and who is responsible
- Green Zones
 - Leverage resources to drive investments
 - Green jobs, blue line jobs
 - How can impacted businesses and corridor residents access jobs?
 - Create jobs that pay living wages
 - Provide workforce training and development
- Push the project office to design for us
 - Redlining; opportunities through system change
 - Prioritize community quality of life
- Businesses require access
 - Vehicles, transit, ped
 - Vision: keep a main street feel of West Broadway
 - Concerns: LRT divides neighborhood, limits access for customers from outside Northside, outside developers buy up land
- Explore alternative modes of transit such as BRT



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- Blue Line is coming, how do we make it work for us?
 - Make sure people feel connected
 - Build generational wealth
- Harness your power to shape the project
- Businesses need to understand how they will be impacted
 - The community doesn't trust the government and worries they will not follow through with promises
 - The community feels powerless when we don't get responses to concerns
- Anti-displacement strategies
 - Strategies and funding need to be put in place

Event Photos:

