DREAM NORTH

Develop Recommendations Empower Action & Mobilize

The DREAM Report

North Minneapolis

2024

Hennepin

METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Northside....It's OUR time!

DREAM NORTH

'By acting now we will assuredly make mistakes. But if we don't act now, I'm afraid we will not have even the opportunity to make the mistakes a little later."
- FDR first 100 days.

f1. Minneapolis Streetcar Parade, Downtown Minneapolis, MN (1954)

WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.

At the turn of the last century, trains and trolleys were an integral part of the industrial revolution, ushering in the modern age. The rapid movement of people, goods and services spurs economic growth, socio-economic vitality with expanded regional and cultural connections. Minneapolis is not new to world class public transportation. Our Streetcar system connected the Twin Cities metropolitan area well before the development of the freeway system and expansion of individual vehicles. From Woodbury to Medicine Lake people could get almost anywhere riding the rails provided by the people. Fast forward 100 years, and we are again faced with the challenge - and the opportunity - to move people, goods and services in response to the growing population and opportunities across the region.

f2. Metro Transit, BLE

This time, with the lightning speed of light rail technology and intentional design, the Light Rail Blue Line Extension will center North Minneapolis as a major artery, connecting residents to the southwestern and northwestern parts of our region. This also means moving more people across greater distances in less time to the people, places and opportunities that matter.

DREAMNORTH

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f.1

Dream if You Will...

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

BLUE LINE EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

WHAT IS MUNICIPAL CONSENT?

- State process that requires local approval of physical design components (Minnesota Statutes Sec. 473.3994)
- Acknowledgment (consent) that the represented concept plan is consistent with the design coordination that has occurred to date
- One step in the design process, not the end of the process

2023 Minnesota Statutes

2024 SCHEDULE

WE ARE HERE

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Environmental *Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement & 4(f) Evaluation*	SDEIS					Publish SDEIS / SDEIS Comment		SFEIS				
	Federal Transit Administration Review											
Design	30% Design		30% Design Review		Design Coordination					60% Design		
						Met Council & Henn Co Authorize Hearings		Municipal Consent				
Cost & Ridership	Ridership/Cost Data		30% Cost Est. & Ridership Updates								60% Cost Est.	
Anti-Displacement	Draft CAP				Engage on Draft CAP					Publish CAP 1.0		
Public Engagement	Consult and Involve											

METRO *Blue Line* EXTENSION

- 13.4 miles & 12 new stations
- Connecting Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities to fast, frequent, all-day service across the METRO system
- Single seat ride to existing Blue Line stops downtown, MSP Airport and Mall of America
- Focus on building community prosperity through anti-displacement strategies before, during, and after construction

NEXT STEPS

- Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2024
- Municipal Consent process to confirm final route: Summer 2024
- Updated 60% cost estimate: Fall 2024
- Final Design: 2024-2025 Construction starts: 2026-2027
- Anticipated opening: 2030

WHAT PROVISIONS WOULD NORTHSIDE TRANSIT USERS LIKE TO SEE?

HOMEOWNERS

- Homeowners want to be sure they will receive financial and additional resource support in the event of displacement.
- They welcome infrastructure improvements but want to know what provisions will be made to maintain access to/from their homes
- Added transit stops create more access, great solution to growing traffic congestion

RENTERS

- Some renters are concerned about lack of communication from absentee/out-of-state landlords not sharing BLE information with them
- They want to know what support will be available to them for displacement
- They welcome added transit options
- Want to learn about BLE job opportunities
- They would like opportunities to explore homeownership

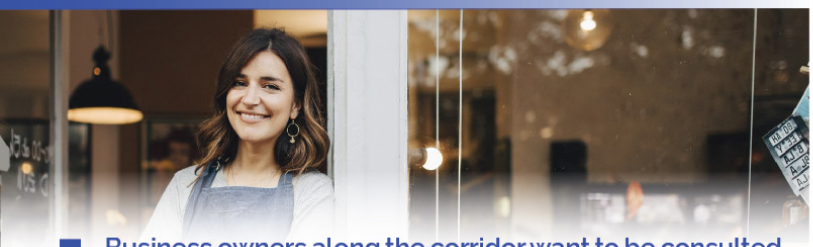
ELDERS

- Elders would like accessible parking near station
- Can shuttles be available to grocery stores? parking?
- They would like the trains to be ADA accessible
- They would like to see acknowledgment of addiction, resources for homelessness and addicts
- A place to wash hands, public restrooms
- Close proximity to healthcare, grocery, post office, businesses, senior housing, jobs

YOUTH

- They appreciate the added transit options, especially those without a driver's license or car
- Would like Wi-Fi access
- The opportunity to connect to job opportunities in other parts of the city, county
- The opportunity to connect with friends and family, recreation
- They want to explore job or business opportunities around BLE

BUSINESS OWNERS



- Business owners along the corridor want to be consulted, included in decision-making process
- They would like support mitigating disruption of business i.e. shuttle service during construction for employees and customers, and temporary parking solutions
- They want to know what concrete anti-displacement resources are available to them
- They welcome the prospect of increased business, new customers once BLE is completed
- They like the vitality that would come with TOD and added amenities, resources
- Opportunities to launch business and training programs around BLE

DISABILITY COMMUNITY

- Access - Ramps, elevators
- Verbal commands - independence
- Payment accessibility - free?!
- Language options
- Maps more legible, textured, for everyone
- Color ques to stops
- Language translation for info
- Same benefits as teens and elderly

f.1

f2. West Broadway (1964)

Trail of Trauma : A History of Systemic Trauma and Chronic Disinvestment

Uniquely positioned just northwest of the Federal Reserve Bank, one of the world's important economic assets, North Minneapolis has been penalized, experiencing chronic disinvestment since the late 1960s. Once a thriving predominantly Jewish community - thanks to loosening anti-semitic covenants prevalent at the time - Plymouth Avenue and West Broadway were once bustling thoroughfares with businesses and trades. Remnants of that era are evident in the grand homes in Highland Park and Theodore Wirth neighborhoods.

WHAT HAPPENED?

The 1960s were already a turbulent time. Minneapolis, like many cities at the height of the civil rights movement, was also experiencing racial tensions. A new generation emerging from the quiet respectability of racism and white supremacy of the 1950s, were rebelling against the social order and policies of the time. Low wages, lack of employment or housing opportunities, heightened tensions. Issues further exacerbated by rank police violence against the community.

f2. Plymouth Avenue (1967)

RACE DISCRIMINATION & POLICE VIOLENCE

Several unjustified murders of unarmed community members by the Minneapolis Police Department have fueled generations of mistrust between public institutions and the African American community in particular. The fateful night of July 19th, 1967 was the spark that set the Northside ablaze. Reports of 2 young Black girls beaten by Minneapolis police during the Aquatennial parade in downtown Minneapolis, sparked protests, riots and looting down Plymouth Avenue. Ongoing racial tensions, the assassination of U.S Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy, in quick succession to the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, led to a second wave of 'white flight', with many fleeing to nearby Golden Valley and St. Louis Park. The lack of cooperation and coordination by officials to provide safety and security further sealed the fate of the Northside, closing it off from the rest of the city...from the rest of the world. [1,2]

The feeling within the community after the riots confirmed the feeling of despair, the feeling of being hunted, and the feeling of being dehumanized all over a $20 bill.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

The lingering effects of the past, collided with the stagnant economy of the 1980s. Many financially stable community members left for the northwestern suburbs. Since 1998, the Northside has continued to hemorrhage over 7,000 jobs and 150 businesses causing unemployment, blight, increased crime and violence.

HOUSING INEQUITIES2

f1. 2011 Tornado, North Minneapolis

The modest gains, and any upward mobility or wealth achieved on the Northside (or by African Americans), was swiftly erased. In 2007 and 2008, the community suffered another blow as the housing bubble not only burst for many new homeowners, many suffered a malicious scheme that extorted homes from community members. African American Women - particularly seniors, retirees and widows - were impacted the most.

In 2011 a tornado ripped through a portion of North Minneapolis, claiming the lives of 2 community members, causing tens of millions of dollars in damages. The scars and effects are still visible on many homes, businesses - and people - throughout the area.

f2. North High School

EDUCATION DISPARITIES

During that period, plans were announced to close the oldest high school in North Minneapolis North High school. Student enrollment decreased to 68 students for a school designed for over 1,200 students.

According to a report by the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ), North Minneapolis families chose to have their children attend over 50 different schools beyond the borders of North Minneapolis. Current enrollment in Minneapolis Public Schools is 29,000 - a 17% decline over the past 5 years. Approximately 19,000 students have left for charter schools and open enrollment in other districts. Trust and faith in Minneapolis Public Schools has yet to be restored within the community.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Just over 50 years later, the simmering tensions between MPD and the community were reignited. In 2020, the murder of George Floyd set off three nights of civil unrest throughout the Twin Cities - including the Northside. Many millions more in damages. The community's lack of trust in the Minneapolis Police Department now widened to a chasm. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the same year only further exacerbated conditions on the Northside.

f3. Geaorge Floyd Memorial

WHEN IS IT GOING TO BE OUR TURN?

FROM PAIN TO POWER

In spite of that shared painful history, a diverse group of community members - from youth to sassy seniors - gathered at the University of Minnesota Urban Research Outreach Center in North Minneapolis to DREAM. Vulnerable - slightly apprehensive - yet inspired, over the course of 3 weeks and 4 sessions to DREAM - Develop Recommendations Empower Action & Mobilize. They envisioned how our communities could thrive with the catalytic investment brought by the Blue Line Extension light rail project (BLE). These individuals shared 480 of their hopes, dreams, fears and concerns about large infrastructure projects that have historically disrupted or even destroyed low-income and communities of color. Understanding the stakes, they offered over 480 community building ideas and collectively voiced strong support for the Blue Line Extension in this comprehensive report filled with actionable recommendations.

Rather than being driven by fear and adversity, participants designed with JOY as the driving force.

"Northside is overdue for its GLOW UP!"

"Hennepin County Board Chair, Irene Fernando"

f1. Minneapolis Skyline

NORTHSIDE AT A GLANCE....WHO IS THE NORTHSIDE?

If North Minneapolis was a city unto itself, it would be one of the top 10 cities in the state of Minnesota by population.

Sitting on the banks of the Mississippi River to the east, a world renowned golf course to the west, (the City of Brooklyn Center to the north), and the gateway to downtown Minneapolis to the south, North Minneapolis is, and has always been, primed and positioned to be part of the economic engine that powers our city.

The Northside - as affectionately called by longtime residents - is a community whose moment has come. The opportunity to be centered in one of the greatest, once in a lifetime public investments our region has seen in decades, is remarkable. It represents an opportunity to right the wrongs of the past while charting pathways to growth and prosperity into the future.

The DREAM process authentically engages stakeholders. Anchored in community voice, we curate the DREAMS and goals of the community, understand and mediate any pain points, and collaborate with policymakers and stakeholders to implement solutions. DREAMNorth is a blueprint for the Northside - by the community, with community.

f1. Northide Street Party (2019)

f2. Dream NORTH Session

f3. Minneapolis Skyline

f4. Minneapolis Skyline

WHAT DO NORTHSIDERS WANT?

Northsiders want what YOU want. They want to live, work and play in a beautiful, safe and accessible community with transit options that connect them to more of the people, places and things they enjoy! Northsiders are in favor of growth and development with minimal impact to their quality of life and the ability to sustain daily business operations. They want concrete solutions and a commitment from their government not to harm or displace them (without recourse). They would love to access amenities, entertainment and lifestyle options in their own communities. They are vested in their community and would like to be considered, consulted and extended the opportunity to create, develop, build and own solutions in their communities. Above all, maintain the Northside vibe.

Family

In addition to the many foundational families on the Northside - including many U.S. born African Descendants of Slaves, European and Indigenous Americans - many New Americans : African, Asian-Pacific Islander and Latino families call the Northside home. The importance of place and belonging cannot be overstated. Whether by forced migration and displacement due to political conditions, or by choice, in search of an improved quality of life, planting and maintaining strong roots, with the opportunity to infuse their history and culture as part of the vibrant tapestry that is the Northside, is essential.

Those who've lived through the racial segregation, race-based violence, discrimination and displacement - only to live through it again in 2020 - are especially vigilant and triggered. Understandably so. For those reasons and more, it's important to get it right. Northsiders deserve to experience JOY!

Place

Belonging

> **The benefits of the project can sprout a new view coming from a cloud of trauma so many of us have experienced without any remedy to make things right. It allows people who may not feel they are able to move to other parts of the city the ability to do so and get to work, school, medical appointments and other family members.**
>
> **Mino Leon**
>
> Realtor, 3rd Generation Puerto Rican whose family relocated to the Northside after a Hurricane in 1938

CULTURE

The hallmarks of culture making are food and gathering places. DREAM session participants expressed an overwhelming desire for vibrant cultural spaces to gather, enjoy savory global cuisine and listen to live music. Public spaces designed around active lifestyles, communal spaces, with transportation options that promote '15 minute villages' where commuters can hop on/hop off, visiting various retail shops, restaurants and access basic needs are favored.

We were particularly impressed by the mindfulness that emerged from participating youth leaders. In addition to fun games, sports and entertainment options, they also lifted up the need for resources for the unhoused, affordable wellness options for the uninsured/underinsured, financial education and educational institutions to learn job skills, wealth creation and homeownership.

Identity

ART & HISTORY MEETS TECHNOLOGY

Beauty

Bourbon (New Orleans) and Beale (Memphis) Streets emerged as a vision for West Broadway in particular. Residents would love to have Northside's main street reflect the sights, scents and sounds of those historic places, marked by high energy and an eclectic vibe - but uniquely Northside. The vibrant walkable neighborhoods of Chicago, such as Hyde Park, Wicker Park, were also mentioned. Northsiders want to live, work and play in beautiful surroundings! A desire for more art installations and beautification elements were also expressed. Historical preservation is also key. Having historic markers in key locations, having those highlighted in overhead announcements as the train nears those stops. A museum that celebrates the Minneapolis Sound and its iconic creators...

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic prosperity is paramount to self-determination and long-term community stabilization. DREAM participants are particularly interested in various business and development models that ensure individual and community ownership of the land, properties and potential development on the Northside. Various business models and industries were highlighted spanning health & wellness, dining & entertainment, games & sports, grocers and big box retailers, as well as a strong desire for smaller individual unique boutiques. Food production - including farm-to-table options - product manufacturing, technology and other industries were named. A 'Northside Mall', open-air marketplaces and other market/bazaar models were named.

Manufacturing ensures long-term sustainability. Without it, a thriving community is just a dream

Michael Chaney

DREAM if you will... The Future!

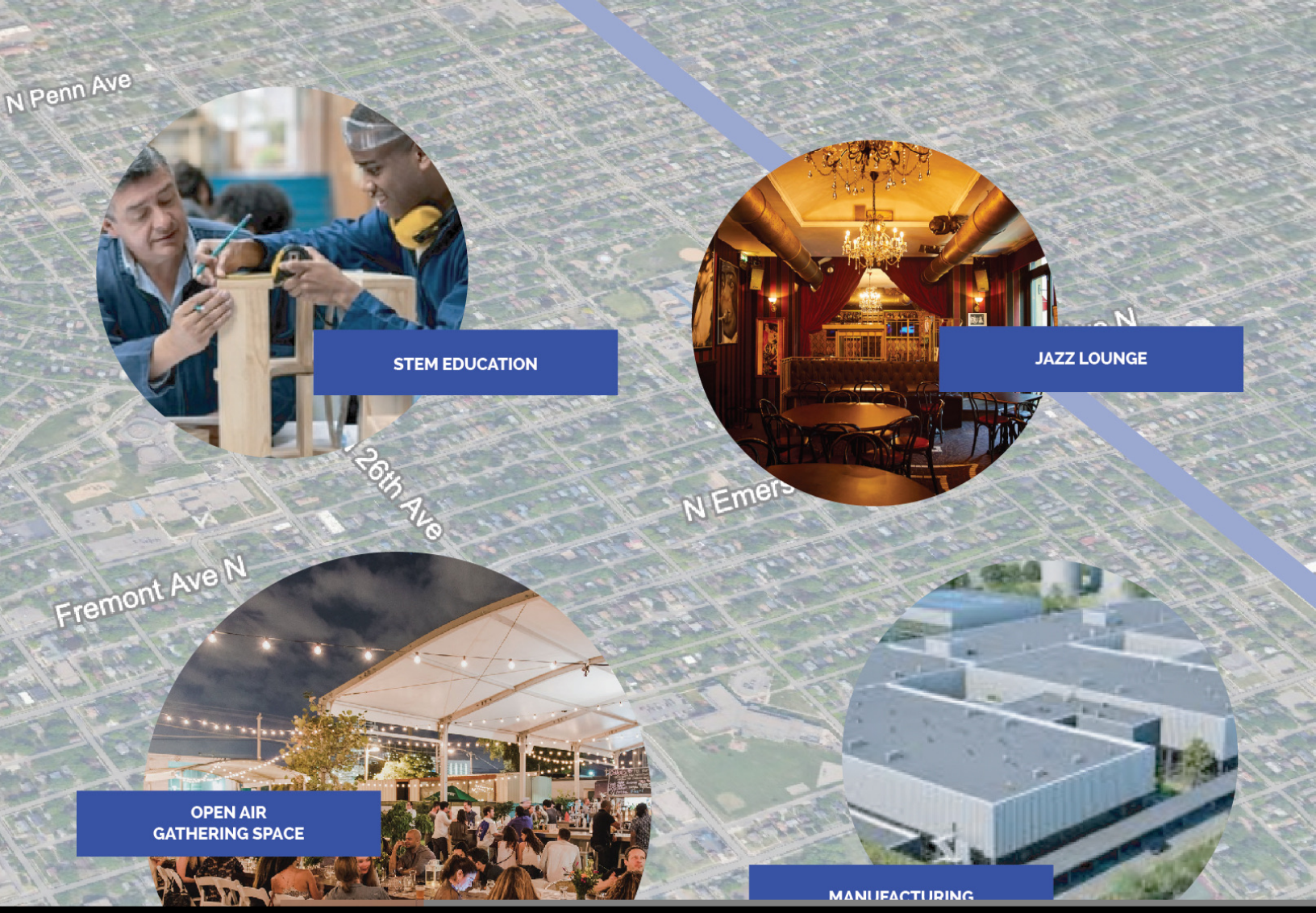
MIXED DEVELOPMENT: WORKFORCE HOUSING & RETAIL

CANNABIS WELLNESS CENTER

SHARED GREEN SPCE

GO KARTING

SUSTAINABLE URBAN FARMING


N Penn Ave
STEM EDUCATION
JAZZ LOUNGE
N Emers
26th Ave
Fremont Ave N
OPEN AIR
GATHERING SPACE
MANUFACTURING

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