



BLRT Community Update Meeting

Quarterly Update - August 23, 2023



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



Welcome/Introductions



Today's Topics

- Project Overview
- Schedule
- Environmental Update
- Design Updates in Each Community
- Anti-Displacement Update
- Questions



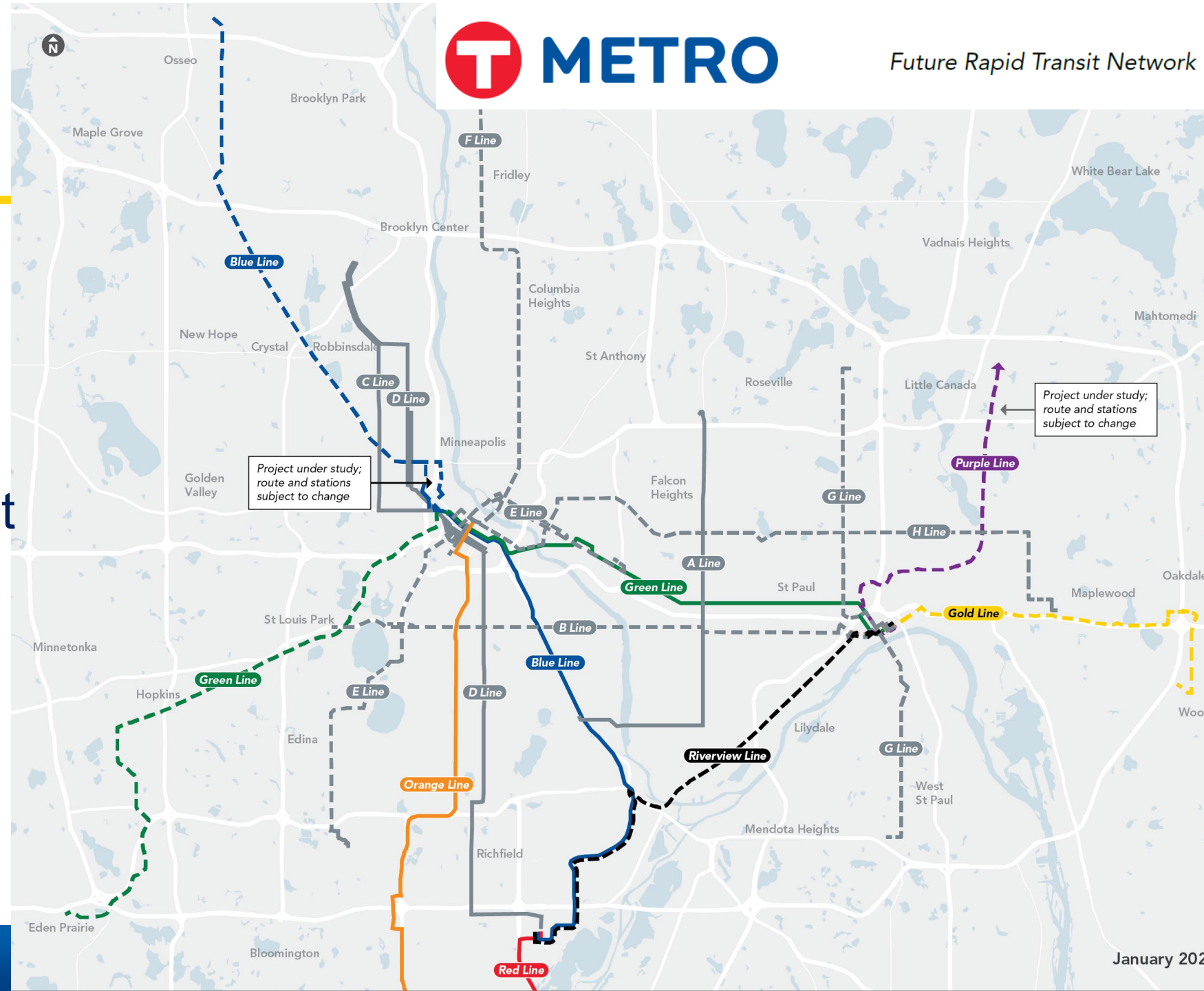
A service of the Metropolitan Council
Transit Improvement

Project Overview



Blue Line Ext

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





Blue Line EXTENSION

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



Next steps

- Updated post-COVID ridership – early 2024
- Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement – Spring 2024
- Municipal Consent process to confirm final route - Summer 2024
- Updated cost estimate – 2024
- Final Design – 2024-2025
- Construction starts – 2026-2027
- Planned opening – 2030



Project Schedule



CMC Proposed Action in September

- A proposed CMC resolution will confirm:
 - **Line** – a singular alignment for the Blue Line Extension tracks
 - **Lanes** – how the roadway system accommodates the tracks
 - **Stations** – the location for planned stations
- Guides the preparation of the environmental document for FTA's review
- Forms the basis for development of the Municipal Consent plans



Environmental Update



Notice of Intent

- Parallel federal step to publication of the Preparation Notice, published in October 2022 as a state level process.
- NOI publication purpose:
 - To alert interested parties regarding the intent to prepare the Supplement EIS;
 - To provide information on the nature of the proposed changes to the project since the 2016 FEIS;
 - To invite public participation in the Supplement EIS process, including comments on the scope of the SEIS proposed in this NOI; and
 - To announce that public and agency meetings on the proposed modifications to the Project will be conducted.
- Public comments to be submitted before September 18, 2023 to:
 - Neha Damle
 - Compliance Lead
 - Blue Line Extension Office
 - Neha.Damle@metrotransit.org



Topics Being Studied in the Environmental Review



Changes to land use, and how the project fits with existing or planned land uses



Effects on the community or communities surrounding the project



What property needs to be purchased and what residences or businesses may need to be relocated



Business impacts – access during construction, relocation, revenue



Impacts to historic properties



Impacts to parks



Visual impacts



Safety



Transportation impacts – bicycle, pedestrian, transit, vehicles (including parking), freight rail, aviation



Water resource impacts – wetlands, floodplains, stormwater, groundwater, water quality



Impacts to soils and geologic resources



Impacts to plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species



Noise impacts, and for transit and rail projects, vibration impacts



Contaminated properties and hazardous materials



Design Updates for Each Corridor Community



Project Design Principles

Maintain BLRT Purpose and Need

Minimize travel time

Maximize ridership

Maximize community and economic development

Maximize Federal Transit Administration New Starts project rating

Pursue opportunities to serve even more people and destinations

Complement existing and planned METRO transitways

Minimize residential, commercial and environmental impacts

Support safety and connections prioritizing people walking, biking, and rolling

Maximize carbon pollution reduction

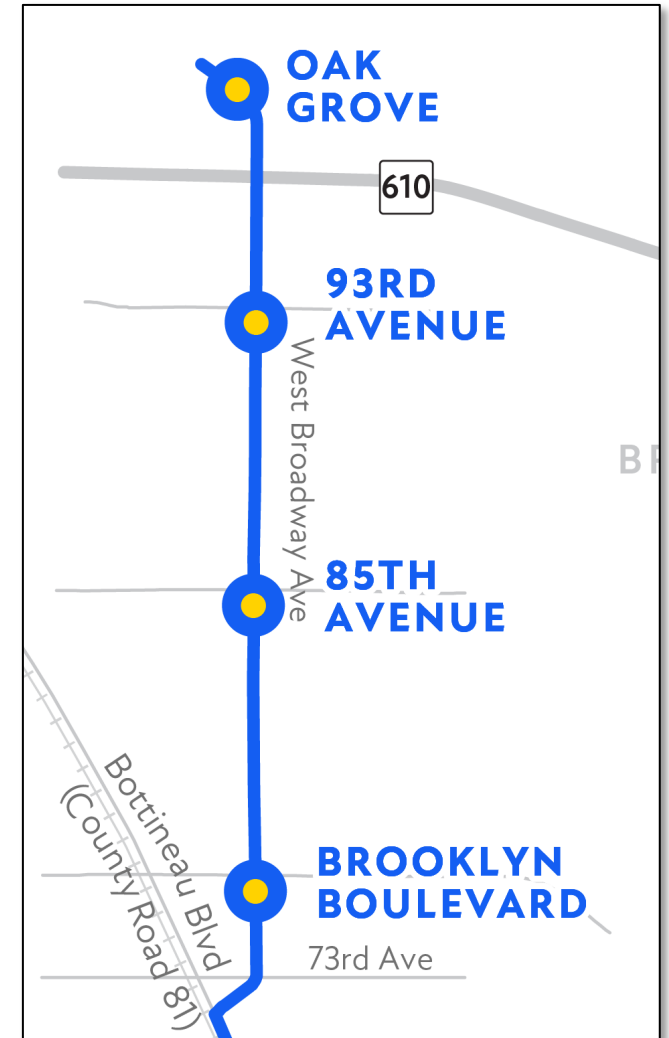


Brooklyn Park



West Broadway Avenue – Oak Grove to 73rd

- Same as Final EIS from July 2016:
 - LRT on West Broadway Avenue - 4 station locations
 - Operation and maintenance facility north of Hwy 610
- Center running LRT
- Reconstruction and expansion of West Broadway (from north of Brooklyn Boulevard to 93rd Avenue)



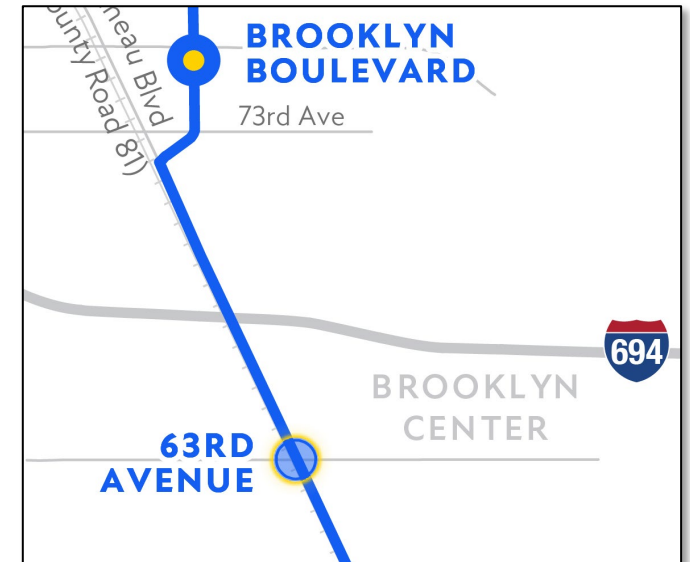
Transition from West Broadway to County Road 81

- Bridge from West Broadway to County Road 81
- Structure over northbound direction of traffic



County Road 81 – 73rd to 63rd

- LRT alignment to run within the median on County Road 81
- Station at 63rd Avenue
 - Center platform at grade in the median
 - Evaluate intersection options, access and safety



63rd Avenue Station

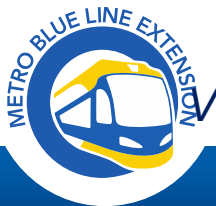


Existing



Proposed
(grade-separated pedestrian crossing)

Pedestrian crossing at 63rd Avenue Station



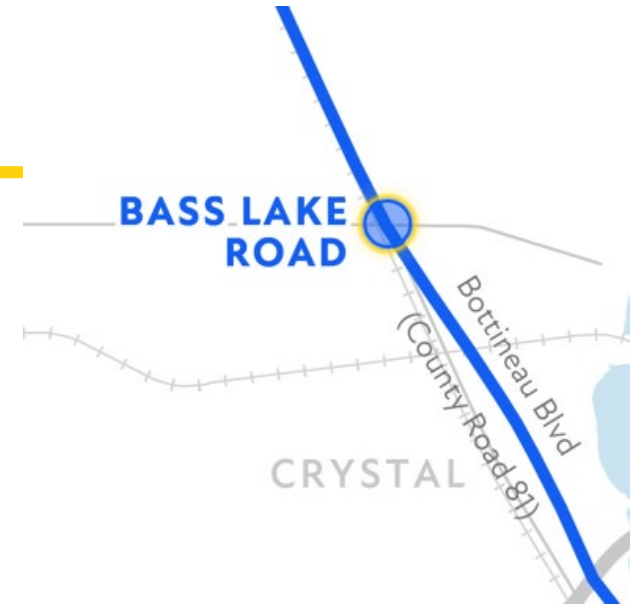
View looking south toward proposed BLRT 63rd Ave station and park-and-ride garage, from Lakeland Ave N

Crystal



County Road 81

- LRT alignment to run within the median on County Road 81
- Station at Bass Lake Road (at-grade) with interchange



view looking east toward proposed BLRT Bass Lake Rd station, from southwest corner of Bass Lake Rd



Bass Lake Road Interchange



Existing
(at-grade intersection)



Proposed
(grade-separated interchange)

County Road 81 view north toward Bass Lake Road



Robbinsdale



Park and Ride

- US Bank Site



Whiz Bang Days - July 9, 2023



Station at 40th Avenue



Existing



Proposed

View from 40th Ave Station (options remain north OR south of 40th Ave)
View looking north along CR81 toward proposed BLRT downtown Robbinsdale station, from northeast corner of 40th Ave





Lowry Avenue Station



Minneapolis



Minneapolis Preferred Route



1. Penn Avenue Station Area
2. West Broadway and 21st Avenue
3. 21st Avenue Extension
4. Plymouth Station on Washington Avenue
5. Transitway for a portion of 10th Avenue





1. Penn Avenue Station Area

LOWRY AVE STATION

Lowry Ave

Manor Park

Jordan Park

Victory Memorial Parkway

PENN AVE STATION

26th Ave N

Fremont Ave N
Emerson Ave N

France Ave N

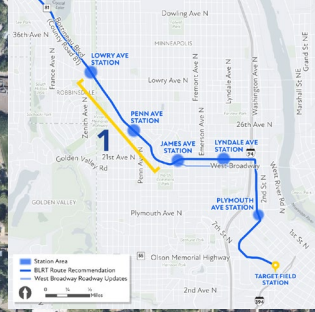
27th Ave N

Zenith Ave N

Tracks center running from Lowry Avenue to Irving Avenue

Penn Ave Station between 26th Ave N and Penn Ave

-  Station Area
-  BLRT Route Recommendation





2. West Broadway and 21st

JAMES AVE STATION

LRT Tracks on 21st

LYNDALE AVE STATION

21st Ave N

West Broadway

West Broadway Improvements

Golden Valley Rd

North Commons Park




Fremont Ave N

Emerson Ave N

Lyndale Ave N

Hall Park

2nd St N

-  Station Area
-  BLRT Route Recommendation
-  West Broadway Roadway Updates



LYNDALE AVE STATION

3. 21st Avenue Extension



21st Ave N

New connection for bikes and pedestrians

West Broadway




Cross I-94 on an extension of 21st Avenue

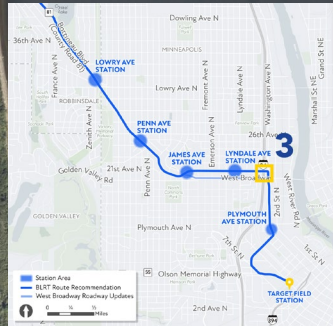
Lyndale Ave N

2nd St N

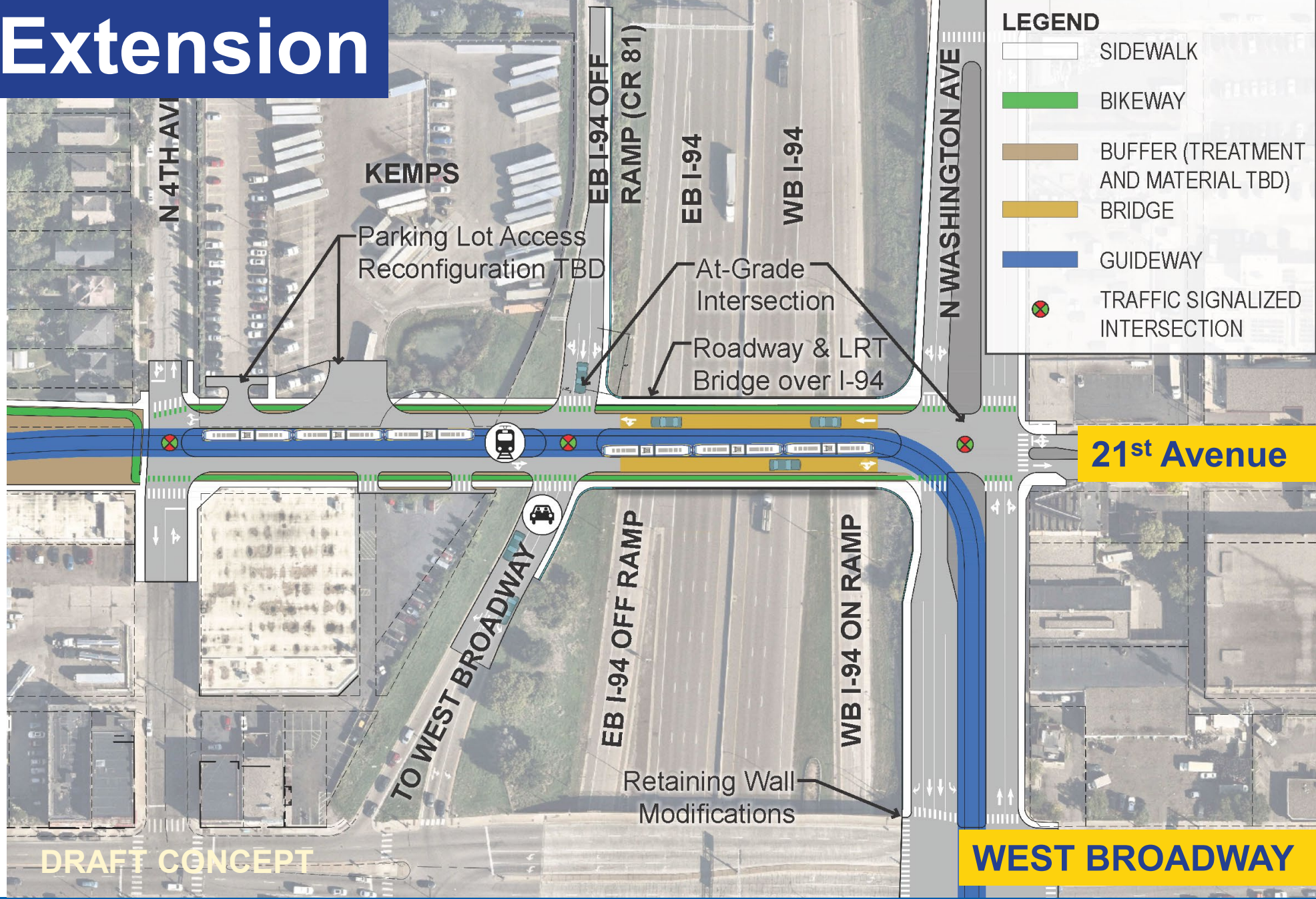
17th Ave N

West River Rd N

-  Station Area
-  BLRT Route Recommendation
-  West Broadway Roadway Updates



21st Ave Extension



DRAFT CONCEPT

21st Avenue

WEST BROADWAY

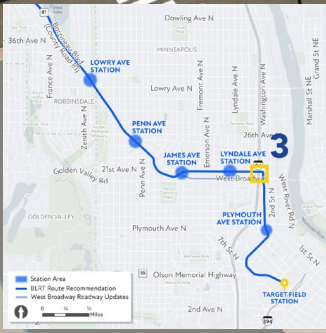


Washington, looking South



INCLUDES SIDEWALK AND BIKE LANES

Note: Trees, landscaping, pedestrian crossings, lanes and other features are an ongoing topic of design



DRAFT CONCEPT



4. Plymouth Station on Washington



**PLYMOUTH
AVE STATION**

Industrial Jobs
and opportunities

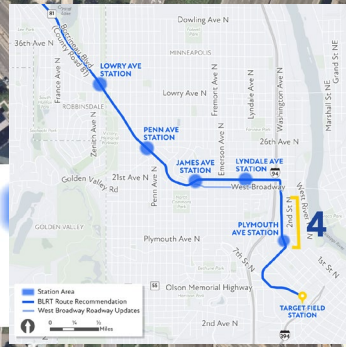
River access
West
River
Parkway

Opportunity to
update Washington
Avenue roadway

V3 and other
developments

Transit connection opportunities

North Loop Neighborhood



4
a
e Recommendation

Plymouth Station on Washington Avenue, *looking South*



DRAFT CONCEPT

Plymouth Ave N

PLYMOUTH AVE STATION

Boom Island Park

Nicollet Island Park

94

7th St N

10th Ave N

Washington Ave N

1st St N

West River Parkway



55

Olson Memorial Hwy

5th St N

2nd Ave N



-  Station Area
-  BLRT Route Recommendation

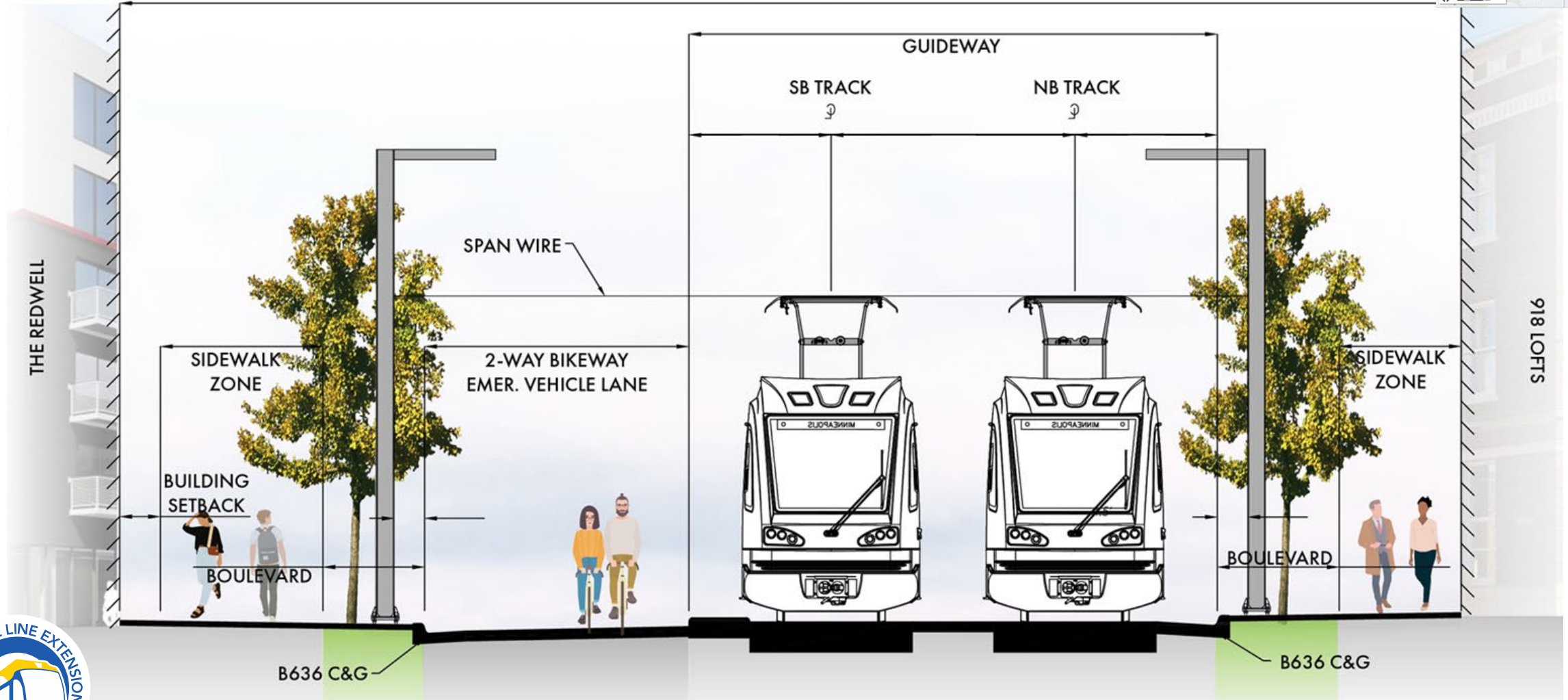
TARGET FIELD STATION



10th Ave: Transit Mall Option



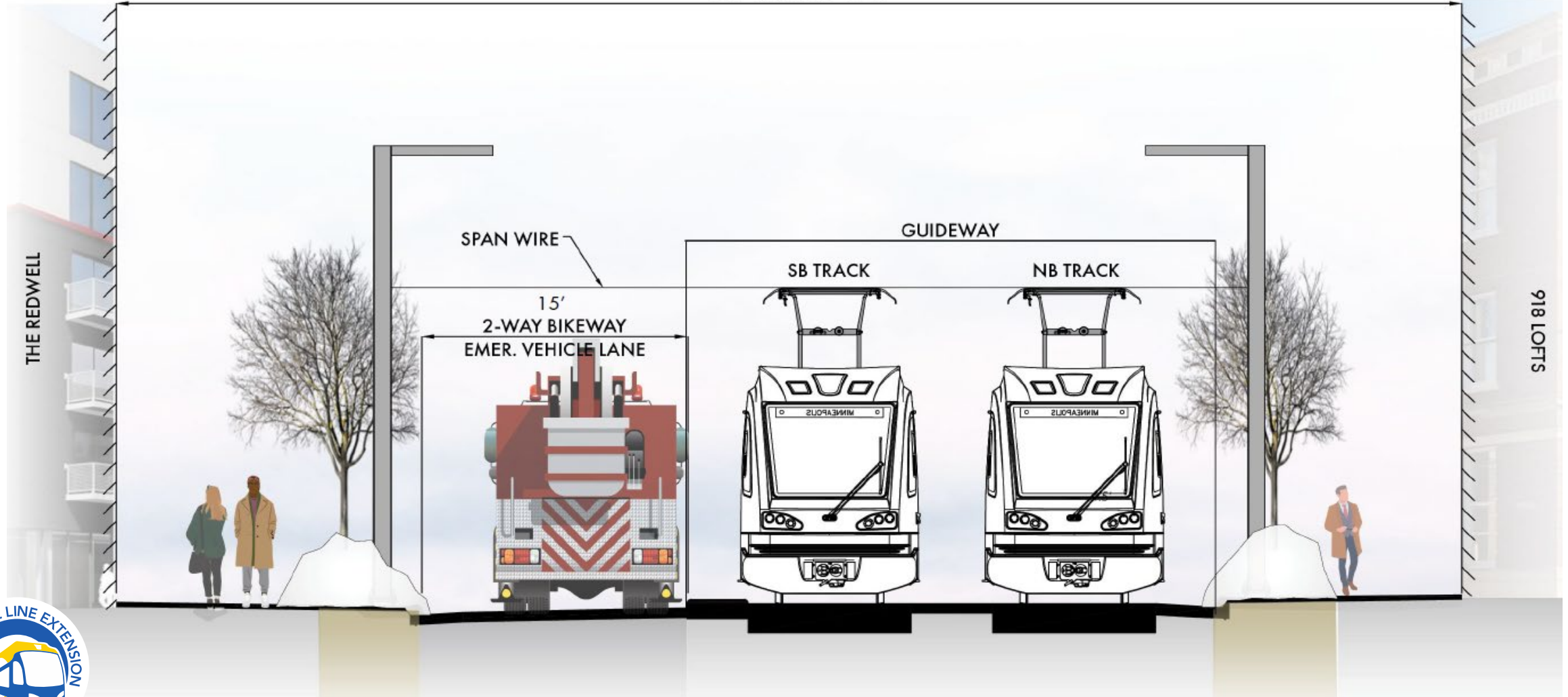
66.0' EXISTING ROW



10th Ave: Transit Mall Option



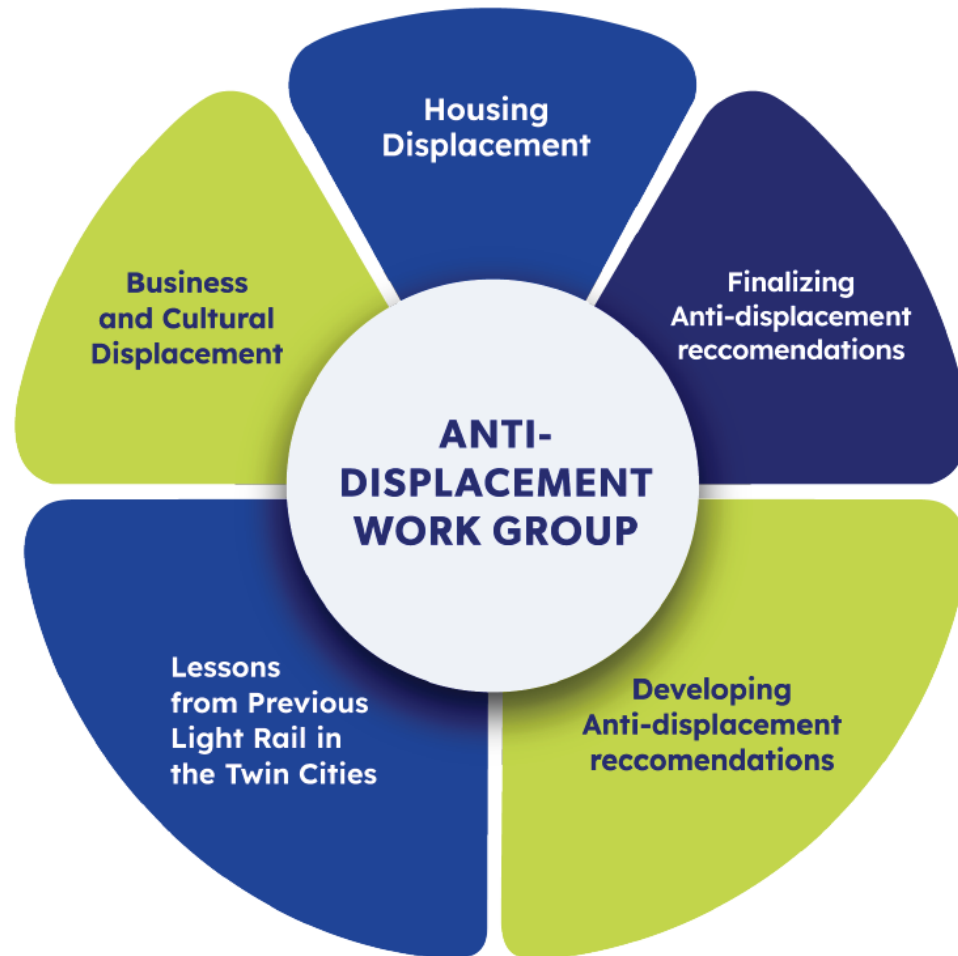
66.0' EXISTING ROW



Anti-Displacement Work Group Update



Anti-Displacement Working Group



June 2022



September 2022



December 2022

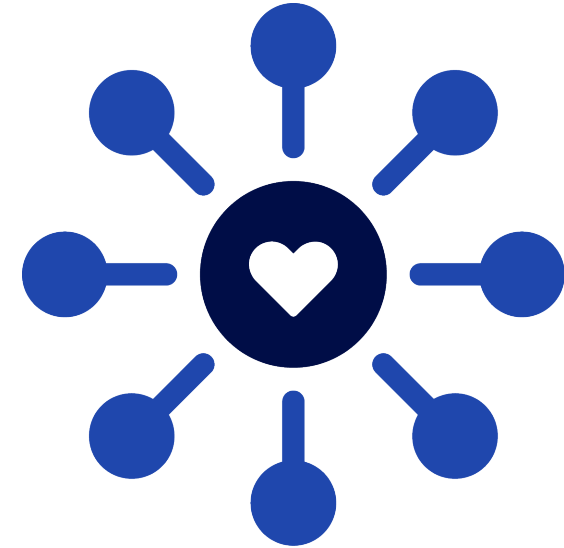
Report



Centers recommended
outcomes first
Distinct to each jurisdiction
and corridor-wide



17 policies support
recommended outcomes








ADWG identified underlying
principles for all
recommendations



Recommendations

- 
 - Providing opportunities for
 - community to connect to BLRT and development in a joyful way
 - existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported
 - community ownership and being able to measure levels of community ownership
- 
 - Empowering community to have control over decision making throughout the corridor
- 
 - Empowering community to have control over decision making throughout the corridor
- 
 - Creating and enforcing structures of accountability for government agencies along the alignment

- 
 - Addressing reparations to the Harrison neighborhood from previous route alignment
- 
 - Ensuring that
 - there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies
 - there is access to land, housing and businesses in the corridor throughout all phases of construction
 - 50% of jobs from the Bottineau Light Rail development are held by corridor residents
 - **there is a continued role for ADWG members throughout all phases of the project**
- 
- 
- 



Policies Ideas



- Mandatory Relocation Assistance

★ Tenant Opportunity to Purchase

★ Limiting Investor Purchasing/Corporate Ownership

★ Land Disposition Policy

★ Right to Return

- Rent Stabilization

★ Commercial and Residential Land Trusts

- Zero to Low Interest Loans

- Financial Resources for Organizing the Right to Organize

★ Small Business Grants/Small Business Support

- Workforce Programs

- NOAH Preservation

- Inclusionary Zoning

- Universal Basic Income/Guaranteed Basic Income

- Right to Counsel

★ Tenant Protections (commercial and residential)

- Cultural Placekeeping/Placemaking



What it Will Take for Implementation



Coordination, collaboration and commitment



Investment and partnership from public, private, philanthropic, and community organizations



Transparency and shared decision-making

Transitioning to Implementation

June 2023-2024

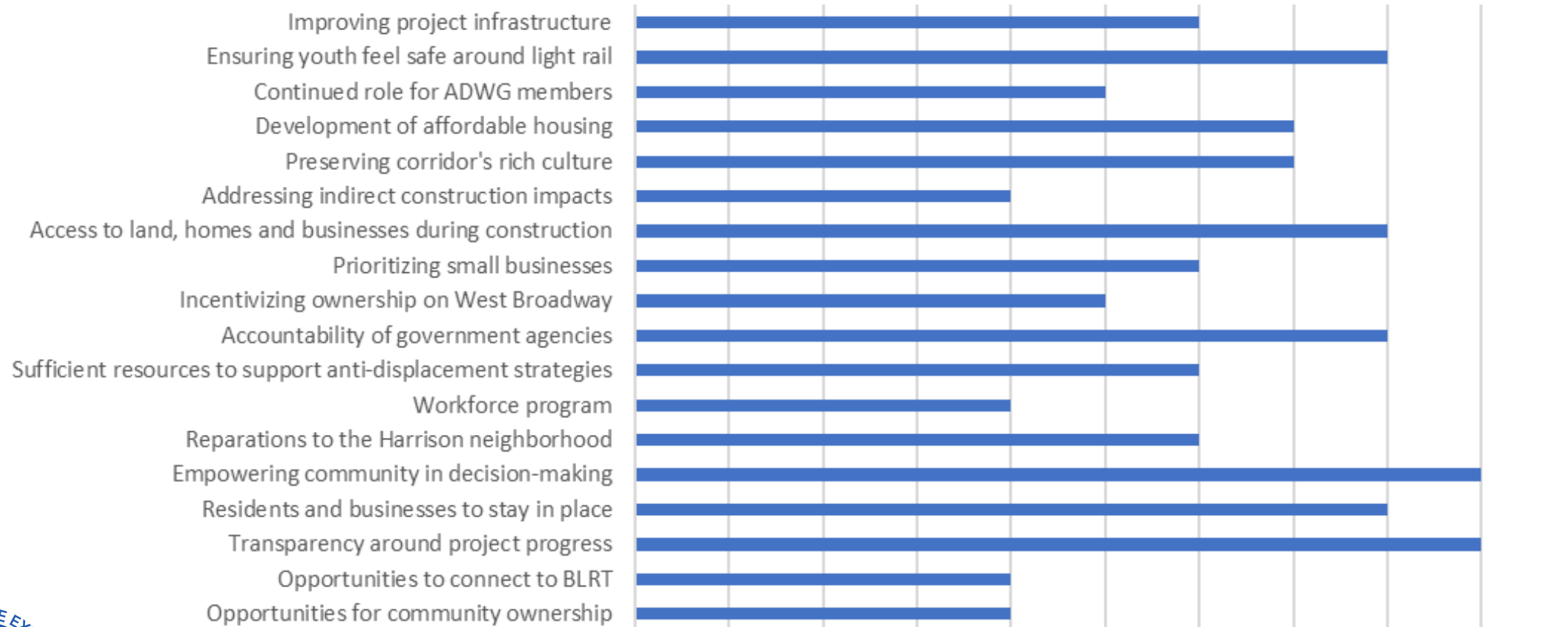
- Communicate recommendations, Phase I deliverables
- Engage communities in developing implementation plan
- Prioritize strategies for before, during, after construction
- Bring implementing partners together for action



Anti-displacement Survey Responses



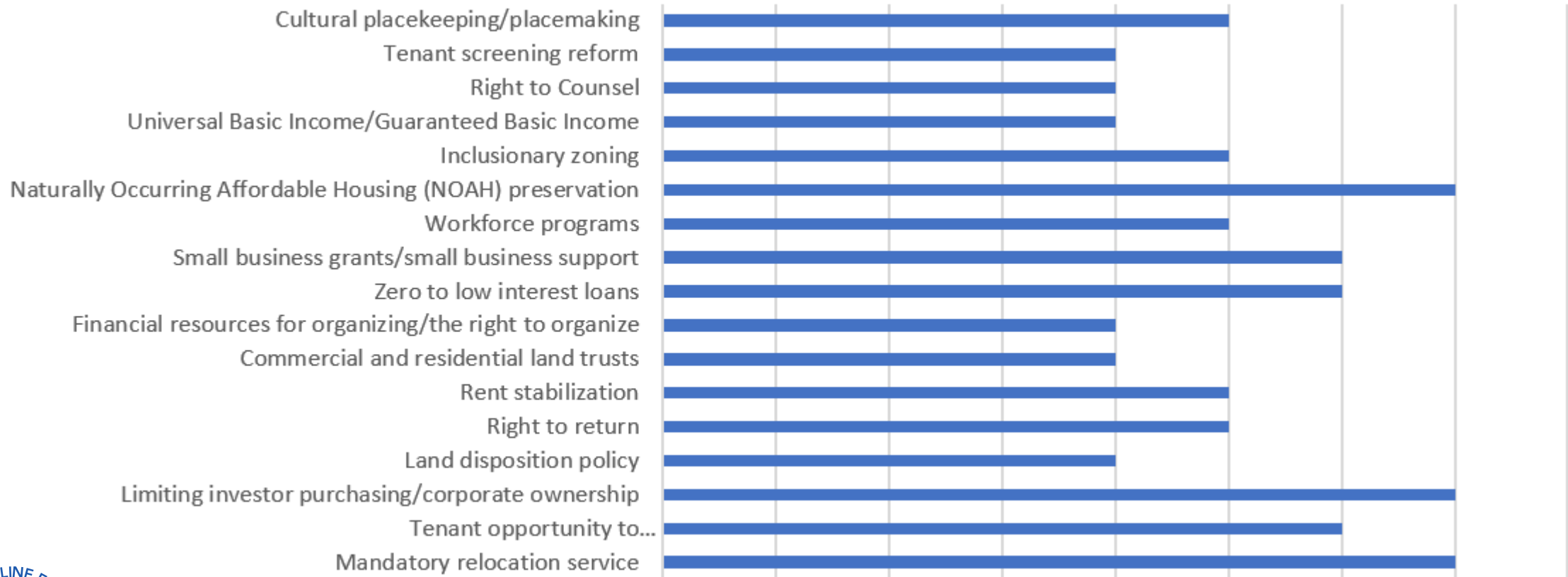
What desired outcomes of anti-displacement strategies are most important to you?



Anti-displacement Survey Responses



Which anti-displacement strategies would you personally prioritize?



Anti-displacement Timeline

	2023						2024								
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Project Timeline	Route Selection			FTA Review #1		FTA Review #2		FTA Review #3		Publish SDEIS			Prepare SFEIS		
														Municipal Consent	

Anti-displacement Timeline

Develop Implementation Framework

Release Draft

Finalize Framework

Resourcing

Coordinated Budget/Staffing/IGR Strategies

Engaging with Community and Agency Partners ▲

Co-Develop Meeting Schedule and Engagement Strategy

Community Engagement

Develop Community Engagement Plan
 Late Q3 Convening with ADWG [Transition to Community Prosperity Advisory Committee]





Illustrations by Cori Nakamura Lin



Stay Connected

- **BlueLineExt.org**
 - For the latest project updates and to sign up for our newsletter
 - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation
- **Follow us:**
 - Twitter: @BlueLineExt
 - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension
- **Contact Information:**
 - Joanna Ocasio-Maisonet – Joanna.Ocasio-Maisonet@metrotransit.org
 - Kjerstin Yager – Kjerstin.Yager@metrotransit.org
 - Kaja Vang – kaja.vang@metrotransit.org



Q&A

