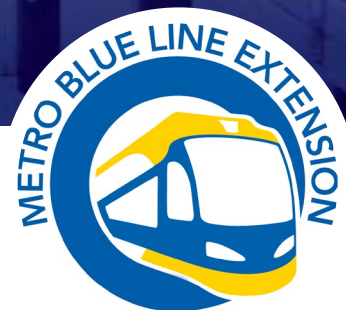




# BLE Community Update Meeting

February 28, 2024



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



# Welcome/Introductions



# Today's Topics

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- 2024 Schedule Overview
- Safety and Security
- Design Update
- Anti-Displacement Update
- Engagement Update



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# 2024 Schedule Overview

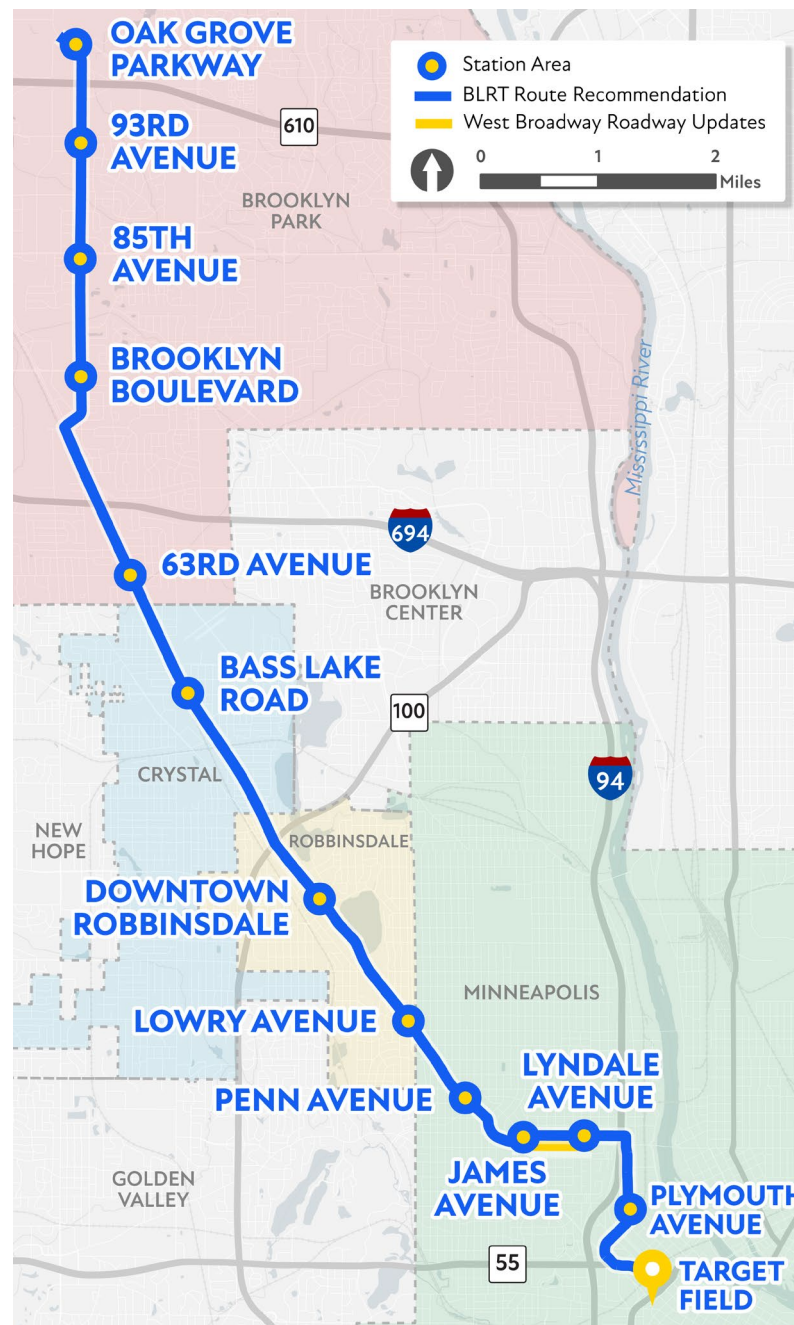




## Blue Line

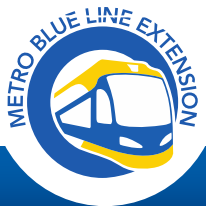
### EXTENSION

- 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



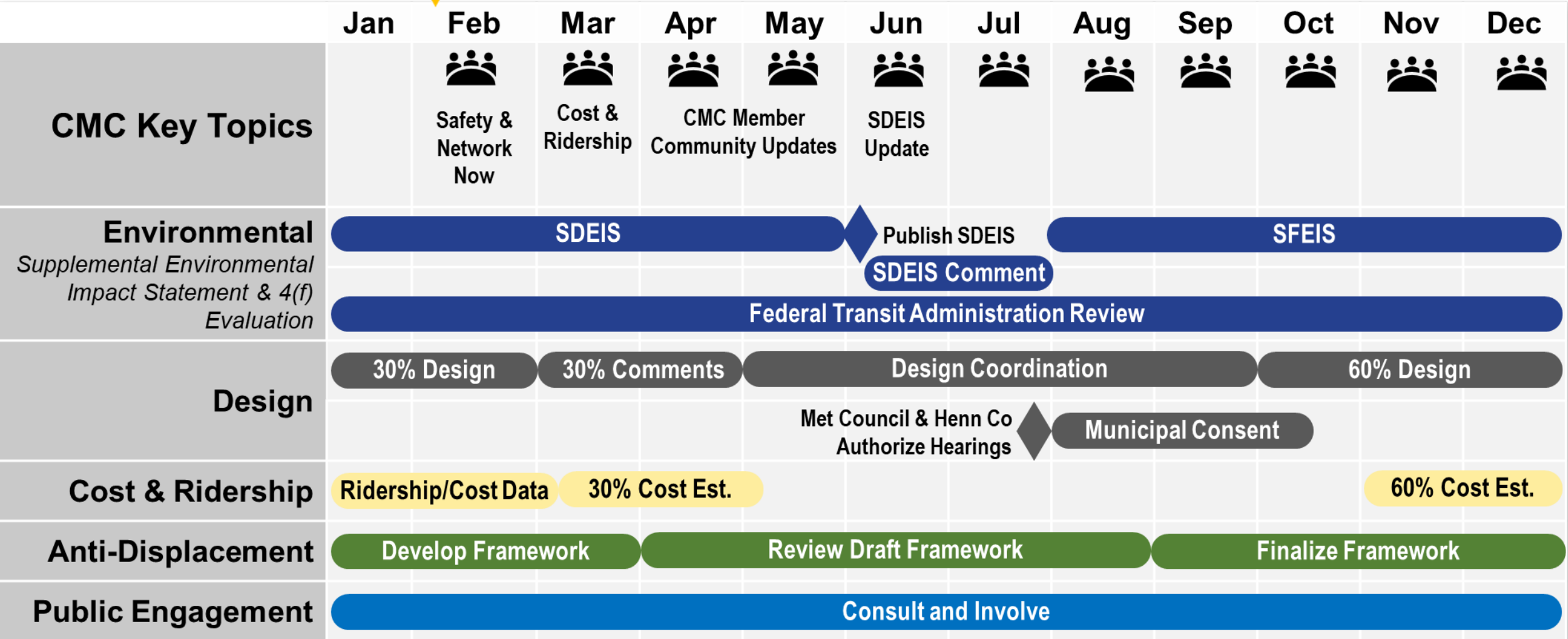
## Next steps

- Updated post-COVID ridership and initial cost information: March 2024
- 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



# 2024 Schedule

**WE ARE HERE**



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# Metro Transit Safety and Security Initiatives







# Metro Transit Police Department Update

- Chief Ernest Morales III



# Chief's Vision Plan: *Mission First, People Always*

- **Committed to Our Staff**  
by building a strong culture & prioritizing the overall well-being of each & every member of the MTPD.
- **Committed to Training & Education**  
by giving everyone the opportunity to grow with the department.
- **Committed to Our Community**  
by investing in innovative solutions & building & strengthening partnerships to address larger societal issues – *together*.
- **Committed to Trust & Integrity**  
through open communication & operating with transparency.
- **Committed to Technology**  
by continuously looking ahead to what's ahead, while using state of the art equipment & data *now* to guide our methods.



Chief Morales on the Listening Sessions Tour  
January 3, 2024



# Chief's Vision Plan: *Mission First, People Always cont.*

I am committed to leading the Metro Transit Police Department into its brightest chapter yet by building a culture that is well-respected throughout Minnesota & beyond.

That culture is one that encourages collaboration, promotes innovation, & proactively addresses emerging challenges with strategic solutions.


A culture where the professional & personal growth & well-being of each & every member of the MTPD is paramount to our overall success.

At the MTPD, we take pride in leading with integrity, empathy, & professionalism.



*Swearing-in of Ernest Morales III  
March 22, 2023*



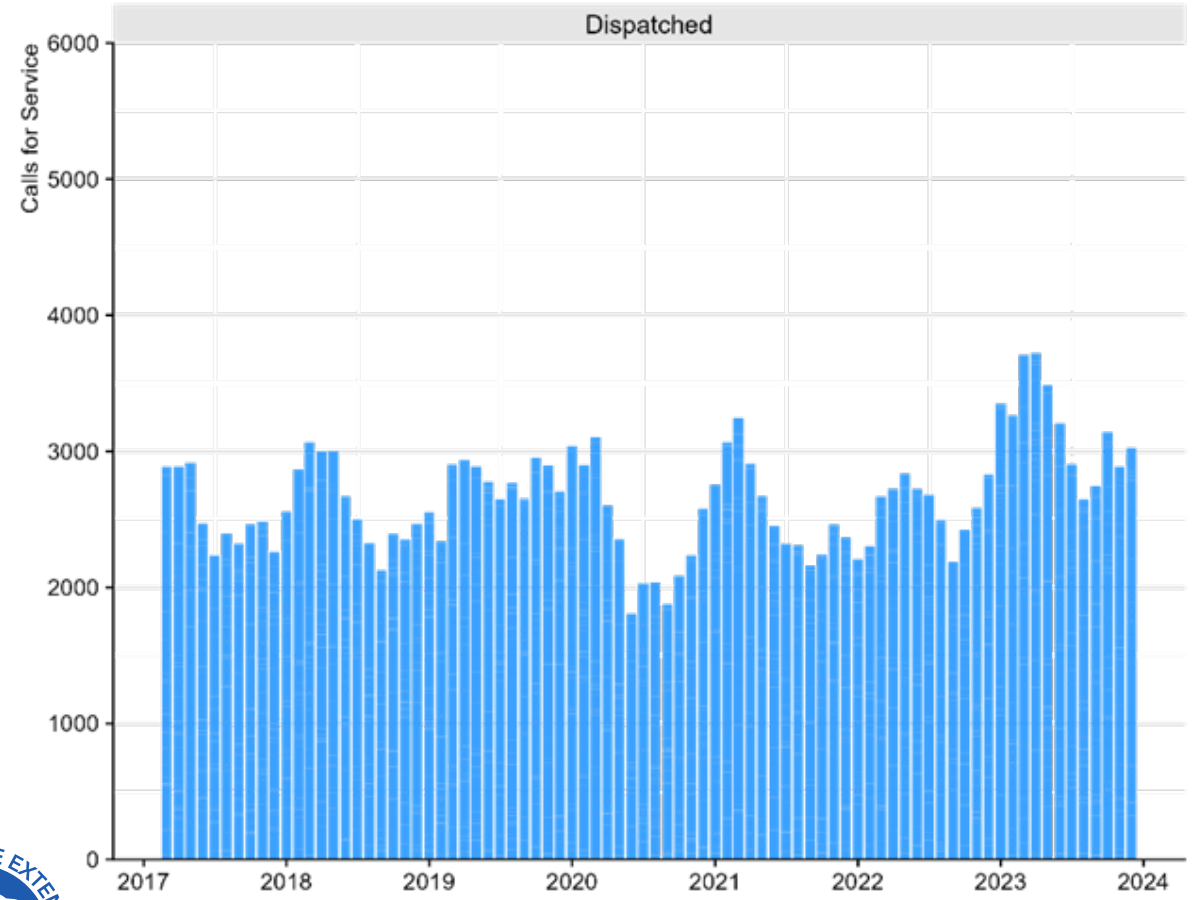
  
 Chief Ernest Morales III

# Q1 to Q4 2023 Data: Key Takeaways

- ↓ Overall Crime Down 25%
- ↓ Top 7 Down 13%
- ↑ Officer-Initiated Calls Up 24%
- ↓ Customer LRT Complaints Down 44%



# Q1 to Q4 2023 Data: Dispatch Calls For Service



↑ Q1 to Q2: +10%

↑ Q2 to Q3: +6%

↓ Q3 to Q4: -34%

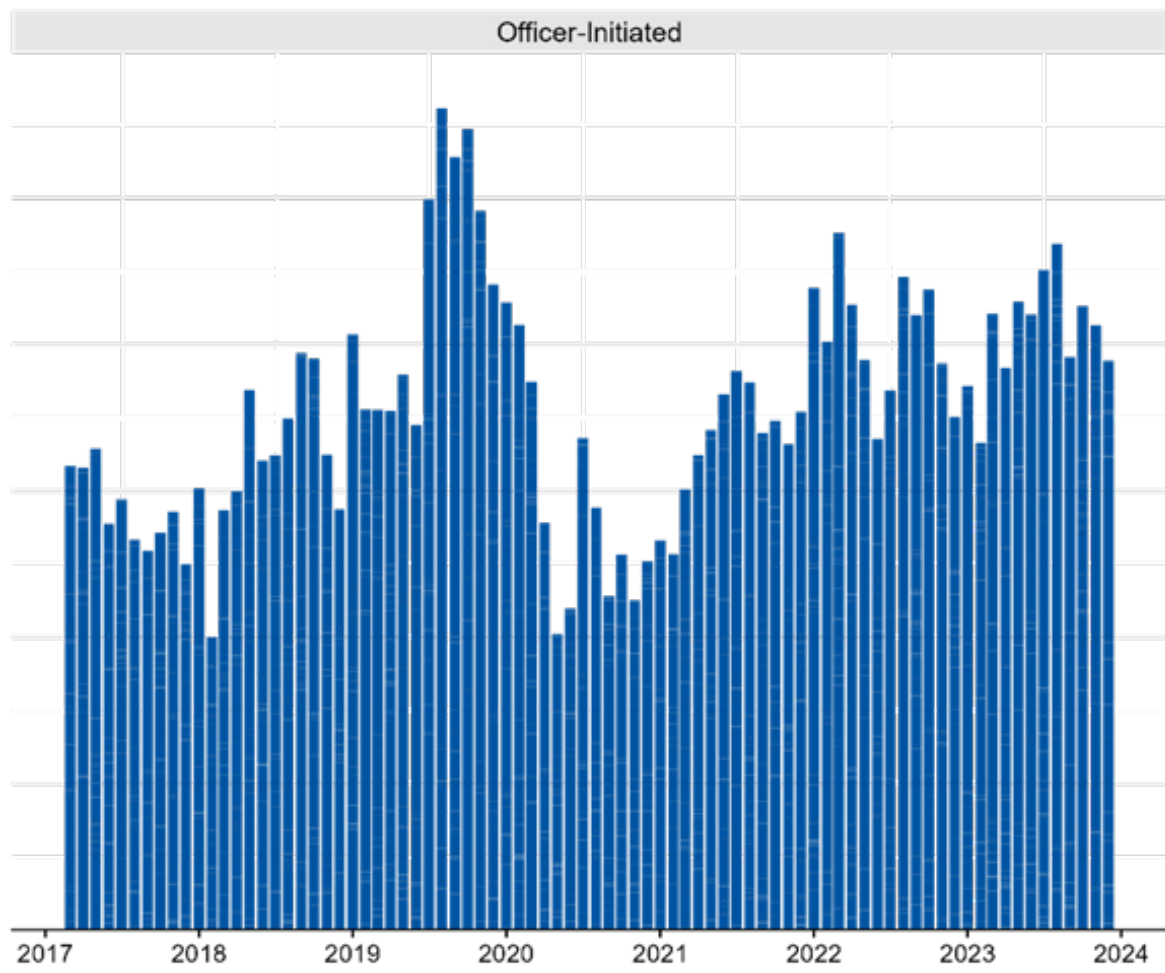
↓ Q1 to Q4: -24%



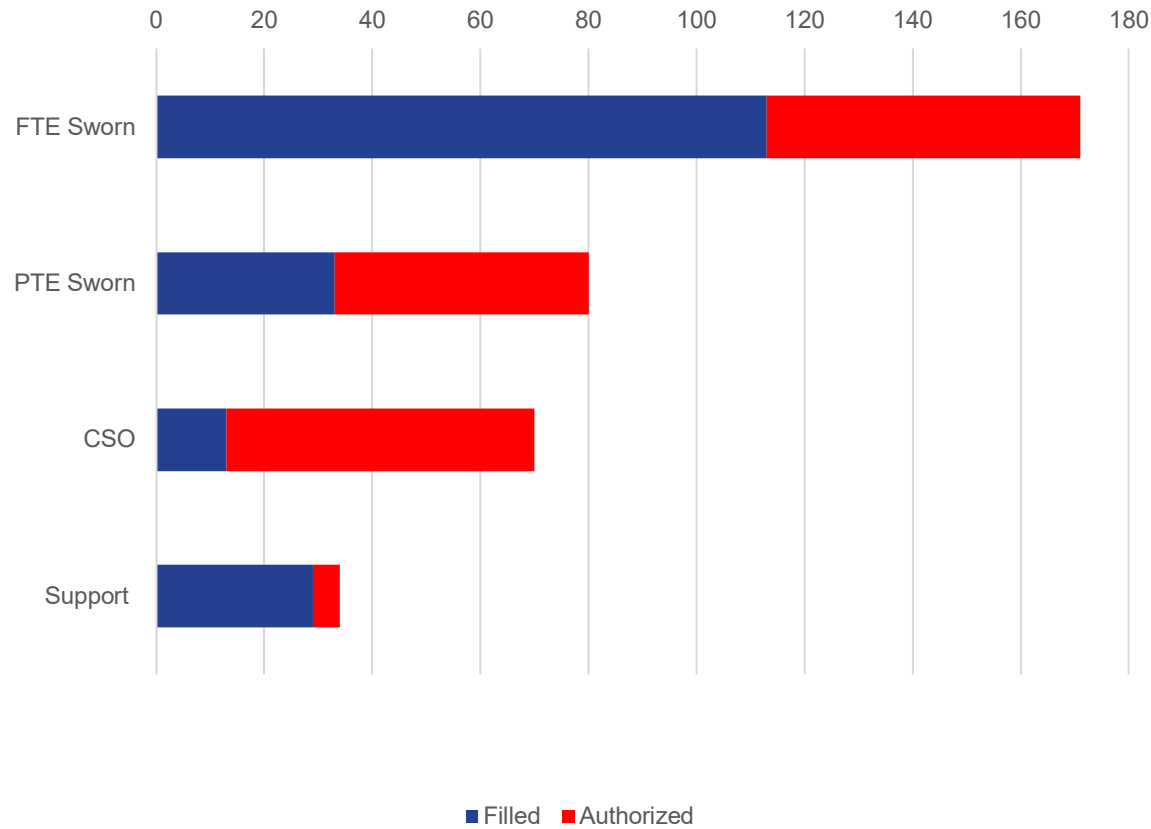


# Q1 to Q4 2023 Data: Officer-Initiated Calls For Service

- ↑ Q1 to Q2: +1%
- ↓ Q2 to Q3: -20%
- ↑ Q3 to Q4: +53%
- ↑ Q1 to Q4: +23%



# Q1 to Q4 2023 Data: Staffing



🛡️ Full-Time Officers: **113/171**

🛡️ Part-Time Officers: **33/80**

🛡️ CSOs: **13/70**

🛡️ Support Services: **29/34**



# CSO Pathways Program

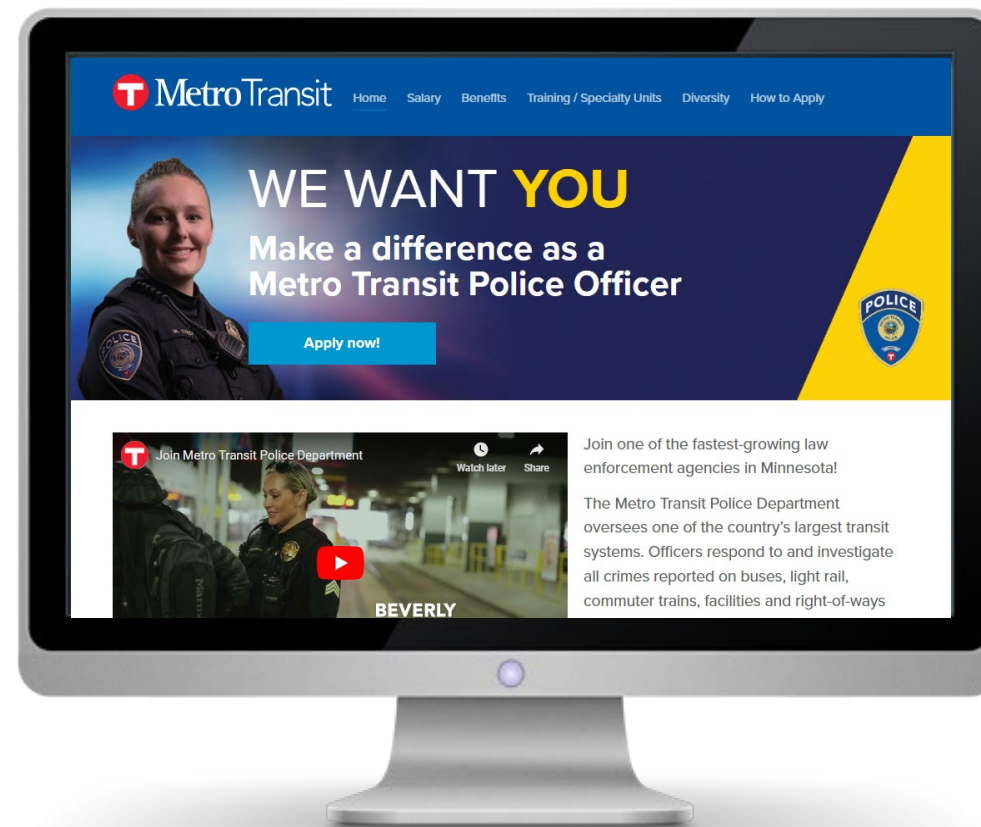
- No law enforcement experience or degree required
- Earn 12+ college credits at no cost
- New CSOs eligible for up to \$18,000 tuition reimbursement



19 candidates celebrate completing their preparatory work, January 25, 2024

# Recruitment Campaign

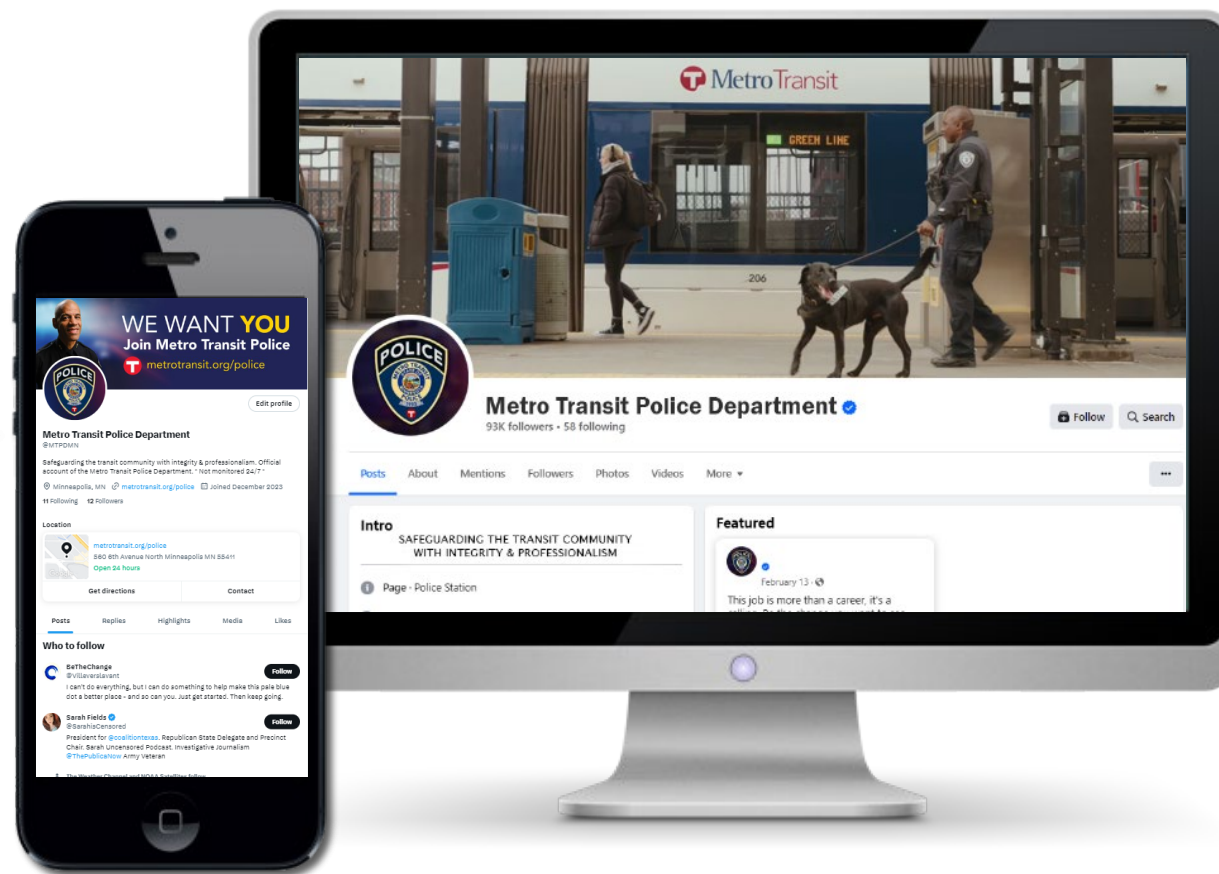
- Recruitment website [metrotransit.org/joinMTPD](https://metrotransit.org/joinMTPD)
- On trains, buses, transit centers, bus shelters, kiosks, & digital signage
- Targeted in & out of state videos





# MTPD Social Media

- Hired new Principal Communications Specialist & Public Information Officer (PIO)
- **Feb. 5** launch on Facebook, Instagram, & X/Twitter
- **@MetroTransitPD** on Facebook & Instagram
- **@MTPDMN** on X/Twitter



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# Design Update



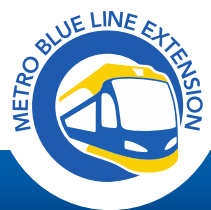
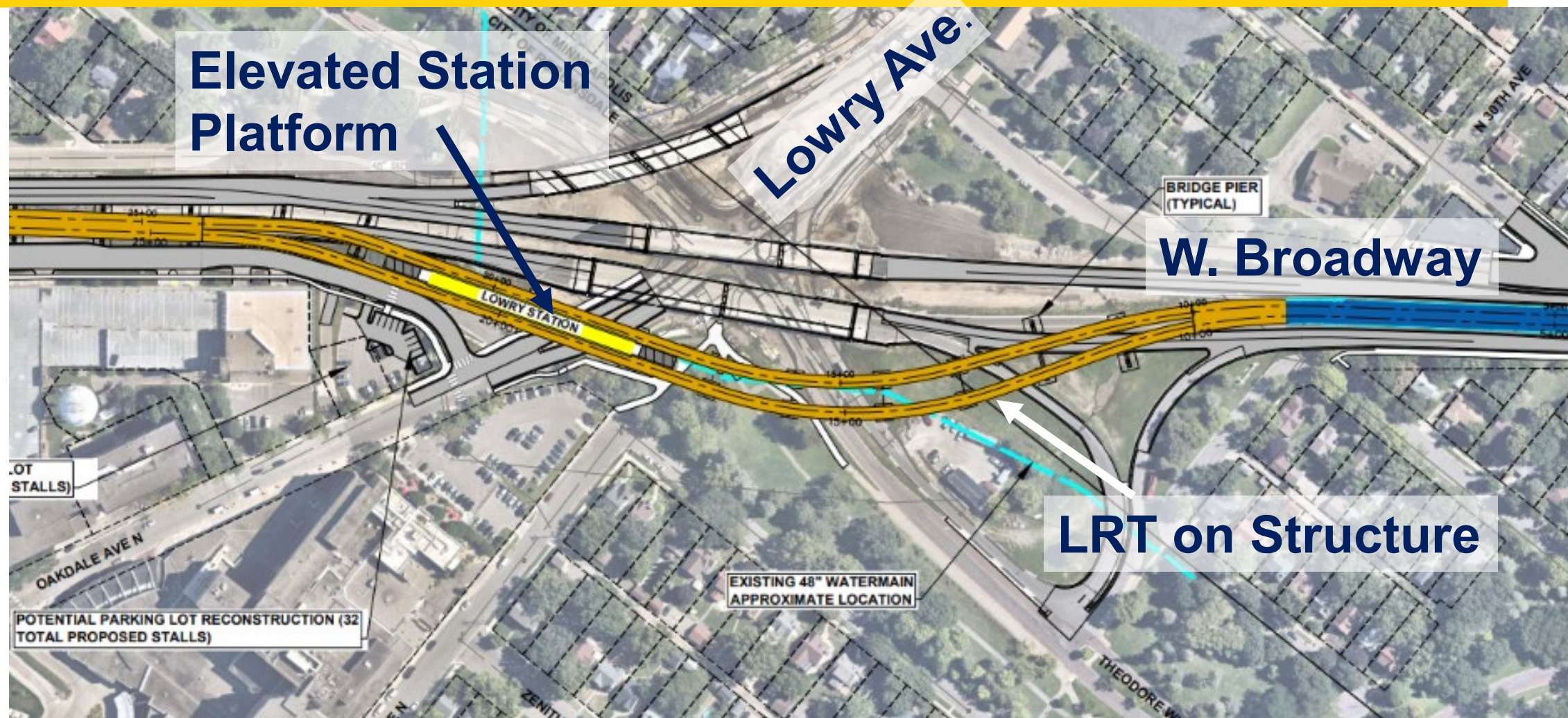
# Lowry Ave Station

- Provides access to the Grand Rounds trail, Victory Memorial Park, and North Memorial Hospital





# Lowry Station: Original Concept





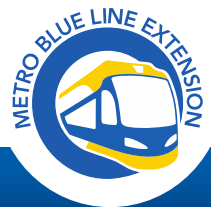
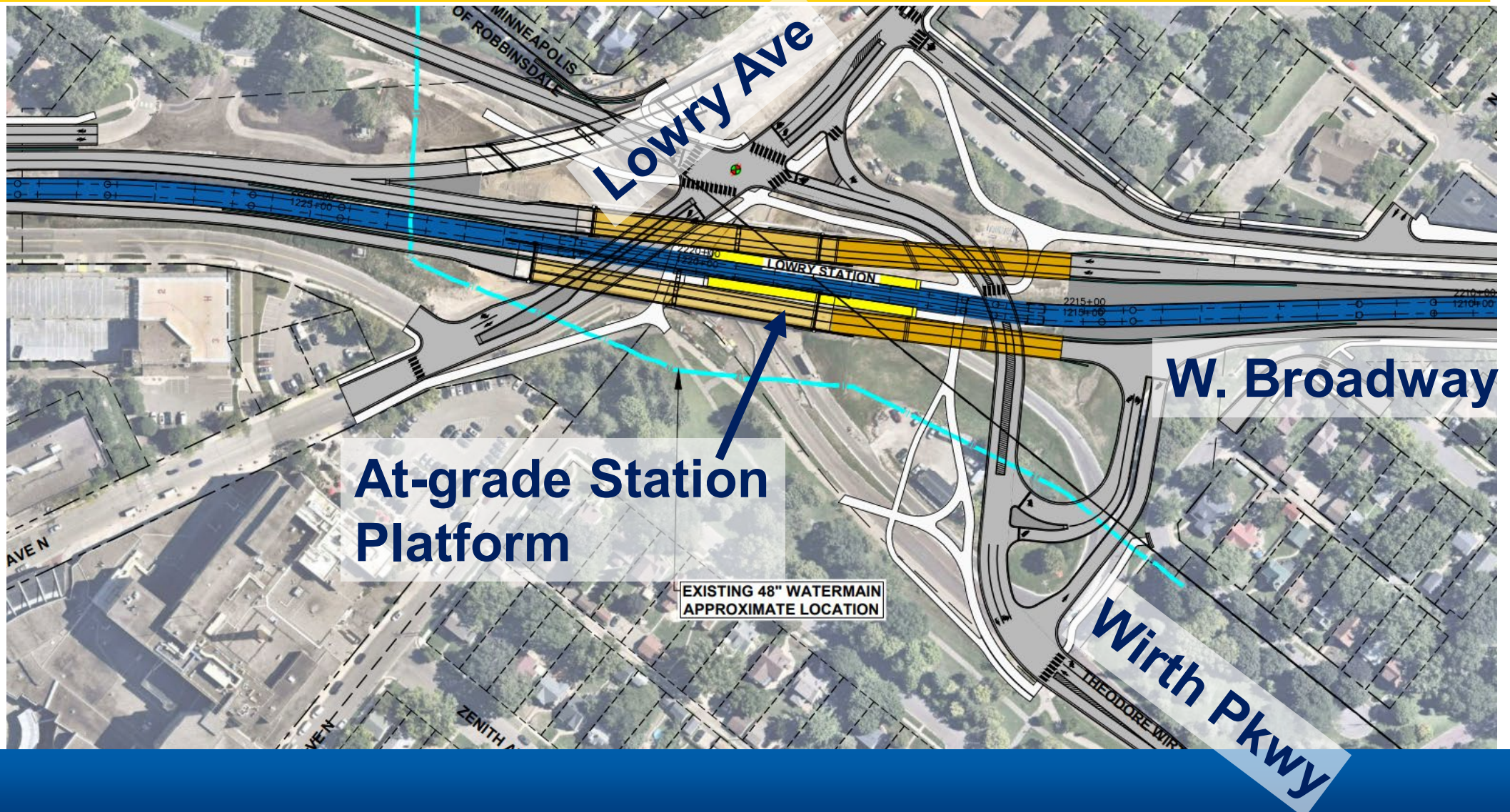
# Lowry Station: Challenges of Elevated LRT

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- Station access
- Station and access visibility
- LRT bridge required
- Park impacts
- Lack of broad stakeholder support



# Lowry Station: At-Grade Concept



# Lowry Station: Benefits of At-Grade

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- At-grade station access
  - More direct routes to the station from surrounding neighborhoods
  - Better access to station for all abilities
  - Connection to North Memorial Hospital without crossing roadway
- Opportunity for better station visibility
- Opportunity to activate area around the station





# Lowry Station Concept Visualization



**Lowry Ave Station  
At Grade – Looking South**





# Lowry Station Concept Visualization

Looking South



**Intersection of Theodore Wirth Pkwy and Lowry Ave  
Looking South**





# Lowry Station Concept Visualization

Looking West



**Intersection of Theodore Wirth Pkwy and Lowry Ave  
Looking West**



# Lowry Station: Next Steps

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- Continue to work with Project Partners
- Determine roadway and intersection configuration
- Advance design for better access and connectivity



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# Anti-displacement Update





# Next steps progress



1

Create a regional group to continue conversations about corridor-wide implementation of anti-displacement strategies



2

Create local government groups to receive recommendations and begin policy making processes

3

Create dedicated regional anti-displacement fund

In progress

4

Align anti-displacement research and recommendations with Blue Line Extension federal processes like supplemental environmental impact statement



5

Develop corridor-wide anti-displacement policy agenda for 2024 state legislative session



Illustrations by  
Cori Nakamura Lin



# Corridor Partnership Collaboration Update

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Most recent meeting:  
**January 25th**



Workplan [framework] information gathering:

- Identify goals and outcomes
- List of subject matter experts
- Existing agency programs, policies, resources
- Action steps to achieve recommended outcomes
- Technical analysis
- Partner identification
- Existing and additional funding identification
- Policy and program actions



# Workplan Topics

-  Access to places
-  Accountability metrics
-  Architectural design
-  Architectural elements [cultural]
-  Business support
-  Community ownership – land subsidy
-  Cultural placemaking
-  Development and preservation
-  Infrastructure improvements
-  Relocation
-  Right of way acquisition
-  Safety
-  Workforce
-  Environmental justice
-  Engagement plan



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# Engagement Update





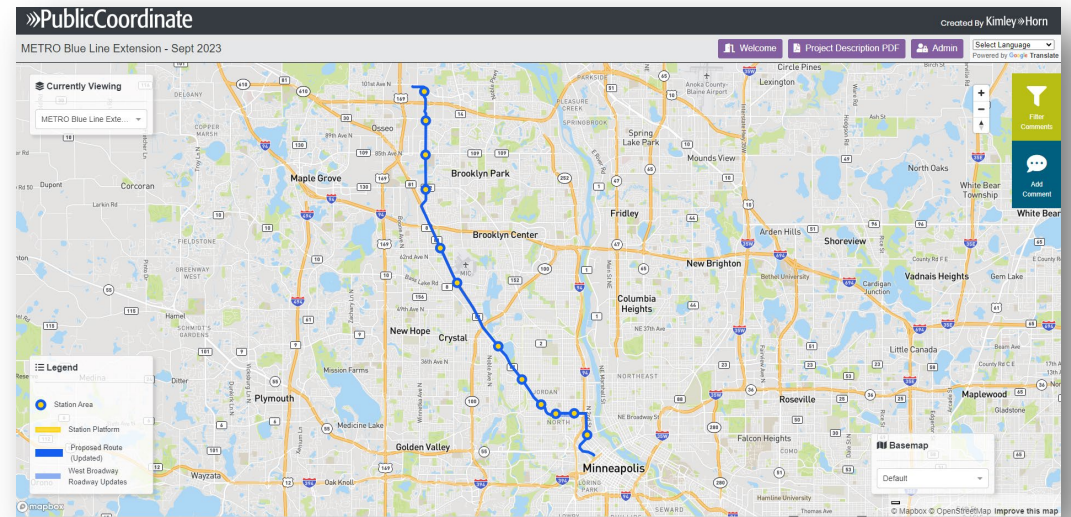
# Recent Engagement Activities

Date	Location	Group/Event Name
1/9/2024	Virtual	Faith Tabernacle Gospel Fellowship Int'l
Ongoing	Corridor Cities	Business Canvassing
1/17/2024	Corridor Wide	Great Day in Transit Outreach
1/17/2024	Minneapolis – Union Depot	Great Day in Transit Outreach
1/23/2024	Robbinsdale	Business Canvassing
1/25/2024	Minneapolis	Heritage Park Stakeholder Meeting
1/26/2024	Brooklyn Park	Winterfest – Community Distribution
1/31/2024	Minneapolis	North Loop Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting
2/10/2024	Minneapolis	BIPOC Expo @ North Commons
2/14/2024	Brooklyn Park	NHCC Resource Fair
2/16/2024	Brooklyn park	Asian Media Access Development Summit
2/17/2024	Minneapolis	Minneapolis Community Connections Conference



# Online Feedback Tools

- Interactive map: [bluelineext.org](https://bluelineext.org)
- Survey: [yourblueline.org](https://yourblueline.org)
  - Hopes & Concerns
  - Anti-Displacement priorities
  - North Loop option (closed 1/31/23)



Your Blue Line Extension

## This is your Blue Line

What's your vision for light rail in your community? How will you use it? What sort of investments do you want to see near stations? Explore the site and lend your voice.

Help Hennepin County, the Metropolitan Council and community partners as we all work to extend Blue Line Light Rail Transit to North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park.

[Sign up + Speak up!](#)



# Engagement Metrics: Aug. 2020 – Jan. 2024

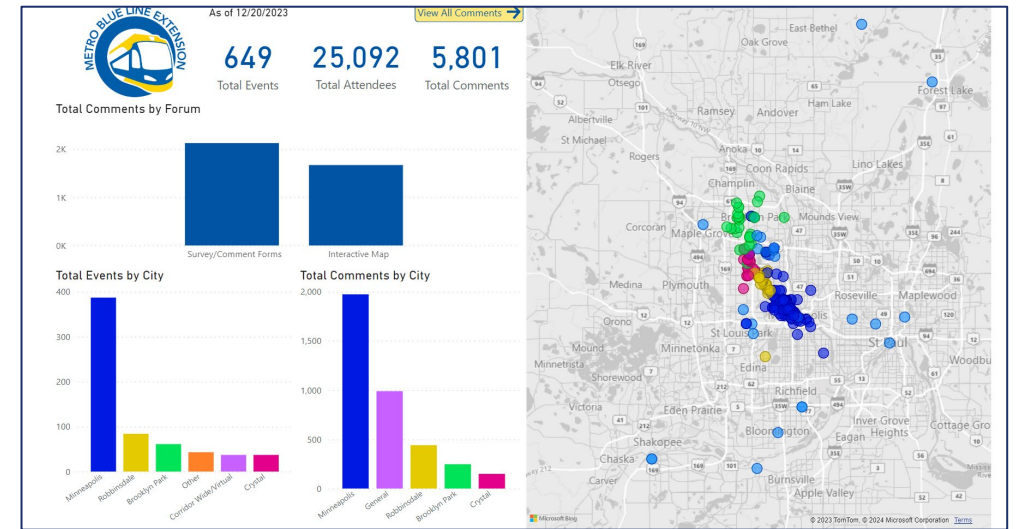
- **700** events resulting in nearly **25,092** points of contact with the public
- **80,000** reach on social media and **5 million+** reach through newsletters and paid ads on community and cultural media
- Approximately **4,250** survey responses
- **+3,000** comments on the interactive map
- **300** comments from comment forms
- Corridor postcards mailed to **+26,000**
- Over **3,000** emails and phone calls

July 2023 Outdoor Summer Event



# New Power Bi Engagement Tool

- New public comment compilation on [BlueLineExt.org](http://BlueLineExt.org)
- Comments from written feedback from surveys, interactive map comments, comment forms, and community meetings



DATE	COMMENT	FORUM	REPLY TO	CITY	TOPIC
11/21/2023	Wanted to see if there is a bike lane near the station. I need that for my morning commute. It is a closer location to the station I would use more often. Agree, the "bicycle" stop is in the middle of the station with the 10 minute walking radius of target foot, whereas the dotted line route would serve new areas.	PublicCoordinates		Minneapolis	PublicAccess
11/21/2023	Please add a public presence. We do not want to see a rise in crime, homelessness, and drug use in our neighborhood.	PublicCoordinates		Robbinsdale	Crime/Security
11/21/2023	Phillywood/Inglewood Ave station connects in 2.2 miles from Theo Wirth. There is a bike lane already in place on Philly Ave so you can take extra safety in 0.5 miles.	PublicCoordinates		Minneapolis	Connectivity
11/21/2023	Similar to what has been said west of ST, adding a protected shared use that connects to other areas in Minneapolis would allow people to access the station. The train should be placed along Broadway. It's the only way that makes sense, but the businesses east they need the Broadway, and now the route makes connecting those businesses more difficult in the long run. Easy Connection to Metro D line also seems to make good sense.	PublicCoordinates		Robbinsdale	PublicAccess
11/21/2023		PublicCoordinates		Minneapolis	Connectivity





# Upcoming Engagement Activities

Date	Group/Event Name	Location
3/7/2024	Crystal Open House	Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Dr N, Crystal
3/14/2024	LIBA Minority Business Info Session	LiBA Office, 6248 Lakeland Ave N, Brooklyn Park
4/09/2024	Robbinsdale Open House	Elim Lutheran Church, 3978 W Broadway, Robbinsdale
4/17/2024	Minneapolis Open House	Capri Theater, 2027 W Broadway, Minneapolis
4/23/2024	Brooklyn Park Open House	Brooklyn Park Library, 8500 W Broadway, Brooklyn Park
April 2024	Crystal Network Now Work Session	TBD
5/15/2024	Minneapolis Open House & Quarterly Meeting	Capri Theater, 2027 W Broadway, Minneapolis



# Stay connected

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- **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

