



9 Consultation and Coordination

Planning for the Project involves extensive outreach and coordination with community members residing in the Project area, as well as individuals, businesses, groups, clubs, civic organizations, and others interested in the Project. Agency coordination has involved local governments and State and federal agencies with regulatory oversight and permitting responsibilities. This chapter summarizes the efforts and outcomes of the various consultation and coordination efforts made for the Project.

9.1 Public Outreach and Engagement

The following sections identify goals and objectives, strategies, and communications methods employed during public outreach and engagement for the Project.

9.1.1 Guiding Goals and Principles

The overarching goal of public outreach through the route modification phase of the Project is to collaborate with various communities in the Project area to identify an alignment that upholds community trust while meeting the growing regional transit demand. Primary engagement principles guiding public outreach for the Project are as follows:

- ***Meaningfully engage stakeholders:*** Honoring and building on previous robust community engagement and tailoring engagement practices to meet the needs of the individual communities in the Project area.
- ***Engage, inform, and consult diverse communities to co-create project solutions that reduce disparities:*** Ensuring that communities of all incomes and abilities are engaged so that all communities and Project cities share in growth opportunities, with an emphasis on low-income and cultural communities. Engage to use community goals, priorities, and criteria for growth to inform decision-making and adjust strategies and approaches as needed to ensure that Project area communities are fully represented in engagement efforts. In addition, prioritize informal engagement throughout the design process as alignments and LRT station options have been refined.

9.1.2 Outreach Team

The Project is co-led by the Council and Hennepin County. Engagement conducted for the Project involves partnerships and collaboration with local organizations and community groups including:

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| ■ The Council (Blue Line Extension Project Office Engagement Team) | ■ Community engagement cohort organizations (identified in Table 9-1) |
| ■ Advisory/steering committees | ■ Cultivate Arts Initiative (Hennepin County) |
| ■ Municipalities (Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis) | ■ ADWG (Hennepin County) |
| ■ Hennepin County | ■ ACPP Board |
| ■ BCW (Hennepin County) | ■ University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) |
| | ■ Elevate Hennepin (Hennepin County) |

9.1.2.1 Blue Line Extension Project Engagement (Council)

The Blue Line Extension Engagement Team includes dedicated Council and Hennepin County Project Staff. Led by the Public Involvement Manager, community outreach coordinators are assigned by geography along the Project area. A Community Engagement Framework describes the context for how and why Project staff engage and communicate with the multiple audiences within the Project area and across the region and is available on the Project website in English and Spanish.¹



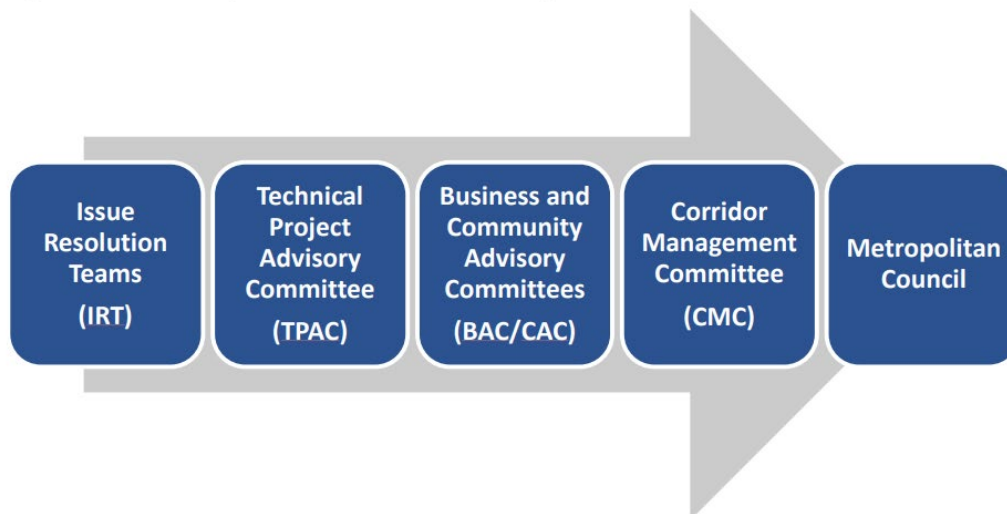
9.1.2.2 Advisory Committees

Advisory committees continue to provide critical guidance and support to the Project. Advisory committees include the BAC, CAC, CMC, and TPAC. The CMC has a voting seat for the BAC and the CAC among other voting seats. The CMC also includes a voting seat for the Blue Line Coalition (BLC).² BLC represents organizations from immigrant/refugee; low wealth; and Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities in the Project area. Project staff maintains regular communication and meetings with BLC.

Advisory committee decisions and Project development are informed by results and recommendations developed by Issue Resolution Teams (IRT). IRTs are geographically focused and include Council representatives from the Project's engineering and environmental staff, Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, Hennepin County, MnDOT, Project cities, and administrators of park properties in the Project area.

Advisory Committees convene monthly to elevate technical questions regarding light rail design, provide guidance on selection of a preferred alignment, and address community concerns. Committee roles in Project decision-making are shown in Figure 9-1.

Figure 9-1 Metropolitan Council Decision-Making Process



9.1.2.3 Bottineau Community Works

Since 1994, Hennepin County Community Works has partnered with cities and other agencies, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and Hennepin County residents to build the long-term value of communities; create and sustain great places; and make quality investments in redevelopment, transportation, public-works infrastructure, parks, trails, and the environment. In 2015, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners established BCW, a collaborative partnership between Hennepin County and the Cities of Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park to coordinate planning, policy, and infrastructure improvements to help realize the community and economic benefits of LRT.

Hennepin County, through BCW and additional investment, has spent approximately \$18.5 million since 2013 in the Project corridor. This includes \$5.14 spent in planning, engagement, and infrastructure and \$13.36 million in economic development. Additionally, Hennepin County has invested \$29 million in housing development in the Project corridor since 2013. The 2024 Hennepin County Capital Improvement Program includes \$15.5 million in appropriated and planned funding for BCW through 2027. Approximately \$5.7 million of that funding has been appropriated to date and another \$9.8 million planned for future years.



BCW has a steering committee that meets monthly and provides policymaking direction, and a Bottineau Technical Implementation Committee, comprising staff who focus on project identification, management, and implementation. BCW was the subrecipient of a grant received by the Council from FTA's Pilot Program for TOD. These grant funds were used to build on previously completed station area planning work. With the addition of funding from public and philanthropic partners, the grant funds were used to complete work to attract and guide development in station areas. This work includes:

- Analyzing and meeting housing needs and opportunities
- Considering and implementing transit-friendly zoning changes
- Conducting a Commercial Market Analysis
- Planning for potential retail market and commercial development
- Project-wide marketing and branding
- Developing wayfinding systems
- Supporting small businesses
- Activating station areas through arts and placemaking

BCW work centers around five focus areas—TOD, small business support, workforce connections, infrastructure investments, and placemaking—and is ongoing. Work in these areas is designed to expand wealth-building opportunities for residents and business owners, create sustainable development that meets community goals and desires, increase access to and skills readiness for family-sustaining jobs, make communities more walkable and bikeable, and amplify the success and vibrancy of cultural and community assets.³

BCW funded the Affordable Commercial Incentive Fund, which creates place-based investments to support small business growth and local economic prosperity. The Affordable Commercial Incentive Fund, formerly known as the Community Investment Initiative, aims to grow long-term economic opportunity and support community wealth building by supporting development projects that provide affordable commercial spaces and ownership opportunities for locally owned small businesses. In 2023, up to \$500,000 was available to support eligible projects only in Project area communities within one-half mile of LRT stations. The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved this funding as one early strategy to strengthen Project area businesses and grow community prosperity in areas that will be served by the Project.

9.1.2.4 Community Engagement Cohort

Since 2020, the Project has extended the reach of its communications and public involvement by directly contracting with multiple community and cultural groups. This current cohort model was built on the foundation from 2016 Project planning processes that included the Health Equity Engagement Cohort, which was active from 2013 to 2019 and produced health equity strategies for station areas. Plans are available online at <https://yourblueline.org/station-area-planning>.

These groups' experience, expertise, and trusted relationship networks in the Project area are essential to ensuring that the needs and concerns of all communities are understood and incorporated into Project development. Each phase of community engagement has a different configuration of cohort members ranging from three members to 15 members depending on the level of engagement required. A summary of each phase is provided to Project staff that includes cohort final reports. Cohort organizations meet monthly with Project staff to report community feedback, share upcoming events, and learn about timely Project updates. Community cohort organizations were selected based on the geography and cultural groups they represent (Table 9-1).

**Table 9-1 Community Cohort Overview**

Organization	Community Focus
A Mothers Love	Residents and small businesses in North Minneapolis and the City of Robbinsdale
Asian Media Access	Asian and immigrant community in North Minneapolis and the City of Brooklyn Park
Blue Line Coalition	Coalition to build community-based power that ensures communities along the Project corridor are able to stay in their homes and businesses, create wealth and economic development, and enhance their wellbeing and access to opportunity throughout the region.
CAPi USA	Asian and immigrant communities in North Minneapolis and northwest suburbs
Center for Leadership & Neighborhood Engagement	North Minneapolis faith communities and neighborhood groups
Encouraging Leaders	Youth and young adults, faith leaders in North Minneapolis
Harrison Neighborhood Association	Low-income residents and residents of color in the Harrison neighborhood, City of Minneapolis
Hawthorne Area Community Council	Low-income residents and residents of color in the Hawthorne neighborhood, City of Minneapolis
Heritage Park Neighborhood Association	Low-income residents and residents of color in the Heritage Park neighborhood, City of Minneapolis
Jordan Area Community Council	Low-income residents and residents of color in the Jordan neighborhood, City of Minneapolis
Juxtaposition Arts	Youth and transit customers in North Minneapolis
Lao Assistance Center	Lao and Hmong residents, businesses, and community leaders in the Project area
Liberian Business Association	Liberian and immigrant small businesses along with community leaders in the Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, and Robbinsdale
Northside Economic Development Network	Small businesses and faith-based leaders in North Minneapolis
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council	Low-income residents and residents of color in the Near North and Willard Hay neighborhoods, City of Minneapolis
Pueblos de Lucha Y Esperanza	Latino/Latinx community in the Project area
West Broadway Business & Area Coalition	Businesses and organizations within the W Broadway Ave corridor in North Minneapolis

9.1.2.5 Cultivate Arts Initiative

Cultivate Bottineau: Culture, Community, and Commerce was a collaborative effort to activate spaces, build connections, celebrate diversity, and promote opportunity through local artist-led creative placemaking projects in the Project area. Supported by the McKnight Foundation, this project was coordinated by BCW and Springboard for the Arts in partnership with the Cities of Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park and other community organizations from January 2018 to October 2019.

In July 2022, Cultivate Bottineau was reactivated as the Cultivate Arts initiative, and collaboration continues with local artists to engage communities in the Project area to inform the community about Project planning, build artist capacity, demonstrate arts and placemaking tools, and activate the creative economy. Cultivate Arts leads multiple culturally representative, arts-based engagement events in communities along the Project area each year. Events center around music, dance, paint, photography, and interactive art installations, as well as educating communities about the Project. Through these efforts, Cultivate Arts engaged thousands of residents from a diverse range of ages

and cultural backgrounds. From August to December 2023, Cultivate Arts provided a creative approach to engaging Project communities with workshops, conversations, concerts, and other cultural programs. The most recent phase of arts engagement activities was conducted between June 1 and October 31, 2024, and the artists are described in Table 9-2. The first annual Cultivate Arts Celebration was held on October 24, 2024, and featured live performances and interactive workshops to showcase arts and culture and build connections in the Project communities. More information is available on the Your Blue Line Extension website <https://yourblueline.org/Cultivate>.⁴ Photographs of example artwork are shown in Figure 9-2.

Figure 9-2 Cultivate Arts Artists (2024)





Table 9-2 Cultivate Arts Artists Overview 2024

Artist	Project Title and Description
Zavien Neal	<p>“Detail in Action!”</p> <p>Zavien is a North Minneapolis artist who has been involved with the Project through Juxtaposition Arts. His engagement project, “Detail in Action!,” is an innovative project involving a series of live mural paintings. This interactive project invites community members to contribute suggestions and ideas related to visual elements and motifs, which may reference themes such as the Project, Metro Transit, North Minneapolis, or any recognizable aspects that resonate with the local community.</p>
Sebastian Rivera	<p>“You Are Our Future”</p> <p>Sebastian is a Brooklyn Park resident, community leader, and a multimedia artist with deep-rooted ties to the Project corridor. His community engagement project, “You Are Our Future,” invites participants to envision, create, and embody the possible future for the community. Through interactive art installations and activities, participants will have the opportunity to imagine and contribute to the shaping of our collective future.</p>
Malini Basu and Ivonne Yañez	<p>“Gathered in Transit” – Community Installation & Screen Printing</p> <p>Malini and Ivonne are Minneapolis-based artists with rich backgrounds in printmaking and textiles. Their collaborative project, “Gathered in Transit,” merges their skills to inspire community participation. These events invite commuters to engage in conversations about the Project while adding their own drawings to a collage of a light rail-shaped installation.</p>
Ifrah Mansour	<p>“Halima’s Smile”</p> <p>Ifrah is a passionate advocate for public transportation and is looking forward to blending her love for trains and art with the community. Her project, “Halima’s Smile,” features a unique puppet that invites participants to reflect on and celebrate the Project. This project aims to create memorable moments in various locations along the Project corridor, encouraging participants to share their dreams, destinations, and cherished memories, fostering a deeper sense of community and connection.</p>
Constanza Carballo	<p>“Community Print Press”</p> <p>Constanza is a migrant from Argentina with deep roots in Minneapolis, where her career as a public community artist has flourished. “Impressions of the Community” is an interactive printmaking workshop that invites community members to ink, press, and personalize pre-made linoleum cuts. Reflecting the area’s cultural diversity, this project offers materials in both English and Spanish to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness.</p>
William Truth Maze Harris	<p>“Sound Medicine Drum Circles” – Togetherness through Rhythm & Motion</p> <p>William spent most of his youth growing up in North Minneapolis and was a pioneer within the hip-hop community in the 80s. “Sound Medicine Drum Circles” is an immersive experience in the wellness arts, combining mindfulness and breath work with West African-based drumming, rhythms, and technique. The project aims to promote “Togetherness through Rhythm & Motion,” holding drum circles at various locations in the community with a goal to help people celebrate change, express themselves, and connect through the power of rhythm and motion.</p>



Artist	Project Title and Description
Marlina Gonzales	<p>“Stop, Look, Listen”</p> <p>Marline has over two decades of experience using art for social change. Her project, “Stop, Look, Listen,” will be an artistic engagement endeavor aimed at celebrating the vibrant lives of public transportation commuters in the Twin Cities metro area. Through interactive activities such as storytelling circles, selfies on the Blue Line and story performances, the project seeks to engage the community, foster appreciation for public transportation, and showcase the daily diversity among residents.</p>
Jorie Kosel	<p>“Wherever I Lay My Rug, That’s My Home”</p> <p>Jorie is a costume designer, textile artist, actress, stylist, and hospitality professional. Her project, “Wherever I Lay My Rug, That’s My Home,” is a community woven tapestry that will travel through neighborhoods impacted by the Project. Using a portable loom, Jorie invites community members to contribute by weaving sections of the tapestry at pop-up events taking place throughout the summer.</p>
Heavenlee Henderson	<p>“Tote on the Blue” and “Plant the Train!”</p> <p>Heavenlee is a resident of North Minneapolis and designer at Juxtaposition Arts. In the “Tote the Blue Line” workshop, participants will use tote bags as canvases to depict their personal experiences and aspirations with Metro Transit. The “Plant the Train!” workshop explores native plants’ benefits in North Minneapolis through discussions and collage-making, where participants will envision the Project surrounded by greenery by fostering ecological awareness and inviting community design input.</p>
Caron Learned	<p>“Piece it Together” – Community Gathering Through Mosaic Art</p> <p>Caron is a Twin Cities-based artist who is excited to bring her passion for mosaics to the local community of Crystal through a series of three beginner mosaic classes called “Piece it Together.” These classes aim to foster creativity and community engagement, inviting participants of all skill levels to explore the art of mosaic-making.</p>

9.1.2.6 Anti-Displacement Coordination

Hennepin County selected the University of Minnesota’s CURA to lead an anti-displacement initiative. This program has been added to the Project scope to respond to community input received during the outreach and engagement phases of the Project.

CURA is working with community members, philanthropic representatives, and government representatives to identify strategies to minimize displacement and to support equitable development and community wealth building. The work group’s 26 members include residents and business owners in the Project area, some of whom have experienced displacement, and representatives from the philanthropic community and government agencies within the Project area. Monthly public meetings and four day-long workshops were held between May 2022 and February 2023. Workshop materials and the published recommendations report are available on the Project website, <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension/Anti-Displacement.aspx>.⁵ Ongoing anti-displacement work focuses on implementation, including potential Project mitigation measures.

The CMC received CURA’s report and directed advancement in partnership with Project sponsors to coordinate, explore, and develop a proposed framework and public engagement plan with community members and public, non-profit, philanthropic, and private sector partners. The planning is underway for implementing the recommended



outcomes and potential policies and programs. The initial effort seeks input on Project actions and prioritizes retaining the current Project area communities. The goal of this effort is to attain the report's recommended outcomes, including securing funds needed for implementation of anti-displacement measures before, during, and after Project construction.

A top priority for Project partners and staff is ensuring that the Project serves and benefits people and businesses in the Project corridor today and for decades to come. Building on the foundational work of a community-led anti-displacement working group, Hennepin County—in coordination with the Project cities, MPRB, and the Council—developed a draft Anti-Displacement Coordinated Action Plan (ADCAP). The ADCAP identifies specific strategies and actions to take before, during, and after construction that would prevent displacement and help communities build wealth. The ADCAP is the continuation of a strategy to guide the region in the human aspects of building a light rail line with the goal of preventing displacement. The ADCAP is designed to be flexible and will be updated as community priorities, funding, and needs continue to evolve.

In 2024, the Minnesota legislature appropriated \$10 million to the Council for a grant to Hennepin County to administer the ACP. Formed in Spring 2024, the ACP Board is a 26-member board of community members, organization representatives, government agencies, philanthropic partners, and Hennepin County staff. The ACP Board is required to establish an application process to review and approve proposed expenditures for the ACP. Proposed expenditures must be related to (1) affordable housing support; (2) small business and community ownership support; (3) public space infrastructure enhancements; or (4) job training and support. The ACP Board cannot approve an expenditure unless and until it has secured an equal amount of funds from nonstate sources. Additional funding will be sought for anti-displacement in future legislative sessions.

In Fall 2024, the ACP Board identified the following as its top priorities: preserving affordability for residents; acquiring land for new affordable housing development; maintaining stable and functional small business spaces and providing early support to these businesses; maintaining current homeowners; preserving current businesses; attracting new businesses; expanding opportunities for small businesses to own properties; fostering cultural placemaking; providing housing stability for current residents/tenants; and performing activities that will have direct impacts in a community before construction.

9.1.2.7 Elevate Hennepin

Elevate Hennepin⁶ is a Hennepin County program which offers support and resources at no cost to help businesses along the planned routes. The Hennepin County Board approved two agreements that invest \$4.22 million and leverage as much as \$16 million to create new funding sources for small businesses under Elevate Hennepin.⁷ The resource hub is powered by Hennepin County to connect local entrepreneurs to trusted resources and expert advisors. For additional details on engagement relating to economic impacts, see Chapter 4.

9.1.3 Public Outreach Approach and Timeline

Public involvement through the 2016 Draft EIS and Final EIS established the framework for the engagement conducted for this Supplemental Final EIS. The technical, social, economic, and environmental issues and concerns that were identified in the early stages of public involvement have been considered throughout Project development. Project partners are working closely with a variety of partners, businesses, cities, and other stakeholders to involve as many voices as possible in the planning and decision-making processes.

Community engagement entered a new phase in 2020 following the initiation of the Project in its current iteration. Outreach and engagement activities continue to evolve as Project design and decision-making advance. Project engagement has been divided into four phases, which are described in the following sections, and specific engagement events since 2022 are listed in Table 9-4 through Table 9-7.



9.1.3.1 October 2020 to June 2021

An initial phase of public outreach re-activated community relationships, updated the community on the new direction of the Project, conducted stakeholder analysis to identify key cultural groups and communities, and collected recommendations for engagement strategies. Three community organizations (BLC, Harrison Neighborhood Association, and Juxtaposition Arts) organized stakeholder interviews, surveys, and community listening sessions. Table 9-3 describes concerns, recommendations, and themes that emerged from this preliminary engagement.

To pivot from the 2016 Alignment, in addition to various engagement activities, a four-month engagement process between November and February 2020, informed by the cohort, focused on community stakeholder analysis and investigating key cultural and community groups in the Project area. This phase recommended future community engagement strategies and approaches along with analysis of cultural groups and geographies in the Project area. Engagement continued to advance community issues, concerns, and opportunities.

Table 9-3 Recommendations from Initial Community Input on Engagement Strategies

Theme	Recommendations
Coordinate and collaborate across Project partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ensure that the Project Management Team of Hennepin County and Metro Transit are coordinated and collaborative in their approach to community engagement that includes the BAC, CAC, and future community consultants, such as engagement cohorts, nonprofits, and faith organizations.■ Continue to consult and inform Project area partners on community engagement strategies, tactics, and activities.
Partner with community consultants to improve and expand community engagement efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Implement an open Request for Proposals process soliciting proposals from the refreshed Project stakeholder list, focusing on community and cultural nonprofits that serve residents and small businesses in the Project area.■ Ensure that the evaluation panel for the proposals has representatives from communities of color.■ Select consultants to work together as a cohort coordinating their communications and outreach across their focused communities, complimentary services, and areas served.■ Apply a tiered funding approach to contracts, evaluating and awarding contracts according to level of services provided and area(s) served.■ Contract with community and cultural organizations that have trusted relationships with their residents and small businesses and bring creative ways to engage.
Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Place emphasis on low-income communities and communities of color by developing culturally specific approaches to engagement.■ Recognize cultural diversity as a strength and an asset:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● There are more than 50% of people of color in the Project area, including concentrated populations of African American, African Immigrant (primarily Liberian), Latino/Latinx, and Asian (primarily Lao, Hmong, and Vietnamese) communities.● Historically, these communities have not always been included in planning processes in their areas.■ Prioritize translations because multiple populations speak English as their second language.■ Incorporate a communications plan that uses culturally based media for Project communications.



Theme	Recommendations
Incorporate comprehensive engagement approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Understand that the community has had frustrations with the new direction but is ready to discuss solutions for new alignments. ■ Address preventing displacement, recognizing that it is a community priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a need for developing strategies, policies, and investments for building wealth in place. ● Approach displacement prevention across agencies and key stakeholders. ● Focus on community benefits such as connecting to jobs and services and disparity reduction. ● Address gentrification impacts of the 2016 Alignment in North Minneapolis. ● Include communities in the design of anti-displacement strategies from the beginning. ■ Move at the speed of trust: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognize that low-income communities and communities of color have had uniquely stressful impacts from COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd. ● Refresh and build sustainable, responsive relationships. ● Utilize community-trusted communication systems. ■ Use plain language in communicating Project status, clearly stating what we are asking community to respond to as well as how community input will influence the outcome. ■ Use more graphics and visualizations to present alignment concepts. ■ Engage communities on tangible elements with clear timelines on decision points. ■ Translate Project materials into Spanish, Lao, Hmong, Vietnamese, Oromo, and Somali. ■ Acknowledge that while online surveys can be a useful tool, that they do not reach low-income communities and communities of color as successfully as other approaches. ■ Tie in community input gathered from the beginning of the Project process in 2014, recognizing that this is a continuation of ongoing Project community engagement.
Address 2016 Alignment anticipated impacts and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Acknowledge how the Project Alignment will impact communities adjacent to the 2016 Alignment. Engage communities along the 2016 Alignment to ensure that positive benefits from the Project are still pursued, including establishing a work group to address the repercussions of changes from the 2016 Alignment. ■ Recognize that communities were affected by the release of the abandoned 2016 Alignment through impacts such as increased property values and the consequent displacement of community members. ■ Address previous plans for 2016 Alignment infrastructure improvements along Olson Memorial Hwy along with previous station area plans for reinvestment opportunities identified at Van White and Penn Stations.

9.1.3.2 July 2021 to March 2022

This phase of engagement focused on gathering community input on updated design concepts and potential opportunities and impacts of Project alignment and LRT station options. Input was used to guide development of a recommended alignment; locate key destinations and community facilities along the Project area; and identify potential community concerns around traffic, parking, and property impacts. This phase culminated in publication of the draft Route Recommendation Report in March 2022.



9.1.3.3 March 2022 to August 2022

Engagement during this phase focused on expanding outreach to community and cultural groups along the Project area and collecting community input leading up to the finalization of a Route Recommendation Report. After the Route Recommendation Report was finalized in June 2022, engagement activities pivoted to focusing on the selection of Project alignment and LRT station options.

9.1.3.4 September 2022 to Present

Beginning in September 2022, community cohort organizations began supporting the environmental review phase of the Project. Outreach conducted during this time frame led to evaluation of Alignment build options in the Cities of Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis. Outreach continued to improve the understanding of community interests and concerns related to the Project and was conducted in the form of public meetings, community-hosted events, pop-up events, and driveway chats (Figure 9-3). Beginning in June 2024, events were held to receive comments and feedback on the Supplemental Draft EIS.⁸

During the municipal consent process in fall 2024, the Cities of Robbinsdale and Minneapolis asked for more analysis of the municipal consent design and exploration of other potential options for the Lowry Ave Station as part of their official review and approval of preliminary design plans. MPRB also requested evaluation of additional options in their comment letter on the Supplemental Draft EIS. Project staff convened a collaborative stakeholder workgroup with staff from MPRB, North Memorial Hospital, Hennepin County, the Council, the City of Robbinsdale, and the City of Minneapolis. A series of workshops informed potential impacts of the municipal consent design and development and evaluation of possible alternate designs for the LRT station. The collaborative design workgroup considered several factors in its analysis, including:

- Station accessibility, safety, and experience
- Hospital traffic and access
- Park and trail impacts
- General traffic operations
- Neighborhood connectivity
- Minimizing impacts to recently reconstructed bridges over Lowry Ave
- Constructability and cost

This coordination led to design adjustments to Lowry Station as described in Chapter 2. Cultural placekeeping committees were formed in spring 2025 to preserve, strengthen, and celebrate the cultures and histories of the communities the Project serves. The cultural placekeeping committees convened monthly during design development. Participants with a connection to one or more cultures and communities along the Project were included to co-design visual elements such as station platforms, sidewalk areas, lighting, and other amenities where visual and cultural design input could be incorporated as design advances. The Cities of Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park each have one cultural placekeeping design group to foster direct community input on the character, design, and feel of the Project.

Figure 9-3 Photograph of Driveway Chat (July 2022)



Table 9-4 2022 Community Engagement Events

Community Meeting Type	Date	Location
In-Person Event Presentation	January 4	North Hennepin Community College, Center for Business, Gathering Hall 7411 85th Ave N Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
In-Person Event Presentation	January 6	Crystal City Hall (Basement) Community Room 4141 Douglas Dr N Minneapolis, MN 55429
Virtual Event Presentation	January 7	Online
In-Person Event Presentation	January 11	Elim Lutheran Church 3978 W Broadway Ave Robbinsdale, MN 55422
In-Person Event Presentation	January 12	North Commons Recreation Center Gym 1801 N James Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Virtual Event Presentation	January 13	Online
Virtual Event Presentation	March 15	Online
In-Person Event Presentation	April 26	Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Gathering Space 1101 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
In-Person Event Presentation	April 27	Elim Lutheran Church, Gym 3978 W Broadway Ave Robbinsdale, MN 55422



Community Meeting Type	Date	Location
Virtual Event Presentation	April 28	Online
Virtual Event Presentation	May 3	Online
In-Person Event Presentation	May 3	Brooklyn Park Library, Mississippi River Room 8500 W Broadway Ave Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
In-Person Event Presentation	May 5	Crystal Community Center, Forest Room 4800 Douglas Dr N Crystal, MN 55429
In-Person Event Presentation	May 17	Lyn Park Neighborhood Meeting Shiloh Temple 1201 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Driveway Chat	July 20	Lyn Park
Driveway Chat	July 27	Lyn Park
Driveway Chat	August 3	Lyn Park
In-Person Community Meeting	September 20	Encouraging Leaders 121 Washington Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55401
Virtual Workshop	September 22	Online
Virtual Workshop	September 28	Online
In-Person Community Meeting	September 28	Franklin Middle School, Auditorium 1501 N Aldrich Ave Minneapolis, MN 55412
In-Person Community Workshop	October 18	Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Gathering Space 1101 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
In-Person Community Workshop	October 19	Brooklyn Park Library, Mississippi River Room 8500 W Broadway Ave Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
Virtual Community Workshop	October 20	Online
Virtual Community Workshop	October 21	Online
In-Person Community Workshop	October 25	Elim Lutheran Church, Gym 3978 W Broadway Ave Robbinsdale, MN 55422
In-Person Community Workshop	October 26	Crystal Community Center, Forest Room 4800 Douglas Dr N Crystal, MN 55429
In-Person Community Workshop	November 14	Heritage Park Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Heritage Park Leasing Office 1000 Olson Memorial Hwy Minneapolis, MN 55411
In-Person Community Workshop	November 17	West Broadway Business Coalition Luncheon Episcopal Church in Minnesota 1101 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411



Table 9-5 2023 Community Engagement Events

Community Meeting Type	Date	Location
In-Person Community Meeting	January 30	Brooklyn Park Library 8500 W Broadway Ave Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
Virtual Community Meeting	February 23	Online
In-Person Community Meeting	February 27	Crystal Community Center, Forest Room 4800 Douglas Dr N Crystal, MN 55429
In-Person Community Meeting	March 2	Capri Theater 2027 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
In-Person Community Meeting	March 6	Elim Church 3978 W Broadway Ave Robbinsdale, MN 55422
In-Person Community Meeting	March 7	Cub Community Center 701 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
In-Person Community Meeting	March 22	Capri Theater 2027 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Virtual Community Meeting	March 29	Online
In-Person Community Meeting	April 17	Sanctuary Covenant Church 710 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Virtual Community Meeting	May 17	Online
Brooklyn Park Business-Focused Meeting	May 24	Brooklyn Park City Hall Council Chambers 5200 85th Ave N Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
Workforce and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Meet and Greet	June 20	NorthPoint Conference Center, 5th Floor Conference Room 1256 Penn Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55411
Open House	June 22	Crystal Community Center, Crystal Room 4800 Douglas Dr N Crystal, MN 55429
Open House	June 28	Brooklyn Park Library, Mississippi River Room 8500 W Broadway Ave Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
Block Party	July 22	Sanctuary Covenant Church 2018 N Aldrich Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
In-Person Community Meeting	July 22	Twin Cities International School 277 N 12th Ave Minneapolis, MN 55401
In-Person Community Meeting	July 25	Metro Transit North Loop Garage 812 N 7th St Minneapolis, MN 55411



Community Meeting Type	Date	Location
Virtual Community Meeting	July 27	Online
In-Person Community Meeting	October 18	The Neu Neu 514 N 3rd St #101 Minneapolis, MN 55401
Metro Transit Great Day in Transit	October 18	Warehouse Blue Line Station 23 N 5th St Minneapolis, MN 55403
Elevate Hennepin Workshop: Business Technology	October 26	Online
Cultivate Arts Event at Brooklyn Park Spooktacular	October 28	Zanewood Recreation Center 7100 Zane Ave N Brooklyn Park, MN 55429
In-Person Community Meeting	October 30	Juxtaposition Arts 2007 N Emerson Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Workforce and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Meet and Greet	October 31	UROC, Room 105 2001 Plymouth Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55411
Cultivate Arts Event: Disposable Camera Workshop	November 4	North Commons Recreation Center 1801 N James Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Community Update Meeting	November 8	Metro Transit North Loop Garage, Room 104 600 N 8th Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Cultivate Arts Event: Oral History Workshop	November 11	North Commons Recreation Center 1801 N James Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Virtual Community Meeting	November 14	Online
Elevate Hennepin Workshop: Business Finance	November 16	Brooklyn Park Small Business Center 7970 Brooklyn Blvd Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
Cultivate Arts Event: Zine Making Workshop	December 2	North Commons Recreation Center 1801 N James Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Elevate Hennepin Workshop: Legal Services	December 7	Online
Blue Line and Economic Development: Brainstorming Session with Asian American Chamber of Commerce and Businesses	December 7	UROC 2001 Plymouth Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55411
Cultivate Arts: Color in Community	December 14	Crystal Community Center 4800 Douglas Dr N Crystal, MN 55429
Cultivate Arts: Art of Healing	December 16	Hennepin Technical College, Cafeteria 9000 Brooklyn Blvd Brooklyn Park, MN 55445



Community Meeting Type	Date	Location
Cultivate Arts: Black Movie Night	December 16	The Zen Bin 2123 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411

Table 9-6 2024 Community Engagement Events

Community Meeting Type	Date	Location
Open House	March 7	Crystal Community Center, Crystal Room 4800 Douglas Dr N Crystal, MN 55428
Open House	April 9	Elim Lutheran Church 3978 W Broadway Ave Robbinsdale, MN 55422
West Broadway Design Workshop with Businesses	April 15	Capri Theater 2027 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Open House	April 17	Capri Theater 2027 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Open House	April 23	Brooklyn Park Library, Mississippi River Room 8500 W Broadway Ave Brooklyn Park, MN 55455
JXTA's The Art Line: Metro Transit Bus Shelter Celebration	May 18	Juxtaposition Arts 2007 Emerson Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55411
Supplemental Draft EIS Office Hours	June 27	Brooklyn Park Library 8500 W Broadway Ave Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
Supplemental Draft EIS Virtual Learning Session	June 27	Online
Supplemental Draft EIS Office Hours	July 2	Robbinsdale Transit Center 4151 Hubbard Ave N Robbinsdale, MN 55422
Supplemental Draft EIS Office Hours	July 2	Rockford Road Library 6401 N 42nd Ave Crystal, MN 55427
Supplemental Draft EIS Office Hours	July 9	Capri Theater 2027 W Broadway Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Supplemental Draft EIS Office Hours	July 11	North Loop Garage 600 N 8th Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Supplemental Draft EIS Public Hearing	July 16	NorthPoint Conference Center 1256 Penn Ave N, Suite 5200 Minneapolis, MN 55411
Supplemental Draft EIS Public Hearing	July 23	Brooklyn Park Library 8500 W Broadway Ave Brooklyn Park, MN 55445



Community Meeting Type	Date	Location
Preliminary Design Plans Public Hearing	August 26	NorthPoint Conference Center 1256 Penn Ave N, Suite 5200 Minneapolis, MN 55411
Community Update Meeting	October 30	Metro Transit North Loop Garage, Training Room 104 600 N 8th Ave Minneapolis, MN 55411
Lowry Avenue Station Community Workshop	December 3	Elim Lutheran Church 3978 W Broadway Ave Robbinsdale, MN 55422
21st Avenue Community Workshop	December 10	Sanctuary Covenant Church (The Gathering Place) 2018 Alrich Ave North Minneapolis, MN 55411

Table 9-7 Community 2025 Engagement Events Planned (as of Q1 2025)

Community Meeting Type	Date	Location
Lowry Avenue Station Design Update Meeting	January 14	North Regional Library 1315 Lowry Ave North Minneapolis, MN 55411
North Loop Annual Meeting	January 29	408 3rd Ave North Minneapolis, MN 55401
Quarterly Community Update Meeting	June 5	Sanctuary Church 2018 Aldrich Ave North Minneapolis, MN 55411

9.1.4 Public Outreach Activities

Since August 2020, the outreach team and partners have hosted and participated in hundreds of in-person and virtual events resulting in nearly 38,000 points of contact with the public (see Figure 9-4), including at events hosted by community organizations. As part of this outreach, the Project contracted with 17 community and cultural organizations to increase feedback and representation from low-income and communities of color. The Project website contains engagement reports along with a compilation of all public comments⁹ collected in the form of written feedback from surveys, interactive map comments, comment forms, and community meetings.

Major themes heard from outreach participants included the following:

- Loss of parking
- Crime and safety
- Avoiding impacts/disruption to communities and the environment
- Safety on transit and in communities served
- Easy pedestrian access to and from LRT stations
- Making anti-displacement efforts a priority
- Support for businesses during construction
- Access to regional destinations
- Supporting economic development
- Improving the transit experience
- Improving access for and serve transit dependent populations



Figure 9-4 Engagement Summary (June 2024)

Engagement Metrics: Aug 2020-Aug 2024

- **911** events resulting in nearly **39,419** points of contact with the public
- **80,000** reach on social media and **6.5 million+** reach through newsletters and paid ads on community and cultural media
- Approximately **4,790** survey responses
- **+3,800** comments on the interactive map
- **+2,700** comments from comment forms
- Corridor postcards mailed to **+30,000**
- Over **5,000** emails and phone calls

July 2023 Outdoor Summer Event



9.1.4.1 In-Person and Virtual Events

These events have included public meetings, open houses, listening sessions, tours, door-knocking, and other direct engagement as described in the following sections.

Public Meetings and Open Houses

Public meetings and open houses were held in person and virtually beginning in August 2020 and are ongoing. Content of these meetings varied based on the agendas but was intended to share Project details for feedback and display up-to-date design information. Meeting formats were tailored to the stakeholders involved and the topics at hand.

Listening Sessions

Seven listening sessions were organized and facilitated by the initial community cohort and the Project team to discuss the Project transition, decision-making processes for identifying a community-supported alignment, and community expectations. The purpose of the listening sessions was to allow for community members to provide verbal and written feedback to Project staff with a discussion in both virtual and in-person settings. These listening sessions were focused on low-income communities and communities of color. They were held from November 2020 to January 2021 and had a total of 160 attendees.

In addition, outreach coordinators for the Project met with representatives from the Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, Golden Valley, and Minneapolis to discuss recommended approaches to future community engagement.

Stakeholder Interviews

Community cohort members organized and facilitated 13 stakeholder interviews with community and culturally based nonprofit leaders whose organizations represent low-income communities and communities of color within

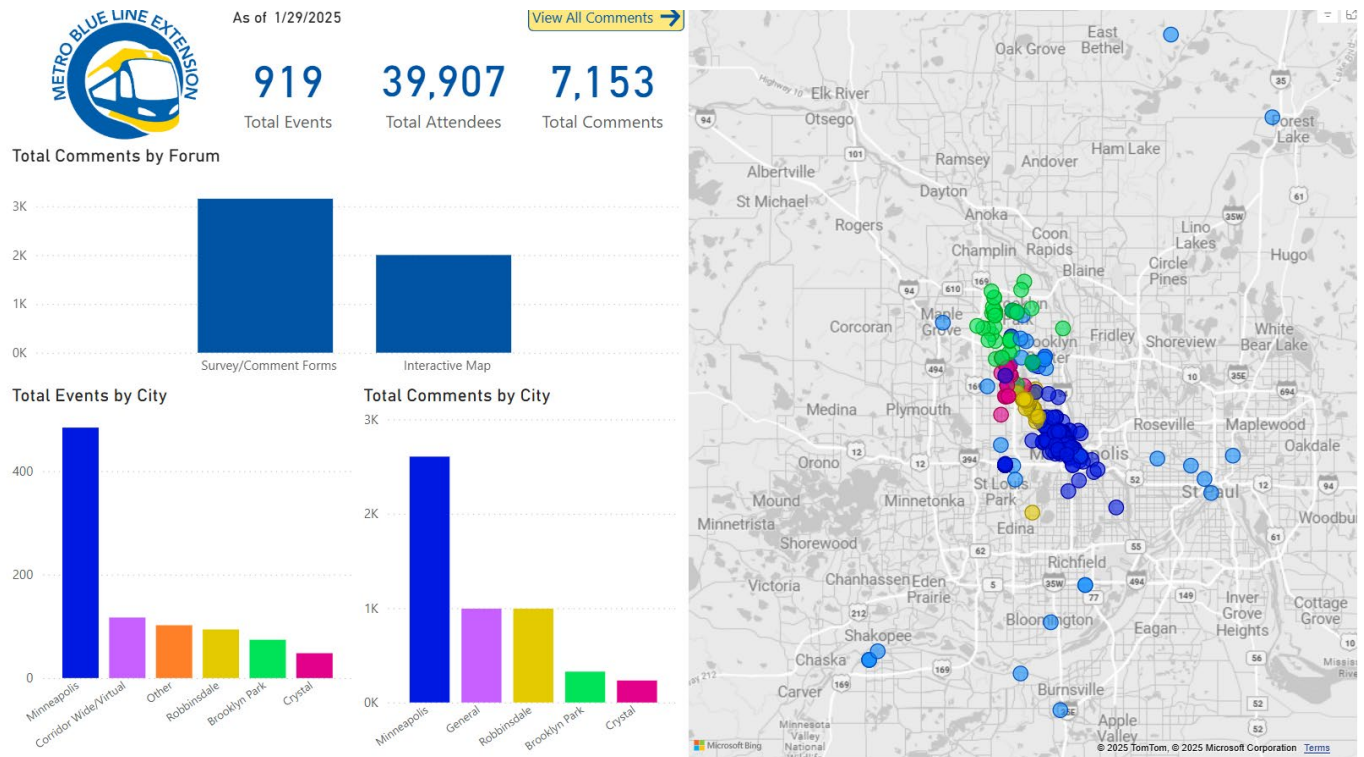


the Project area. Interviews began in November 2020 and concluded in late January 2021. At least one Project partner attended every stakeholder interview to provide Project information and to listen to stakeholders.

Project Website Engagement Resources

The Council website includes a Community Engagement page where details about the community engagement framework, community engagement cohort, community meetings and events, engagement reports and comment data are available. The Council website¹⁰ contains engagement summary reports. Additionally, an interactive website overview summary of engagement is available online at <https://yourblueline.org/our-approach-to-engagement>¹¹ as shown in Figure 9-5.

Figure 9-5 Council Engagement Comment Data Interactive Website Overview Summary (August 2024)



Community-Led Events

Community-led outreach events were planned and organized by cohort organizations to engage with specific cultural groups and communities along the Project area. These activities included:

- A bus, bike, and walk tour along the Project Alignment followed by a community listening session (see Figure 9-6)
- A tour of the Little Africa Cultural District on the METRO Green Line
- Project-sponsored events with youth apprentices presenting their tabletop 3D models of alignment options and station area designs
- Tabling and attendance at community events and festivals
- Focus groups in Lao and Spanish
- Focus groups with North Minneapolis small businesses
- Focus groups with immigrant small businesses in the Project area, primarily Asian and Liberian
- Asian American Pacific Islander Summits to discuss economic opportunities
- Community sponsorship of project meetings
- Door knocking small businesses and residents in the Project area



- Outreach and engagement of African American and Latino faith leaders
- Project presentations at community events
- DREAMNorth engagement series¹²

Thanks to cohort organizations, community-led outreach continued during the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest. Cohort organizations tabled at COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, hosted community meetings and focus groups, and supported emergency food shelves and vaccination clinics.

Figure 9-6 Community-Led Bike Tour of the Project Alignment (October 2021)



9.1.4.2 Direct Engagement Activities

Direct engagement activities included community door knocking, driveway talks, and meetings with individual stakeholders. The Project team has also received thousands of emails and phone calls.

9.1.4.3 Project Postcards

Printed Project postcards were mailed to 26,000 residents and businesses to share updates and information in the Project area about the release of the draft and final Route Modification Report and the engagement events being hosted by the Project from June to August 2023.

9.1.4.4 Surveys

Surveys (online and in-person) have been used during different phases of the Project to gather community and stakeholder input. See below for the list:

- A formal community survey (open from December 2020 through February 2021) explored community perspectives regarding the Project updates and received approximately 4,000 responses. The survey asked 21 questions focusing on key destinations, opportunities, issues/concerns, and engagement preferences.
- From March to June 2021, an interactive feedback map and survey were used to ask the public for feedback on the new alignment options and potential station study areas.
- From July to August 2021, an interactive feedback map and survey were used to ask about connections that light rail would make within communities and feedback on station study areas within the alignment options being studied.
- From September to December 2021, an interactive feedback map and survey were used to ask about updated design concepts and potential opportunities and impacts of light-rail options.



- From April to May 2022, an interactive feedback map and survey were used to ask for input on the alignment recommendation as part of the Final Route Modification Report.
- From September to December 2022, an interactive feedback map and survey were used to ask for input on three alignment options between Target Field Station and W Broadway Ave and four alignment options between Washington Ave and Irving Ave in the City of Minneapolis and input on alignment options that will be studied in the environmental document.
- From January to May 2023, an interactive feedback map and survey were used to receive input on the two alignment options between Target Field Station and W Broadway Ave (east of I-94 or Lyndale Ave) and two alignment options between Washington Ave and Irving Ave in the City of Minneapolis (N 21st Ave or W Broadway Ave).
- From June to August 2023, an interactive feedback map and survey were used to receive input on the east of I-94 alignment options and N 21st Ave versus W Broadway Ave alignment options in the City of Minneapolis.
- Community cohort organizations utilized printed project surveys and also conducted independent surveys to gather community perspectives often translating surveys one on one for participants.
- Various quick polls were used on Hennepin County's website to hear feedback on the anti-displacement work and recommendations, approach to engagement on the Project, and feeling toward the Project.
- From October 2023 to February 2024, an online survey hosted at <https://yourblueline.org/> collected feedback on alignment options in the North Loop Neighborhood of the City of Minneapolis, including positives and drawbacks of route options from 10th Ave to Washington Ave and 10th Ave to 17th Ave, as well as possible roadway configurations along 10th Ave, including a transit mall option or one-way traffic option.
- From March to May 2024, the Council sought feedback on the 30 percent design plans using an interactive map and asked for input about how infrastructure and investments can achieve neighborhood aspirations and desired amenities or connections from the Project.
- From January to May 2024, the Council sought feedback was requested via an online survey and at community meetings to learn how the Project could better serve the needs of the Project corridor and the community.
- From June to August 2024, the Project held a 60-day comment period for the Supplemental Draft EIS. The Project received 253 individual responses totaling more than one thousand comments from residents, businesses, organizations, and agencies by online survey, email, letter, phone, and at public hearings. A full list of Supplemental Draft EIS comments and their responses can be found in Appendix A-CR with this Supplemental Final EIS.

9.1.4.5 Community Update Meetings

Project staff are hosting regular community update meetings, providing a Project update in compliance with legislatively mandated quarterly meetings to facilitate a question-and-answer discussion with the community on the Project alignment recommendations, schedule, anti-displacement efforts, impacts, and upcoming decision-making opportunities.

9.1.4.6 Online Resources

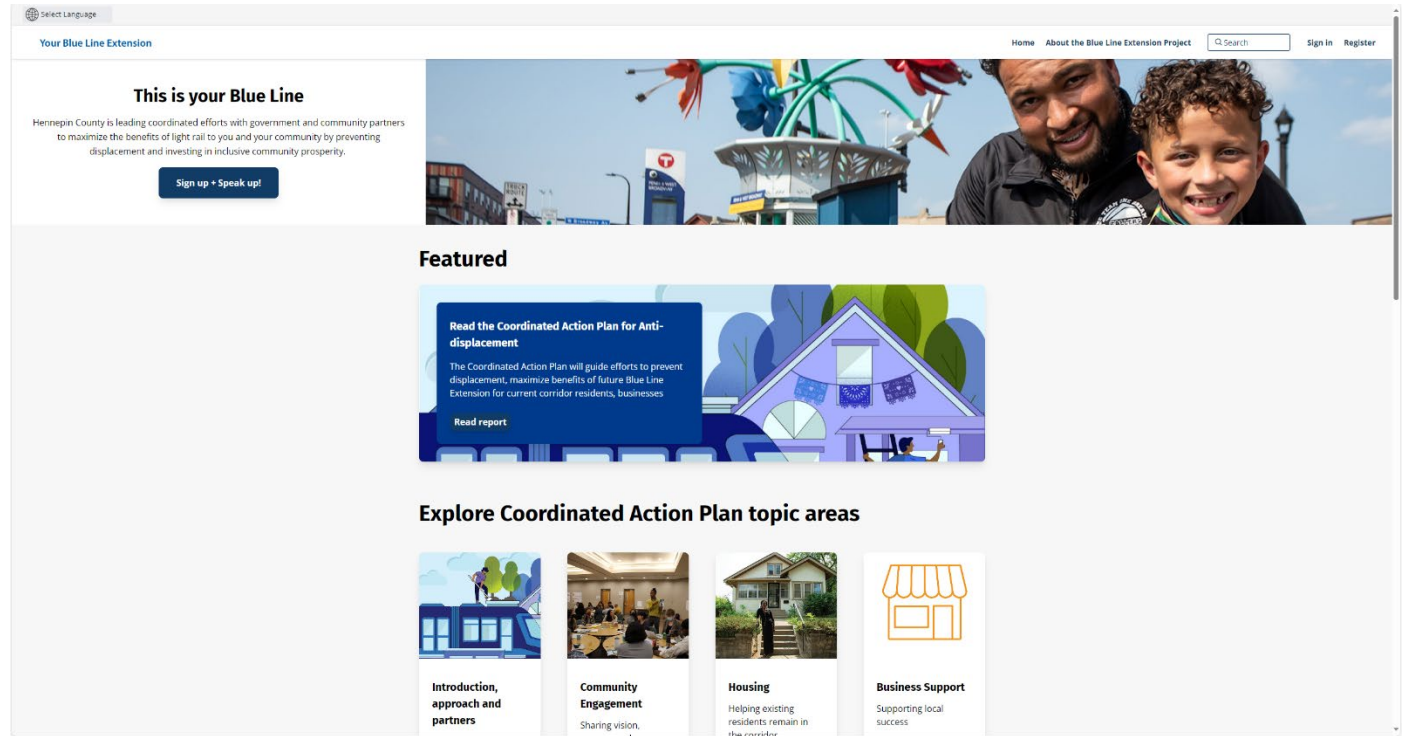
Online resources used for outreach on the Project include:

- **Your Blue Line Extension website:** An interactive website dedicated to providing engagement information and collecting continuous public feedback (see website home page image in Figure 9-7) hosted and managed by Hennepin County. The website answers a suite of frequently asked questions about the Project and provides additional context on key topics. The website also hosts an online comment form that has receives comments.
- **Project website:** Hosted by the Council, the Project website contains a wealth of information on the Project in its past and current iterations.



- **Public Coordinate interactive map:** Public Coordinate is an online, interactive mapping tool for public comment. Public Coordinate is routinely updated as design and decision-making progresses.
- **City websites:** Cities within the boundaries of the Project provide links to the Project website and updates on Project development and upcoming meetings.

Figure 9-7 Your Blue Line Extension Website



9.1.4.7 Social Media Project

The Council used social media to provide Project updates, including new website information, press releases, information on upcoming public meetings, Project visualizations, Project newsletters, and other related materials. Community cohort organizations, Project cities, and other partners amplified Project messaging by sharing content through their social media networks.

9.2 Agency Coordination

The Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Draft EIS on the Project was published on August 18, 2023, in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 77, No. 6).¹³ The Notice of Availability for the Supplemental Draft EIS was published on June 21, 2024, in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 89, No. 120).¹⁴

Coordination relative to specific areas of agency jurisdiction is discussed in Chapters 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Agency correspondence for this Supplemental Final EIS is provided in Appendix A-9.

9.2.1 Cooperating and Participating Agencies

The FTA, Council, and Hennepin County coordinated with federal, state, regional, and local agencies that were cooperating or participating agencies during the original environmental review process (2012–2016). This coordination involved verifying either that these agencies desired to continue in their cooperating or participating role or that a change in role was warranted. Additional local community organizations were contacted in March 2023. As a result of this coordination, agencies listed in Table 9-8 are considered cooperating or participating agencies in the Supplemental Final EIS process.

**Table 9-8 Cooperating and Participating Agencies**

Agency	Type of Participation
USACE	Cooperating
USDOT – FAA	Cooperating
USDOT – FHWA	Cooperating
United States Department of the Interior (DOI) – National Park Service	Cooperating
DOI – Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	Participating
EPA	Participating
United States Department of Homeland Security – FEMA	Participating
MnDOT	Cooperating
Minnesota DNR	Participating
MPCA	Participating
MDH	Participating
Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)	Participating
Three Rivers Park District (TRPD)	Participating
MPRB	Participating
BCWMC	Participating
SCWMC and WMWMC	Participating
City of Minneapolis	Participating
City of Robbinsdale	Participating
City of Crystal	Participating
City of Brooklyn Park	Participating
City of Golden Valley	Not Participating

^a The City of Golden Valley was involved as a participating agency during previous iterations of the Project but is not formally a participating agency for the Project in its current iteration.

9.2.2 Section 106 Coordination

Consulting parties in the Section 106 process include local governments, SHPO, Native American tribes, and other interested organizations and individuals. Invitations were sent to consulting parties in September 2011 as part of the Section 106 consultation for the 2016 Alignment. Each city along the Project Alignment and the MPRB accepted and identified a contact person for the Section 106 process. In November 2022, letters were sent to invite local community organizations along the Project Alignment to participate in the Section 106 process for the Project Alignment as additional consulting parties. The Brooklyn Historical Society, Heritage Park Neighborhood Association, Jordan Area Community Council, Robbinsdale Historical Society, and West Broadway Business and Area Coalition accepted the invitation.

The Section 106 consultation process outreach activities and events have been coordinated with NEPA process and other outreach activities for the Project. Tasks completed as part of the Section 106 process were completed in consultation with SHPO and other consulting parties. Additional consultation with SHPO and the Section 106 consulting parties will continue throughout the Section 106 process.

Documentation of Section 106 consultation activities is provided in Appendix A-4. A list of documents related to Section 106 consultation activities is included in Table 9-9.

**Table 9-9 Documents Related to the Section 106 Process**

Document (PDF Format)	Summary
Archaeology Assessment	Archaeological Literature Review and Assessment for the Project
Reconnaissance Architecture/History Surveys	Reconnaissance Architectural History Survey for Minneapolis and Robbinsdale and Reconnaissance (Phase I) Architecture/History Investigation for Brooklyn Park and Crystal
Compliance Plan	Cultural Resources Section 106 Compliance Plan
Consultation Kickoff Meeting Materials	Section 106 Consultation Meeting Agenda, Notes, and presentation materials
Historic Property Information Outreach Letters and Response	Correspondence to engage community partners and gather information regarding culturally important properties
Invitations to Consulting Parties	Correspondence to invite participation in the Section 106 process as a Consulting Party
MOA	Agreement between FTA and SHPO regarding the Project (executed August 23, 2016, and amended September 20, 2022)
Re-Opening Consultation Letters 2023	Letters to Consulting Parties from FTA to re-open the Section 106 consultation (August 2023)
Responses to Invites	Correspondence from parties invited to consult in the Section 106 process
SHPO Correspondence	Correspondence and meeting agendas/notes with SHPO to date
Intensive Architecture/History Survey Report	Documentation of recommendations of eligibility for properties within the Project APE (2024)
Phase I Archaeological Survey Report	Summary archaeological survey results (2024)
Assessment of Effects Report	Assessment of Project effects on historic properties (2024)

A list of meetings related to Section 106 coordination and public involvement efforts is included in Table 9-10.

Table 9-10 Meetings Related to the Section 106 Process

Date	Meeting Type	Purpose
August 11, 2022	SHPO	Provide Project update and discuss approach for additional studies and schedule
January 12, 2023	SHPO	Discuss Project design and schedule, consulting party invitations, and draft Section 106 compliance plan
August 7, 2023	Consultation meeting	Section 106 consultation meeting to reopen the Section 106 process
May 28, 2024	SHPO	Discuss Build Alternative, APE revisions, and anticipated schedule
June 6, 2024	Consultation meeting	Section 106 consultation meeting to discuss archaeological desktop and reconnaissance architecture/history recommendations

9.2.2.1 Section 106 Tribal Coordination

Section 106 tribal coordination will involve conducting outreach to tribes to identify concerns about the Project's potential effects and inviting tribes to participate in public meetings and/or scheduling a separate meeting to discuss specific tribal issues and concerns. In January 2012, FTA sent letters to potentially affected Indian tribes, requesting that they identify any concerns about the Project's potential effects and inviting them to participate in public scoping meetings and/or schedule a separate meeting to discuss any specific tribal issues and concerns. Comments were received from one tribe, and FTA provided the tribe with the additional information requested. However, no further correspondence was received in response, and no other tribes expressed an interest in meeting or participating in the Section 106 process. In August 2023, FTA sent letters to potentially be affected Indian tribes requesting that they



identify any concerns about the Project's potential effects and inviting them to participate in Section 106 consultation process. Coordination will include the tribes listed in Table 9-11.

Table 9-11 Tribes in Section 106 Tribal Coordination

Tribe
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
Flandreau Santee Community
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Lower Sioux Indian Community
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Prairie Island Indian Community
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
Santee Sioux Nation
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Travers Reservation
Sokaogon Chippewa Community (Mole Lake Band)
Spirit Lake Tribe
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes)
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Upper Sioux Indian Community
White Earth Nation

To date, no historic properties significant to tribes have been identified within the Project's APE. If such properties are identified in the future or occur as unanticipated discoveries during construction, consultation would proceed per the terms of the Section 106 MOA.

9.2.3 Section 404/NEPA Merger Process

As a cooperating agency, USACE can adopt the Supplemental Final EIS for its own NEPA compliance and have a more formal role and input into Project development. This helps USACE determine whether the Project complies the CWA, which allows USACE to issue a permit. USACE has its own process for determining the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA), known as the NEPA/Section 404 permit merger process.



As part of this process, USACE evaluates the Project and issues four points of concurrence on the Project:

1. Purpose and Need and Alternative Screening Criteria
2. Alternatives to be Evaluated in Detail
3. Preferred Alternative and LEDPA
4. Permit Application and Compensatory Mitigation

During the agency coordination process discussed in Section 9.2.1, USACE indicated that it would continue in its role as a cooperating agency. Furthermore, it indicated that it would approach the Section 404 permitting process as an amendment to the permit that was granted in 2018 for the 2016 Alignment. Therefore, the concurrence points previously achieved would not need to be revisited.

9.2.4 Section 4(f) Evaluation Coordination

This section summarizes Section 4(f) Evaluation coordination activities that have occurred since publication of the ROD in 2016. Additional information on Section 4(f) activities is provided in Chapter 8.

9.2.4.1 United States Department of the Interior

The Supplemental Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation was provided to the United States Department of the Interior for review and comment during the Supplemental Draft EIS comment period, which concluded on August 6, 2024.

9.2.4.2 Official(s) with Jurisdiction

FTA will make its final Section 4(f) determinations in the Project's Supplemental Final EIS/Amended ROD. FTA will seek concurrence from the OWJs on the preliminary determinations prior to making a final determination in the Supplemental Final EIS/Amended ROD, as required by regulations. See Appendix A-8 for documentation of Section 4(f) coordination with OWJs, which are listed in Table 9-11.

Table 9-12 Official(s) with Jurisdiction

Permit/Decision
TRPD
City of Brooklyn Park
City of Crystal
City of Robbinsdale
MPRB
Minneapolis Public School District (MPS)
Minnesota SHPO

9.3 Permits and Approvals

Table 9-13 presents a preliminary list of permits that are anticipated to be required for construction of the Project.

9.3.1 Federal Highway Administration

The Supplemental Final EIS was provided to FHWA, which is a cooperating agency for the Project. The Project will impact three interstate ramp facilities which will require an Interstate Access Modification Request upon publication of the Supplemental Final EIS and Amended ROD. The Project will need to address five of seven FHWA policy points in the Supplemental Final EIS; these five NEPA policy points focus on the need for the access modification, consistency with land use planning, and appropriate interagency coordination and are found in Appendix A-3 *Interstate Access Modification Request Summary*. The other two policy points will be addressed in an IAMR, which is a detailed analysis focusing on safety, operations, and engineering (SOE); the results of this analysis are summarized in Appendix A-3 of this Supplemental Final EIS.



The Project includes a N 21st Ave bridge over I-94 that requires interstate ramp modifications at N 21st Ave for the westbound off-ramp from I-94 to W Broadway Ave and changes to the I-94 westbound off-ramp terminal at Washington Ave and 17th St. This modification requires a Level 2 IAMR. The modifications at I-94 and CR 81 interchange will be addressed with a Level 3 IAMR. As the engineering design advances for these locations, analysis will be coordinated with FHWA to prepare the access requests. A draft IAMR will be submitted to FHWA for review prior to the Amended ROD. The final IAMR can be approved after the Amended ROD. A summary of the FHWA Interstate Policy Points is presented in Appendix A-3 in this Supplemental Final EIS.

Table 9-13 Permits and Approvals Required

Permit/Decision	Jurisdiction
Amended ROD	FTA
Supplemental Final Section 4(f) Determination	FTA
Amended MOA	FTA, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Minnesota SHPO
Letter of No Objection for use within Runway Protection Zone	FAA
Amended Section 404 Permit	USACE
Adoption of the Supplemental Final EIS	FHWA
Interstate Access Modification Request	FHWA
Right-of-Way Permit	MnDOT
Application for Drainage Permit	MnDOT
Application for Utility Accommodation on Trunk Highway Right-of-Way	MnDOT
Application for Miscellaneous Work on Trunk Highway Right-of-Way	MnDOT
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit	MPCA
Section 401 Water Quality Certification	MPCA
Public Waters Wetland Permit	Minnesota DNR
Water Appropriation Permit	Minnesota DNR
Hazardous Materials Management Plan	MPCA
Noxious Weed Management Plan	MDA
EIS Adequacy Determination	Council
Road Crossing/Right-of-Way Permit	Hennepin County and the Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis
Utility permits	Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis
Building permits	Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis
Sediment and Erosion Control permits	Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis; BCWMC; SCWMC; and WMWMC
Wetland Conservation Act Permit	Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis; BCWMC; SCWMC; and WMWMC
Municipal Consent	Cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis



- ¹ Document can be accessed on Council website at: <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension/Community-Engagement/Framework.aspx>.
- ² The BLC website can be accessed at: <https://bluelinecoalition.org/>.
- ³ The Bottineau Community Works website can be accessed at: <https://www.hennepin.us/bottineau>.
- ⁴ Your Blue Line Extension website can be accessed at: <https://yourblueline.org/Cultivate>.
- ⁵ Anti-Displacement Efforts can be accessed on the Metropolitan Council website at: <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension/Anti-Displacement-Efforts.aspx>.
- ⁶ Elevate Hennepin website can be accessed at: <https://www.elevatehennepin.org/>.
- ⁷ <https://www.elevatehennepin.org/events-news/announcements/hennepin-county-board-approves-4M-in-small-business-capital-funds>.
- ⁸ A complete list of engagement events can be accessed at: <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension/Community-Engagement/Meetings-and-Materials.aspx>.
- ⁹ Engagement summary reports can be accessed at: <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension/Community-Engagement/Reports-and-Comments.aspx>.
- ¹⁰ Engagement summary reports can be accessed at: <https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension/Community-Engagement/Reports-and-Comments.aspx>.
- ¹¹ Engagement dashboard can be accessed on the Your Blue Line Extension website at: <https://yourblueline.org/our-approach-to-engagement>.
- ¹² DREAMNorth engagement efforts can be accessed at: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNORGMETC/bulletins/3aafe2f>.
- ¹³ The Federal Register Notice of Intent can be accessed from the Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/18/2023-17742/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact-statement-for-metro-blue-line-extension-light#print>.
- ¹⁴ The Federal Register Notice of Availability can be accessed from the Federal Register: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-06-21/pdf/2024-13596.pdf>.