



## Crystal LRT Open House – May 28, 2015

\*All comments are recorded verbatim from comment cards and discussion worksheets. No grammatical, word choice changes or spelling has been corrected. If handwriting is unclear, then correct spelling is used and the most contextual word choice is assumed or marked illegible. Any personal identifiable information, if provided, has been deleted from these comments\*

### COMMENT FORMS

#### ***What excites you most about the idea of light rail transit (LRT) serving the City of Crystal?***

001

I am not excited. There are a lot of “what if’s” and things are not certain that this will work. How it affects city governments of populations of 25k.

002

Superior public transit access to other parts of the Metro to access employment, entertainment and cultural assets/opportunities. Doing so at a much reduced individual cost per use, as no car/cycle is needed

003

Better access to shopping area @ Bass Lake Rd. and Broadway.

004

High capacity, great cost to access the Twin Cities, ground safety and security

005

The ability to have it available

006

Ability to take LTR to sports venues, airport, shopping-not having to drive!

#### ***What are some potential drawbacks to LRT serving the City of Crystal?***

001

- Crystal becoming like Minneapolis as far as crime, population density.
- Same safety concerns as freight rail (fire, police, ambulance) getting north of rail line. —especially when freight rail is running
- My neighborhood getting parked up w/ cars from commuters riding on LRT
- Timing of lights in the area

002



The channeling of capital to occur traffic along that line may have unintended/unforeseen consequences on local business, employment and housing (esp. on the East side near the airport). Possibility of gentrification exists, which would disrupt civic harmony in all of the NW suburbs.

003

Traffic disruption at cross streets

004

Nowk

005

None

006

None that I can see!

### **What do you see as the BENEFITS and/or IMPACTS of a proposed station located at Bottineau Boulevard (CR 81) and Bass Lake Road?**

*a. How might the following groups BENEFIT from the Blue Line Extension, especially in the immediate station area?*

001

- Neighborhood Residents
  - Benefit: straight/almost straight shot to some popular locations down town
  - Negative: Harder to keep track of children and their stuff than car
- Crystal Businesses
  - Benefit: more potential customers
  - Negative: Not guaranteed, business in the area might not be ones that are desired by the residents, but driven by LTR riders
- Transit Riders
  - Benefit: only if there is already transit in place to desired location and they work “normal” hours is there a benefit
  - Negative: Does not go to work place/destination directly, so takes longer or just the same as vehicle

002

- Neighborhood Residents
  - Ease of transit to the employers/educators on the line allows rider range of employment and education w/o car. More revenue in turn to county/local gov'ts.
- Crystal Businesses
  - Increased traffic to businesses within a few blocks (3 at most) will offer opportunities for fast speed service and retail to meet new demand.
- Transit Riders
  - Connection to wider network of superior speed/convenience will attract users who would otherwise drive (spite MSP and MOA)



003

- Neighborhood Residents
  - Access to the metro area not requiring a car
- Crystal Businesses
  - Customers from out of area have access
- Transit Riders
  - Faster service than buses

004

- Neighborhood Residents
- Crystal Businesses
  - Access to bigger pool of employees
- Transit Riders

005

- Neighborhood Residents
  - Ability to use
- Crystal Businesses
  - More traffic and shoppers in the area
- Transit Riders
  - Ease of getting to and from Mpls and St. Paul

006

- Neighborhood Residents
  - Ease of getting to places
- Crystal Businesses
  - Brings people into the area
- Transit Riders
  - Less waiting in rush hour traffic

*b. How might the following groups BE IMPACTED by the Blue Line Extension, especially in the immediate station area?*

001

- Neighborhoods/Residents
  - Good: Everything stays about the same, just another transit closer
  - Bad: Higher crime (Minneapolis crimes move into our area), increases population density, so larger buildings and more people for our small government to handle, lose identity as a city and just get absorbed into Minneapolis
- Crystal Businesses
  - Good: more business to area
  - Bad: no change to business in area
- Commuters
  - Makes commutes shorter
  - Does nothing to increase times to work



002

- Neighborhoods/Residents
  - Fear of gentrification as well as ghettoization as both world disrupt civic order and have cascading effects.
- Crystal Businesses
  - Undesired segments keynot or prevent business activities if not fear of a rise in criminal activity.
- Commuters
  - Demographic shifts due to fears or manifested changes that prompt moves away from the area.

003

- Neighborhoods/Residents
  - Fear of crime traffic issues
- Crystal Businesses
  - Traffic and crime?
- Commuters
  - Will there also be appropriate bus service?

004

- Neighborhoods/Residents
- Crystal Businesses
- Commuters
  - Hard to get there for current proposed station

005

- Neighborhoods/Residents
  - Ability to use light rail
- Crystal Businesses
  - More potential customers in the area
- Commuters
  - Ease of getting into metro area

006

- Neighborhoods/Residents
  - Noise construction
- Crystal Businesses
  - Shouldn't be an issues
- Commuters
  - Nothing yet

### ***What is something new that you learned about the Blue Line Extension Project at this meeting?***

001

We have to abide by Federal regulations for LTR, so regional issues and concerns get way laid because of federal regulations.



002

The extensive degree of concern regarding local residents concerns, especially for the plans of specific locations.

003

There will be a way for the emergency vehicles to signal the train to stop @ the station and let them cross the tracks.

004

Where the proposed station is located

005

Going to take way to long

***What important issue do you want more information about in the coming months as development of the Blue Line in Crystal moves forward?***

001

How the population is suppose to meet LTR demand w/o changing how capital is now

002

Year-round/inclement weather access to stations, and how this line ties into the larger transit network.

003

Consider a temporary limited-stop bus route following the LRT route (as nearly as possible) to get people used to the benefits in advance.

004

Why it can't be done faster

005

Time frame

***What do you want decision makers to know moving forward?***

001

They need to include residents from day 1, instead of doing studies and moving forward, but only including residents when building planning comes up

002

Do remember that matters of safety are not purely a matter of involving Law Enforcement when an incident occurs. Review the statutes regarding self-defense and embrace the responsible citizenary as your allies in your safety procedures.

003

Progress is hard! Keep up the good work!

004

Get on board, work for the best station we can get built. This project is important to the businesses of Crystal.



005

Let's get this done.

006

Can't wait for it to be done!

### ***Additional comments:***

001

I want Crystal Residents to be the ones that direct, promote or cause businesses to fail. Not LRT riders.

002

Consider reaching out to local colleges and universities teaching city planning/engineering/etc. as a case study for students to study and follow letting them learn from a current and relevant example is a good way to add value to the work (and find new talent).

003

Station just north of 694 (about 71<sup>st</sup> ave. n.) would get a lot of business.

004

I fully support the Blue Line Extension

## **SEPARATE GENERAL COMMENT CARDS**

007

Q1. I will be able to go downtown & other parts of the cities w/o worrying about wheelchair access. Q2. Need more wheelchair space inside train, concern how many can fit, competing w/ bike space. Q3. Do not let SWLRT delay this Blue Line project. Lack of sidewalk access.

008

Vibration of trains causing long term damage to houses foundations

009

Bass Lake Rd Station

I believe there needs to be parking available, or the parking will end up being throughout the area in inappropriate areas.