Crystal Visual Screening
Open House
Tuesday May 24, 2016
Topics

• Corridor Conditions between Bass Lake Rd and 62\textsuperscript{nd} Ave
• Visual Screening Options
• BNSF Requirements
• Next Steps
Existing Conditions

• 100 ft of BNSF owned right-of-way bordering properties on Elmhurst and Hampshire Avenues

• Blue Line Extension LRT (BLRT) proposed plans
  - Purchase eastern 50 ft (toward Hwy 81) and construct north and southbound LRT tracks
  - Move existing freight rail track about 15 feet to the west of its current location

• Vegetation within the rail corridor will be removed

• Limits of LRT construction do not impact private property
Existing Conditions

• Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) identifies visual impacts west of rail corridor and indicates mitigation opportunities
  ▪ No notable increase in sound or vibration according to noise analysis conducted as part of FEIS

• City Council resolution identifies need for visual screening as part of the BLRT project
  ▪ Petition submitted February 2016 with 31 different properties represented
Existing Conditions
Existing Conditions
Visual Screening Options

- Visual screening based on property owner input
  - Type
  - Materials
  - Visual appearance
  - Height
    - Standard residential ~6 ft
  - Location
BNSF Requirements

• Corridor protection fence must be in place on western border of rail corridor: between Elmhurst/Hampshire properties and freight rail

• Unknown if contiguous visual screening fence option would satisfy corridor BNSF corridor protection requirements

• BLRT will not have access rights to west side of corridor
Visual Screening: Next Steps

• Record feedback from May 24 community meeting
• Follow up with property owners (2 – 3 weeks)
• Bring property owner feedback and preferences to city council
• BLRT project staff and Crystal city staff develop screening plan
• Incorporate designs into 60% design plans (winter 2016-2017)