



21st Avenue Community Character Workshop

December 10, 2024



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



Today's Topics

- Project Overview
- 21st Avenue Corridor
- Environmental and Community Impact
- Design Update
- Discussion & Workshop



Project Overview



Blue Line EXTENSION

- 13.5 miles & 13 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

- ✓ Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2024
- ✓ Municipal Consent : Summer 2024
- Supplemental Final EIS and Amended Record of Decision: Summer 2025
- Final Design: 2024-2025
- Anticipated construction start: 2026-2027
- Anticipated opening: 2030

All schedules are subject to change.



Project Timeline

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT

WE'RE HERE

EVALUATION
1.5 – 2 YEARS

DESIGN
1.5 – 2 YEARS

CONSTRUCTION
3 – 4 YEARS

October 2022

- ✓ Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement process initiated
- ✓ Analysis on route options continues

Summer 2024

- ✓ Municipal Consent Process

2024–2026

- Final Design
- 2025**
- SFEIS and Amended ROD
- 2026**
- Federal Funding/
Construction Bidding

2027–2030

- Construction
- 2030**
- BLRT Opening



This schedule is subject to change.

21st Avenue Corridor

- 21st Avenue will be converted into a car-free transitway from I-94 to James Avenue in Minneapolis
- Cross traffic on north-south streets maintained
- Includes two stations:
 - Lyndale Avenue Station
 - James Avenue Station



Why 21st Avenue?

- In response to community concerns about property impacts on West Broadway, the route with LRT on 21st Avenue was selected to preserve parking and minimize physical impacts to businesses.
- Project will also improve West Broadway and connecting streets between 21st Avenue with full reconstruction between James and Lyndale Avenues.



Environmental and Community Impact



Strategies to Address Impacts

Impact	Strategy to Address
Right of way acquisitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair market purchase• Individualized relocation assistance
Noise and vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Track design adjustments• Sound insulation• Starting in 2025, coordination with impacted properties will be underway
Community character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public realm improvements• Cultural placekeeping• Community investment



Community Investment

- Funding for community programs and organizations to address community needs and offset impacts
- Seeking feedback and input on community priorities
- Examples:
 - Down payment assistance
 - Home repair programs
 - Affordable housing preservation and development
 - Business technical and financial assistance
 - Housing cost assistance



SFEIS Next Steps

- Strategies to address impacts identified in upcoming Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS)
 - Anticipated SFEIS publication mid-2025
- Your input is needed to inform how the project addresses certain impacts



*Blue Line Extension Community and
Environmental Impact Survey*
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JSSZFN3>

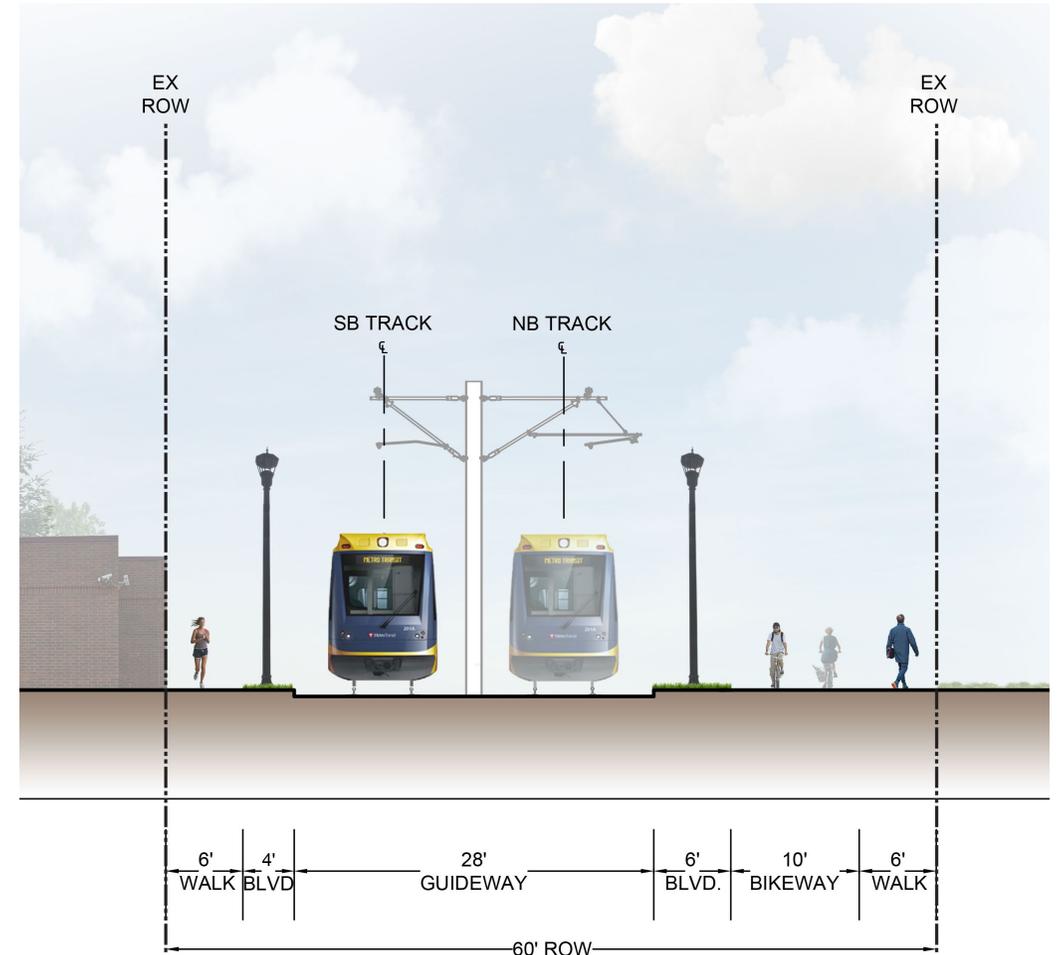


Design Update

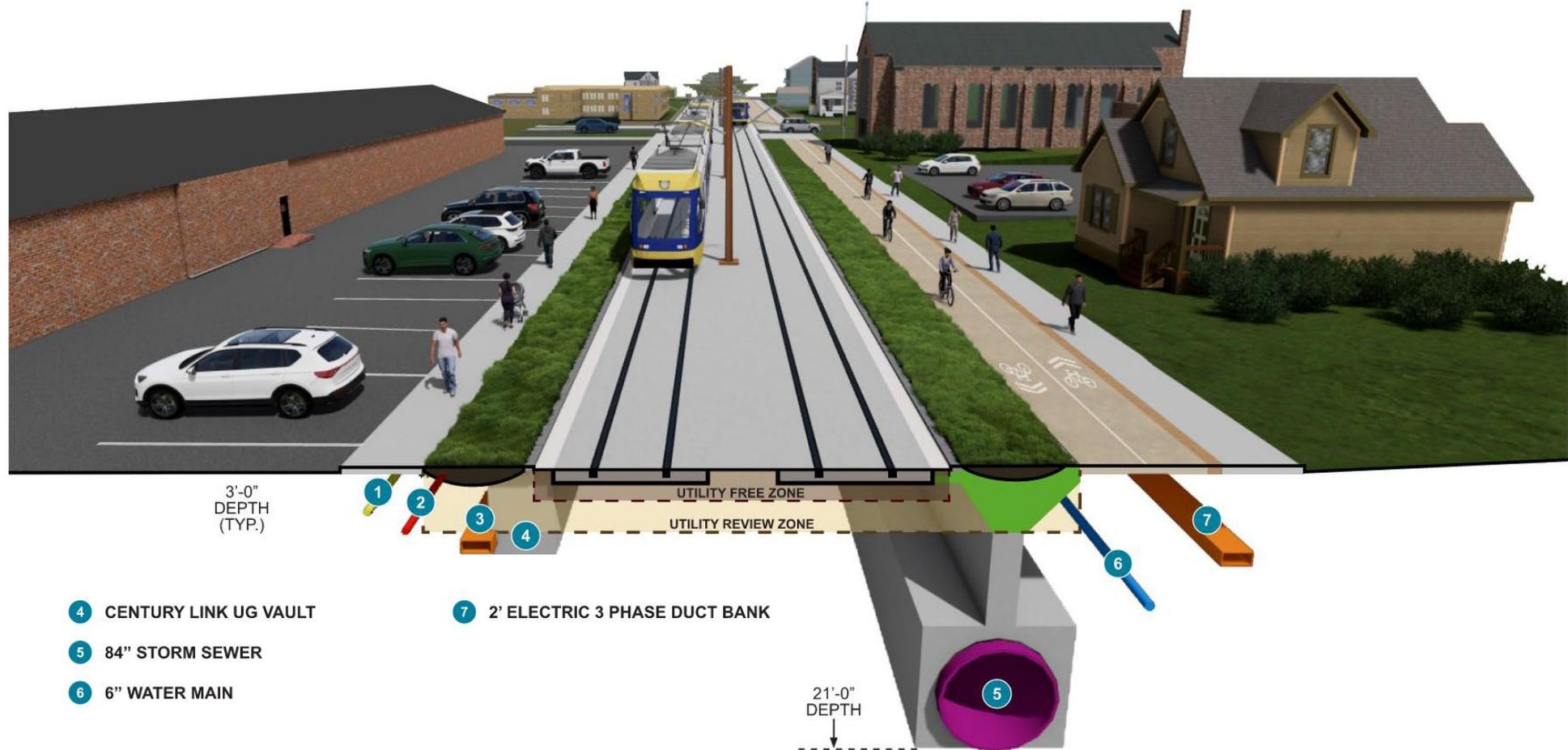


Current Design

- Prioritizes minimizing property impacts
- Includes:
 - Sidewalks on both sides
 - Two-way bikeway
 - Pedestrian lighting
 - Some ground level green boulevard plantings – few trees



Underground Work



21st Avenue Corridor



4th Street



Lyndale Avenue



Aldrich Avenue



21st Avenue Corridor



Between Aldrich
and Bryant Avenue



Bryant Avenue



Dupont Avenue



21st Avenue Corridor



Emerson Avenue



Girard Avenue



Hillside to James
Avenue



21st Avenue Corridor Animation



Property Impacts & Community Amenities

- Current design minimizes property acquisitions
- Current width of proposed 21st Ave transitway at a minimum 60 feet
- Current design creates spatial constraints to adding amenities
- Community desire for amenities (e.g., more trees and greenery, pocket parks, cultural placekeeping and wayfinding elements, undergrounding utilities etc.)



Discussion & Workshop



Topics for Discussion

- Identify community needs and priorities to provide funding as part of the Project
- Identify priorities and locations for public realm improvements
 - Landscaping, lighting, wayfinding, seating, and other community design elements
- Cultural placekeeping – What culture or cultures you feel should be made visible with design of the LRT project?
- Discuss areas if or where right-of-way could be increased to include amenities



Discussion Question

Are you satisfied with the current design, or do you want us to look at other options that include more amenities, even if it means purchasing more property?



Next Steps

- Schedule follow-up meeting in early 2025 for:
 - West Broadway design update
 - Refined 21st Avenue design options based on feedback received



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