



METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2024

Minnesota's Next Light Rail

The METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit project will connect Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and surrounding communities to fast, frequent, all-day service across the METRO system by providing a one-seat ride from Brooklyn Park to MSP Airport and Mall of America, connecting countless destinations and communities along the way.

2024 Milestones

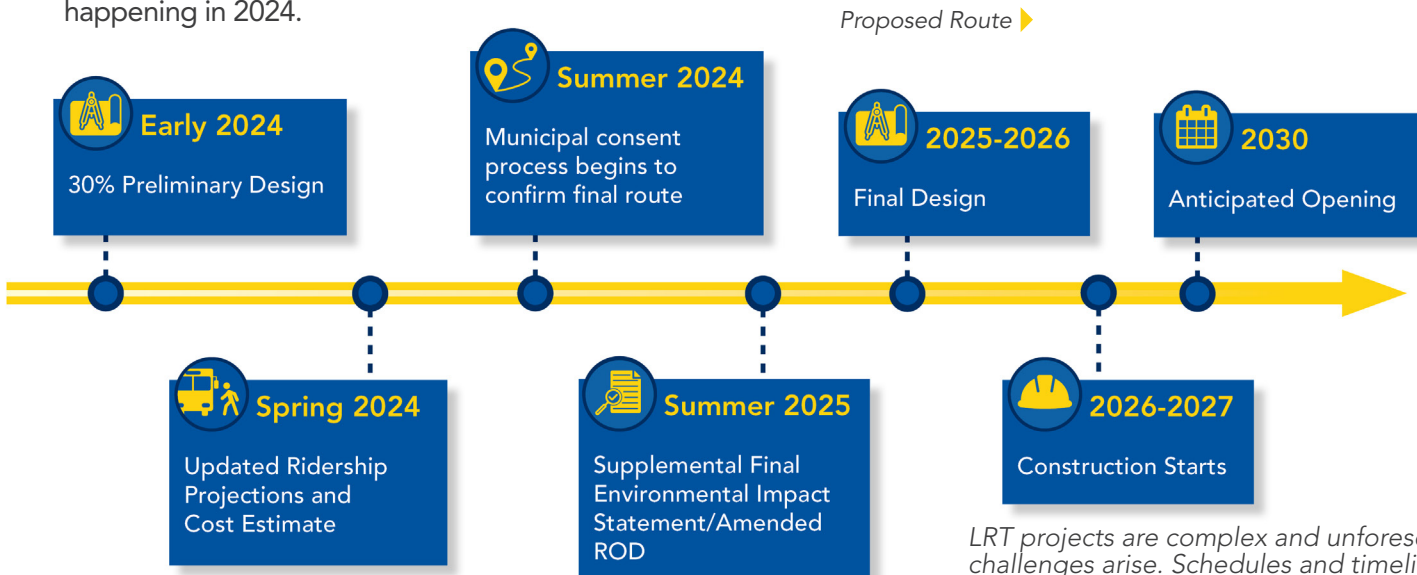
2024 will be a big year for the METRO Blue Line Extension project. Staff are working on more detailed plans for local review and we'll be out in community in more ways than ever, connecting with residents and businesses as we work together to advance this generational transit investment for corridor communities. Major milestones in 2024 will include:

- Completing 30% design plans
- Updating preliminary cost and ridership estimate ranges
- Environmental review
- Municipal consent
- Anti-displacement and community prosperity

As the project moves into these next phases, community feedback will continue to be crucial to inform decisions and design and ensure the project delivers maximum benefits for the communities it will serve.

Project Schedule

See the other side of this handout for more details on what's happening in 2024.



LRT projects are complex and unforeseen challenges arise. Schedules and timelines are subject to change.





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ENVIRONMENTAL



Project staff, in partnership with the Federal Transit Administration, will publish the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), which will identify specific impacts and opportunities of the project, and will share environmental findings during summer 2024. There will be a 45-day public comment period to inform the next phase and the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS), which will identify solutions for impacts, including how to avoid, minimize and mitigate them.

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT



Legislation passed in 2024 by the State of Minnesota allocated \$10 million to a new Blue Line Extension Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity program and established a community-led governing board to oversee it. With administrative support from Hennepin County, the board is meeting regularly to establish bylaws, priorities, and process for funding initiatives that will help prevent displacement and maximize investment and benefits of light rail for current corridor residents and businesses. The Blue Line Extension is also working with the board to incorporate anti-displacement measures directly into the project through the environmental review process.

MUNICIPAL CONSENT



This summer, cities along the route will start the process known as “municipal consent,” which will include local review and feedback of physical design elements.

What is Municipal Consent?

- A process of local review and approval of the physical designs and structures.
- Not a decision-making process for whether or not to build the project, but provides cities with a ability and opportunity to refine and improve elements of the project to best serve their communities and maximize opportunities and benefits of light rail
- Public can comment on the plans and public hearings are held.
- Hennepin County and cities along the corridor are required to review and approve or disapprove the Municipal Consent Plans.
- If the governing body seeks to disapprove the Municipal Consent Plans, it must describe specific amendments to the Plans that, if adopted by the Met Council, would cause the governing body to withdraw its disapproval.

Stay Connected!

There will be many opportunities for the public to participate in all of these next steps.

For project questions or to invite us to an event, contact:

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Join the conversation at: YourBlueLine.org



Visit BlueLineExt.org for more information, to sign-up for the project newsletter, and share your comments/questions on our interactive map.

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