



Blue Line Extension community anti-displacement recommendations

The Blue Line Extension will bring investment and opportunity to corridor communities. To ensure current residents and businesses see these benefits, Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council started a first-of-its-kind community oriented anti-displacement initiative.

Project partners worked with the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs to convene a community-led work group to study and recommend strategies to prevent any displacement that might occur from the light rail project and to maximize benefits of light rail to current corridor residents and businesses.



Recommendations

Anti-displacement work group members considered research, community input, and their own experiences to recommend outcomes and polices to prevent displacement.

Outcomes by jurisdiction

The below outcomes, developed by the work group, are the guiding framework for future anti-displacement work. Polices and strategies should be researched for their potential to achieve them.

Brooklyn Park



Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it thrives



Improving the climate for businesses postconstruction, and prioritizing the development of spaces for small businesses



Providing opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported



Supporting the development, preservation, and access of safe and affordable housing and housing choice



Ensuring that youth feel safe on and around the light rail and feel excited and proud to remain in their communities.

Minneapolis



Providing opportunities for community to connect to BLRT and development in a joyful way



Creating opportunities for community ownership and being able to measure levels of community ownership



Empowering community to have control over decision making throughout the corridor



Providing opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported



Addressing reparations to the Harrison neighborhood from previous route alignment



Creating and enforcing structures of accountability for government agencies along the alignment



Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies



Ensuring that there is access to land, housing and businesses in the corridor throughout all phases of construction



Ensuring that 50% of jobs from the Bottineau Light Rail development are held by corridor residents



Ensuring that there is a continued role for ADWG members throughout all phases of the project

Crystal/Robbinsdale



Addressing indirect construction impacts



Improving the climate for businesses postconstruction, and prioritizing the development of spaces for small businesses



Supporting the development, preservation, and access of safe and affordable housing and housing choice



Improving infrastructure around the project



Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it thrives



Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies

Policies

Workgroup members considered a wide variety of potential policies and recommended 17 to be studied further for their potential to achieve the outcomes.

- Mandatory relocation assistance
- Tenant opportunity to purchase
- Limiting investor purchasing/corporate ownership
- Land disposition policy
- Right to return
- Rent stabilization
- Commercial and residential land trusts
- Financial resources for organizing/the right to organize
- Zero to low interest loans
- Small business grants/small business support
- Workforce programs
- Noah preservation
- Inclusionary zoning
- Universal basic income/ guaranteed basic income
- Right to counsel
- Tenant screening reform
- Cultural placekeeping/placemaking





Anti-displacement community-led work group

Goal: Unify a vision for preventing displacement in Blue Line Extension communities

Sessions focusing on:

- Learning lessons from previous light rail projects
- Studying the potential for business, cultural and housing displacement
- Developing and finalizing anti-displacement recommendations

27 community leaders, local businesses, government partners, philanthropic representatives

18-month process including 5 full day sessions

Next steps

- 1 Create a regional group to continue conversations about corridor-wide implementation of anti-displacement strategies
- 2 Create local government groups to receive recommendations and begin policy making processes
- 3 Create dedicated regional anti-displacement fund
- 4 Align anti-displacement research and recommendations with Blue Line Extension federal processes like supplemental environmental impact statement
- 5 Develop corridor-wide anti-displacement policy agenda for 2024 state legislative session

