Blue Line Extension Project Update
TAAC

January 3, 2023
METRO

Blue Line EXTENSION

- 13.4 miles & 12 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

- Updated post-COVID ridership: early 2024
- Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2024
- Municipal Consent process to confirm final route: Summer 2024
- Updated cost estimate: 2024
- Final design: 2024-2025
- Construction starts: 2026-2027
- Anticipated opening: 2030
Project Timeline

**2022-2024**
- Analysis on route options
- Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Process

**2024**
- 30% Design
- Municipal Consent Process

**2024-2025**
- Final Design
- 2026
  - Federal Funding/Construction Bidding

**2027-2030**
- Construction
- 2030
  - BLRT Opening
Engagement Activities

- Community meetings and workshops
- Pop-ups and tabling at community events
- Business Workshops
- Bike Tours
Engagement Through Partnerships

• Anti-displacement Work Group
• Community Cohorts
• Cultivate Arts Program
• Elevate Hennepin Program
Anti-Displacement Community Feedback

Strategies important to community:
- Empowering community
- Transparency in decision making process
- Support throughout project
- Commitment to community development
- Safety
- Accessibility
- Urban amenities
- Economic renewal to local businesses

Strategies of priority:
- Affordable housing preservation/development
- Limiting investor purchasing/corporate ownership
- Small business support
Anti-Displacement CMC Resolution

- Work in partnership with the project sponsors.
- Develop proposed framework and public engagement plan with community members, public, non-profit, philanthropic, and private sector partners.
- Work to attain the recommended outcomes, including securing funds needed for implementation for anti-displacement measures before, during and after the construction of the Blue Line Extension.
Next steps

• Create regional group to continue discussion of implementation of anti-displacement strategies (in-progress)

• Create local government groups to receive recommendations and begin policy making processes (complete)

• Create dedicated regional anti-displacement fund

• Align anti-displacement research and recommendations with Blue Line Extension federal processes (in-progress)

• Develop corridor-wide anti-displacement policy agenda for 2024 state legislative session (complete)
Project Scope Overview
Oak Grove Parkway Station and Park and Ride

View Looking Northwest to Plaza and Park and Ride from Oak Grove Parkway Station

Operations and Maintenance Facility is also located at the northernmost terminus of the project
West Broadway Avenue to County Road 81

• Center-running LRT on West Broadway with 4 station locations

• Reconstruction of West Broadway

• Bridge from West Broadway to County Road 81 over northbound direction of traffic

Transition from West Broadway to County Road 81
63rd Avenue Station

- Pedestrian Bridge to connect existing Park and Ride to station and center-running LRT

Existing

Proposed Pedestrian Crossing at 63rd Ave Station
Bass Lake Road Station

Existing

Proposed Interchange at Bass Lake Road

Ground view of station area looking south
Downtown Robbinsdale Park and Ride

- Redevelop US Bank Site
  - Park and ride, bank branch, and transit-oriented development
- Paired with Station at 40th
- Will incorporate bus transfers
  - 14, 19, 32, 716, 717
  - Plymouth Metrolink Click-and-Ride
Lowry Ave Station

- Provides access to the Grand Rounds trail, Victory Memorial Park, and North Memorial Hospital
Lowry At-Grade Station Concept

Lowry Ave Station
At Grade – Looking South
Lowry At-Grade Station Concept

Intersection of Theodore Wirth Pkwy and Lowry Ave
Looking West
Penn Avenue Station
West Broadway and 21st Connections
21st Avenue to Washington Ave Bridge over I-94

INCLUDES SIDEWALK AND BIKE LANES

NOTE: LANE CONFIGURATION UNDER STUDY
East of I-94 Track Alignment

• Continued outreach to confirm recommended option for East of I-94
Plymouth Station on Washington Avenue, **looking South**
10th Ave: Transit Mall Option
10th Ave: Transit Mall Option
10th Ave: One-way Northbound
Community Outreach and Engagement Guides Blue Line Alignment Recommendation

Aug 23 Quarterly Corridor-Wide Meeting at the Capri Theater in Minneapolis incorporates formal presentation and Question & Answer session.
Questions?

• BlueLineExt.org
  • For the latest project updates and to sign up for our newsletter
  • Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation

• Follow us:
  • Twitter: @BlueLineExt
  • Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension