



# **METRO Blue Line Extension**

## **Quarterly Community Project Update Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 30, 2024**  
**5 – 6 PM**

In-Person at Metro Transit North Loop Garage

**Agency Staff and Guests:** 7 non-staff attendees – 5 gave contact information

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions – Nkongo Cigolo**

Nkongo Cigolo, Public Involvement Manager, Metro Transit, began the meeting at 5:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting

#### **2. Project Overview – Nick Thompson**

Nick Thompson, Interim Blue Line Director, provided an overview of the 2024 project milestones and described feedback gathered during the municipal consent process, like the addition of a station at Washington Avenue and West Broadway in Minneapolis, the relocation of a Robbinsdale station to the north side of the impacted intersection, and the desire for alternative design options for the Lowry Avenue Station in Minneapolis and Robbinsdale.

#### **3. Environmental and Anti-Displacement Update – Kelcie Young**

Kelcie Young, Environmental Manager, Metro Transit, discussed the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and how the findings in the SDEIS will lead outreach and engagement strategies to impacted communities, specifically environmental justice communities. Guided by the SDEIS, strategies currently under consideration to target these impacted communities include:

- Funding for community programs
- Cultural placekeeping design groups
- Storefront and virtual resource centers
- Workforce development and local hiring incentives
- Business support during construction
- Parking solutions near Penn Ave and West Broadway.



Kelcie also reviewed Hennepin County's Anti-Displacement Coordinated Action Plan (CAP), which pulls together anti-displacement recommendations from the county, impacted cities, partners, and Metro Transit. These recommendations overlap with current project commitments and include:

- Community engagement
- Relocation and property owner assistance
- Business support
- Housing
- Wealth building and financial stability
- Community investment
- Safety.

#### **4. Outreach and Engagement – Nkongo Cigolo**

Nkongo talked through topics for engagement that are a priority and the different strategies for collecting input.

Currently, the priority topics for engagement and feedback, which align with the strategies discussed during the environmental and anti-displacement update, are:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue community character
- Community investment
- Business support during construction
- Online portals and storefronts
- Public realm improvements
- Workforce development

To gather feedback on these topics, various engagement strategies will be deployed, including:

- Stakeholder meetings and presentations
- Pop-up meetings and community events
- Small group workshops
- Paper and online surveys
- Displays at libraries and community centers throughout the corridor
- Interactive map ([bluelineext.org](http://bluelineext.org))



## 5. Q&A Session

Question regarding the Lowry Station: If there is a drastic change in the design of this station, would municipal consent be required again?

**Project response:** *If the station moves into one of the impacted cities (Minneapolis and Robbinsdale) more than what is currently designed, or if there is an elevation change, approval from affected cities would be needed. Municipal consent from all the cities along the corridor would not required.*

Question about cities making comments when the plan is 60% and 90% designed: what is this comment period? Does it look like the municipal consent process?

**Project response:** *Cities are making comments on design sheets regularly. The comments that would be made at 60% and 90% would be about more specific aspects of the design, like station design and access. Municipal consent would not be required.*