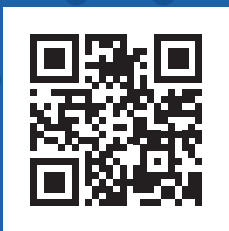




BLUE LINE EXTENSION

Corridor Handbook

Learn more: bluelineext.org





ABOUT THE METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION

The METRO Blue Line Extension is proposed to operate on 13.4 miles of light rail track connecting downtown Minneapolis to the communities of North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park. The proposed project would provide transit improvements in the highly traveled northwest area of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and a one-seat ride from Brooklyn Park to MSP airport and Mall of America. The project provides an opportunity to invest in BIPOC communities and reduce regional disparities.

Connecting with the existing METRO Blue Line at Target Field Station, the Blue Line Extension and its 13 new stations will be part of an integrated system of transitways serving the region, including connections to METRO Green Line, Northstar Commuter Rail line, bus rapid transit lines, existing bus service, and proposed future transitways.

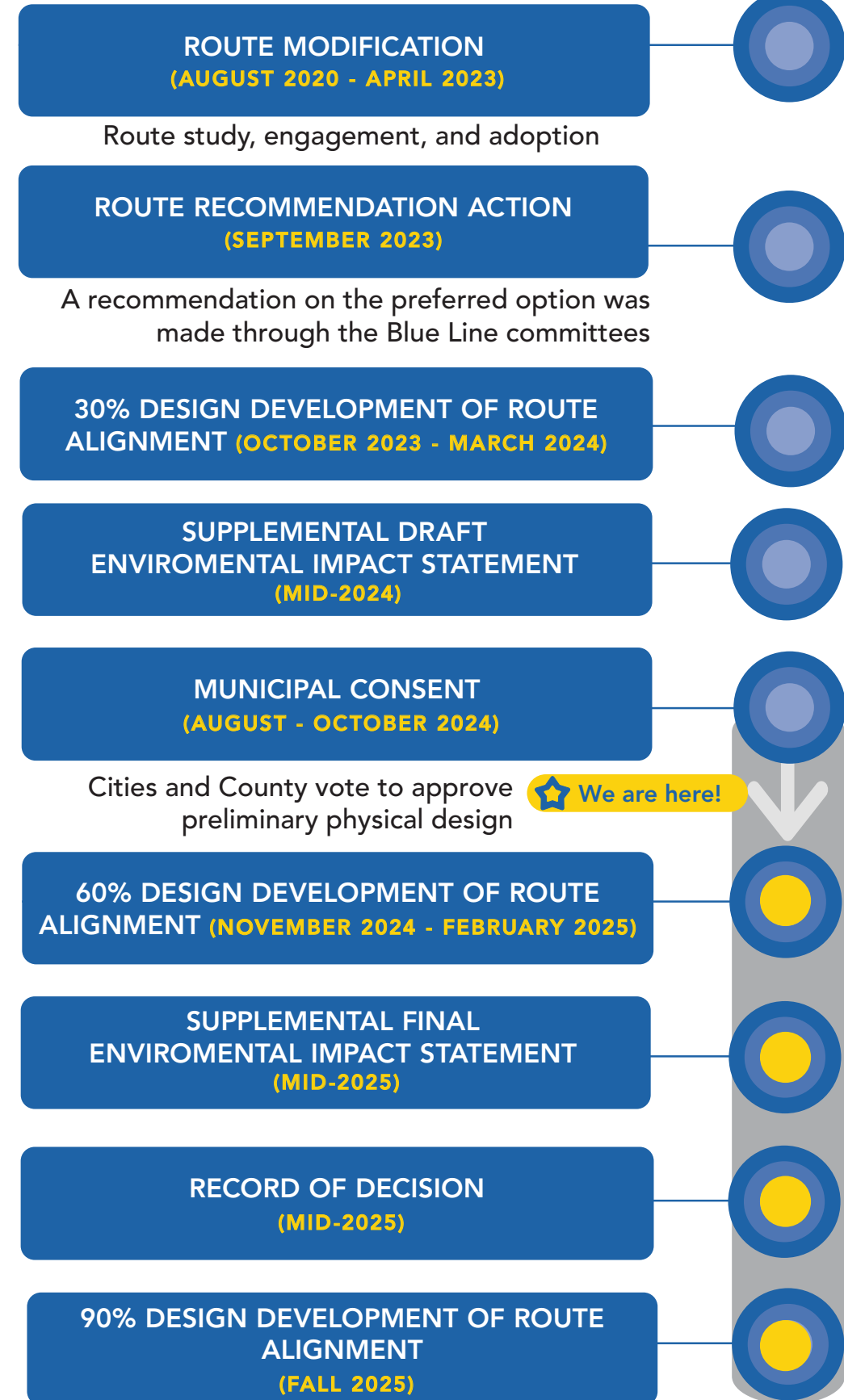
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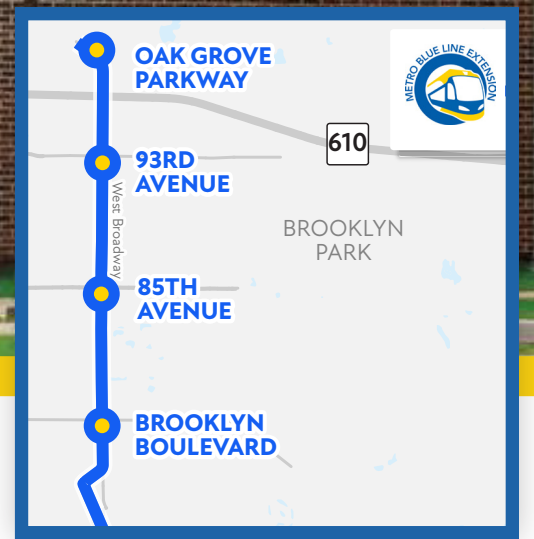
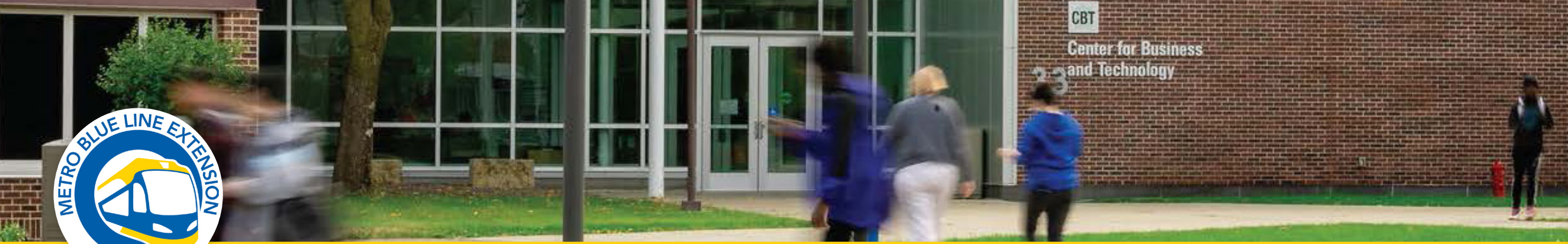
- Connect people to new opportunities and destinations.
- Link people more efficiently to educational and employment opportunities, reduce transit commute times, and increase access to goods and services in an area where building community wealth is a priority.
- Improve public health and reduce pollution by connecting people to quality health care and providing clean active transportation options.
- Make a generational and unprecedented transit investment in a corridor that has experienced a history of systemic racism and high percentage of zero-car households.

Planning for the Blue Line Extension has spanned over a 10-year time period. Throughout these efforts, there has been a strong level of collaboration and partnership with agency and community partners at all levels. The Met Council and Hennepin County are working jointly to develop this project.



PROJECT TIMELINE





BROOKLYN PARK

OPPORTUNITY GATEWAY

The Blue Line Extension will open new opportunities for education, employment, and business growth. Brooklyn Park offers regional employment and education destinations that are complemented by a thriving immigrant-owned business community.

Destinations

- North Hennepin Community College
- Brooklyn Park Library
- Major employment centers like Target North Campus at Oak Grove

Engagement Overview



How community engagement has shaped the project in Brooklyn Park in Brooklyn Park

- ✓ Additional Station lighting
- ✓ Uniform fencing
- ✓ Trail connections to and from stations
- ✓ Traffic signal placement and access at CR 103

Community Voice



"The Northwest suburbs are home to a thriving network of immigrant business owners. The Blue Line Extension presents a rare opportunity to support these businesses, which in turn builds community wealth, creates local jobs, and contributes to the strength, resiliency, and health of Blue Line communities."

Jackson George
Executive Director,
Liberian Business Association Honorary Consul to the Republic of Liberia

Oak Grove Station and Park-and-Ride

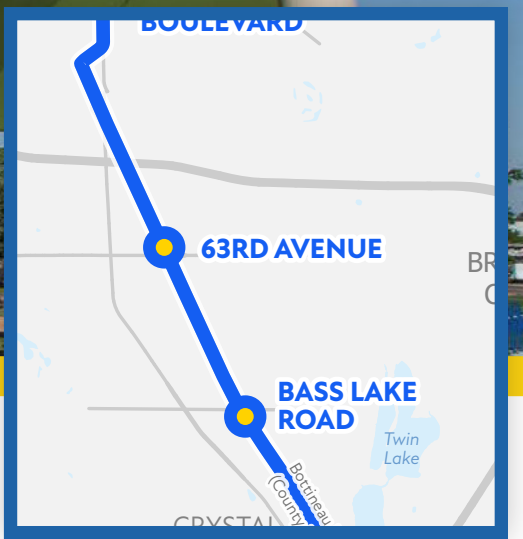


Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- Roadway reconfiguration and enhancements at Oak Grove Parkway area
- Roadway improvements at 93rd Avenue North, 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Boulevard, West Broadway Avenue, and 73rd Avenue North
- Pedestrian and bike connectivity to Rush Creek and to Hennepin Community College
- Update Shingle Creek drain channel

Anti-Displacement Outcomes

- Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it thrives
- Providing opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported
- Improving the climate for businesses postconstruction, and prioritizing the development of spaces for small businesses
- Supporting the development, preservation and access to safe and affordable housing choices
- Ensuring that youth feel safe on and around the light rail and feel excited and proud to remain in their communities



CRYSTAL

REFASHIONING VIBRANT DESTINATIONS

Connecting to Crystal means more people can access, experience, and enjoy the recent public investments that are refashioning a new community-oriented town center district near the future Bass Lake Road station. A recent redesign of Bass Lake Road enhanced the streetscape for pedestrians and businesses, and the new Becker Park is a destination for neighbors and visitors to come together.

Destinations

- Becker Park
- Crystal Airport
- Bass Lake Road business district

Engagement Overview



How community engagement has shaped the project in Crystal

- ✓ Evaluated 4-, 5-, and 6-traffic-lane options with LRT from Bass Lake Road to Hwy. 100
- ✓ Adding a traffic overpass at Bass Lake Road
- ✓ Pedestrian safety improvements along and across Bottineau Boulevard
- ✓ Reconstruction of Bass Lake Road to support better pedestrian connection to Becker Park

Community Voice



"As a business and property owner in Crystal, I'm very excited to have the light rail station so close to our spot. It will turn this into more of a shopping center district. It will change the face of the area substantially. I think you're going to get an influx of people who like the convenience of light rail."

Steve Negaard
Owner of Nokomis Shoe Shop

Bass Lake Road Interchange

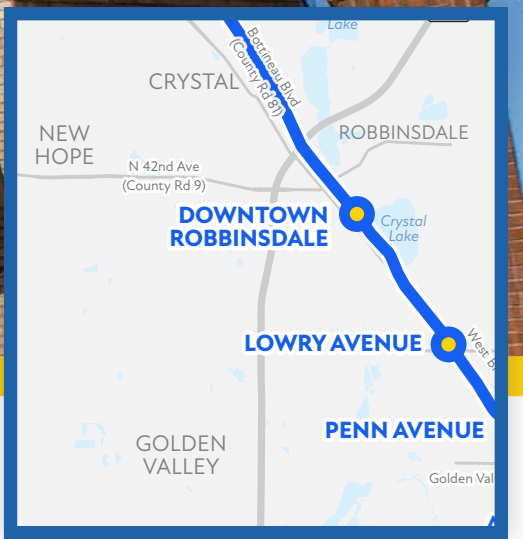


Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- Safer and easier pedestrian crossings
- New grade separated interchange of County Road 81 over Bass Lake Road
- Roadway improvements at Bass Lake Road, including bike lane connections to the east
- Elmhurst/Bass Lake Road intersection improvements
- Improved bike lanes on Bass Lake road
- New mid-block pedestrian crossing at Elmhurst
- Connectivity to Crystal Lake Regional Trail to Becker Park (and proposed Bass Lake Road station)
- Refurbished drainage infrastructure near CPKC rail bridge

Anti-Displacement Outcomes

- Addressing indirect construction impacts
- Improving infrastructure around the project
- Improving the climate for businesses post construction, and prioritizing the development of spaces for small businesses
- Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it thrives
- Supporting the development, preservation, and access of safe and affordable housing and housing choice
- Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies



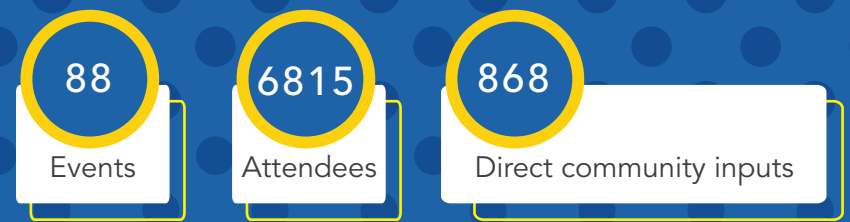
ROBBINSDALE

Robbinsdale offers a small-town feel with idyllic shopping districts, local restaurants, parks and trails. The Blue Line Extension connects many retail destinations throughout the corridor, including Robbinsdale's historic Main Street. Having North Memorial Medical Center on the line offers a new connection for its thousands of current and future employees and improved regional access to world-class health care.

Destinations

- Robbinsdale Town Center
- Historic Main Street
- Robbinsdale City Hall
- North Memorial Medical Center
- Crystal Lake
- Grand Rounds
- Theodore Wirth/Victory Memorial Parkway

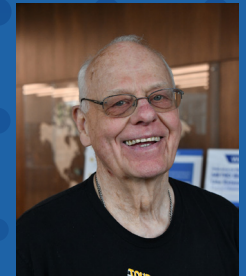
Engagement Overview



How community engagement has shaped the project in Robbinsdale

- ✓ Park-and-Ride location options
- ✓ Refined downtown station location
- ✓ Pedestrian connections to and from Lowry Ave station, including to and from North Memorial Hospital

Community Voice



"As we face the effects of climate change in our own backyards, I think about the future of our communities and the generations that will inherit them. I view the Blue Line Extension as a critical environmental and equity investment that will be a green and affordable transportation option for current and future Robbinsdale residents, especially those who can't afford or choose not to drive."

Ron Williams
Robbinsdale resident

County Road 81

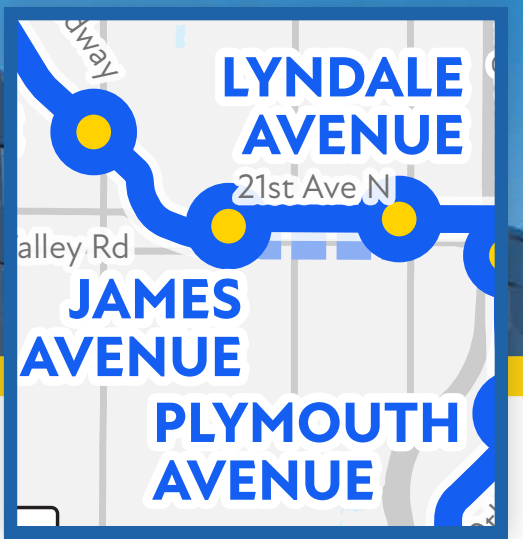


Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- Roadway alignment improvements and pedestrian/bicyclist connections at 42nd Avenue North and 40th Avenue North
- Roadway improvements at various sections of Lakeland Avenue North
- Realigned Theodore With and Victory Memorial Parkway
- Reconstructed Washburn Avenue
- New slip ramp for connection from County Road 81 to Lowry Avenue North and Oakdale Avenue North
- New trails on the north sides of 40th Avenue North and 42nd Avenue North
- New sidewalk on the south side of 42nd Avenue North
- Enhanced crossings across County Road 81 at 42nd Avenue North, 41st Avenue North, and 40th Avenue North
- Connectivity from Lowry station to North Memorial Hospital without roadway crossings
- Rerouting storm sewer near 41st Avenue North that currently conflicts with adjacent buildings
- Newly added station at Washington Avenue and West Broadway Avenue

Anti-Displacement Outcomes

- Addressing indirect construction impacts
- Improving infrastructure around the project
- Improving the climate for businesses post construction, and prioritizing the development of spaces for small businesses
- Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it thrives
- Supporting the development, preservation, and access of safe and affordable housing and housing choice
- Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies



MINNEAPOLIS West Broadway

West Broadway is a main artery of North Minneapolis, home to iconic Northside institutions and beloved Black-owned businesses. Light rail presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in the places, people, and businesses that define the Northside. In response to community feedback, the light rail route will run down 21st Avenue between I-94 and James Avenue to avoid impacts on West Broadway. However, the project will still reconstruct and revitalize this section of West Broadway with community input, even though it won't carry the light rail.

Destinations

- Capri Theatre
- Juxtaposition Arts
- North High School
- Lucy Laney Elementary School
- Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club
- Harold Mezile North Community YMCA
- Minneapolis Public Schools headquarters
- North Commons Water Park

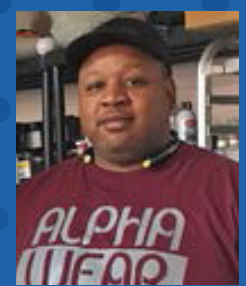
Engagement Overview



How community engagement has shaped the project in Minneapolis

- ✓ LRT alignment on 21st Avenue
- ✓ Added a second station between Lyndale and James Avenues
- ✓ New connection across I-94 and 21st Avenue
- ✓ Added West Broadway road improvements between James Avenue and Lyndale Avenue

Community Voice



"This project could be an opportunity to make real progress on community priorities. We want progress, but we don't want to be pushed out either. How are you going to make good on promises to use this investment to help our community build wealth in place, create opportunities for community ownership, and maximize benefits for the Northside."

KB Brown
Owner of Wolfpack Productions, 2038B, West Broadway Avenue

Reconstructing West Broadway from James to Lyndale

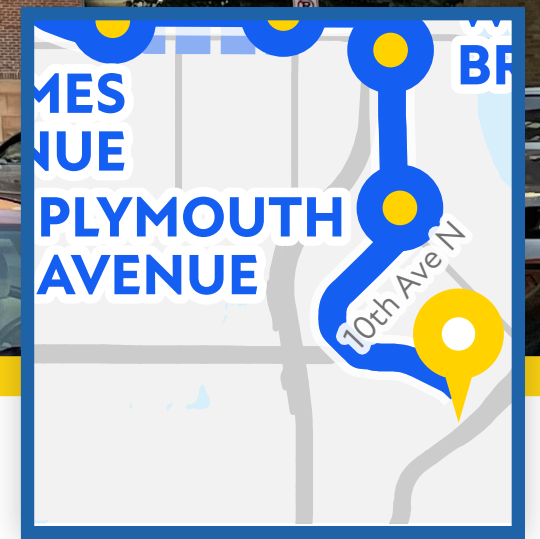


Anti-Displacement Outcomes

- 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 Light Rail development are held by corridor residents
- Ensuring that there is a continued role for ADWG members throughout all phases of the project

Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- West Broadway roadway reconstruction from James Ave to Lyndale Ave
- Improved pedestrian scale lighting, trees and landscaping along West Broadway
- Improved north/south roadway connections between 21st Ave and West Broadway
- New connection of 21st Ave over I-94
- 21st Ave bikeway and James station connectivity
- Mitigate existing flood issues on 21st Ave
- New drainage system under I-94 parallel to 21st Ave bridge



MINNEAPOLIS North Loop

North Loop is a vibrant Minneapolis neighborhood known for its historic charm, trendy boutiques, art galleries, and thriving restaurant scene. The Blue Line connects people to the countless activities and amenities this area has to offer.

Destinations

- Shops, restaurants, cafes, and bars
- Mississippi River and trails
- The Fillmore

Engagement Overview



How community engagement has shaped the project in Minneapolis

- ✓ Re-evaluated east of I-94 options
- ✓ Consideration of 10th Ave transit mall

Community Voice



"I believe the Blue Line Extension can have so much positive impact on our city. It will help bring people downtown to enjoy our businesses and venues. Minneapolis is a fabulous city and the light rail is a key component of that."

Wendy Sullivan
Owner of Wenrich PD Construction

Plymouth Avenue Station



Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- New access roads at 3rd St, 8th St and 9th St
- Bike connections to 2nd St
- Planning for streets along 10th Ave as design advances

Anti-Displacement Outcomes

- 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

bluelineext.org





The Coordinated Action Plan for Anti-Displacement will guide efforts to prevent displacement, maximize the benefits of future Blue Line Extension for current corridor residents, businesses.

Preventing Displacement, Building Prosperity

Agency and community partners are working together to prevent displacement and maximize benefits of light rail for existing corridor residents and businesses.

The Coordinated Action Plan outlines existing programs as well as ideas for new strategies in several action areas, including:

- **Community engagement:** Hennepin County and partners will invest in community outreach and engagement before, during and after construction of the BLE project.
- **Relocation and property owner assistance:** The Metropolitan Council will work to minimize property (right-of-way acquisition) and will reimburse and assist property owners with relocation when necessary.
- **Business support:** Keeping existing small businesses in the corridor and supporting their success is critical and central to this plan. Proximity to the Blue Line Extension (BLE) can be beneficial for small businesses by connecting a workforce and customers to these establishments. Partners have existing resources and initiatives to support existing businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs.
- **Housing:** Partners have several existing programs and initiatives to support the development and preservation of affordable housing and to support the housing stability of existing residents.
- **Wealth building and financial stability:** Before, during, and after construction, the partners will work to ensure the local community has more robust opportunities to access workforce training and new pathways to meaningful employment and financial stability.
- **Community investment:** Partners will include community feedback in designing stations and developing plans for nearby development so that stations support the needs of existing communities and complement the surrounding environment.
- **Safety:** Ensuring that riders and those living around the stations both are safe and feel safe is critical to making sure that residents in the corridor use the light rail and experience the benefits of having it within their community.



To read the Coordinated Action Plan and to provide feedback please visit: yourblueline.org



Share Your Feedback

We want to hear your thoughts on the project and what you want to see from the transit system.

Visit BlueLineExt.org to:

- View the latest project updates
- Provide comments
- Connect with us to discuss questions or ideas
- Invite project staff to your event or gathering

Stay Connected!

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

Brooklyn Park/Crystal: Joanna Ocasio-Maisonet – Joanna.Ocasio-Maisonet@metrotransit.org

Robbinsdale: James Mockovciak – James.Mockovciak@metrotransit.org

Minneapolis: Kaja Vang – Kaja.Vang@metrotransit.org



Visit BlueLineExt.org for more information, to sign-up for the project newsletter, and view upcoming events

Join the conversation at: YourBlueLine.org

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