



# West Broadway Reconstruction/LRT Design

March 19, 2015



# Meeting Agenda

6:05 – 6:30 PM Brief presentation

What we heard

Project overview

6:30 – 8:00 PM Visit Six Topic Areas

Road and LRT design elements

Pedestrian and bike design elements

Property acquisition

Safety and security

Environmental review

Land use and economic development



# What We Heard



# Public Comments in 2014

- Property acquisition
- Traffic impact, congestion
- Business impacts
- Safety
- Need for transportation, transit options
- Noise and vibration
- Coordinate LRT and roadway projects
- Construction impacts
- Trails



# March 5 W. Broadway Community Meeting

- Over 210+ attendees
- Project update and small group discussions
  - What do you like about West Broadway today? What do you dislike?
  - What do you like about proposed changes along West Broadway? What do you dislike?
  - What do you want decision makers to know?
  - What is most important to you?



# March 5 W. Broadway Community Meeting

- What we heard:
  - Current road in poor condition, needs repairs
  - Need for improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities
  - Concerns about noise, vibration and increased traffic
  - Concerns about property impacts including values and acquisition
  - Concerns about safety and security, better street lighting
  - More comments favor 4-lane design over 2-lane design
  - Better access, traffic signals at Maplebrook Parkway

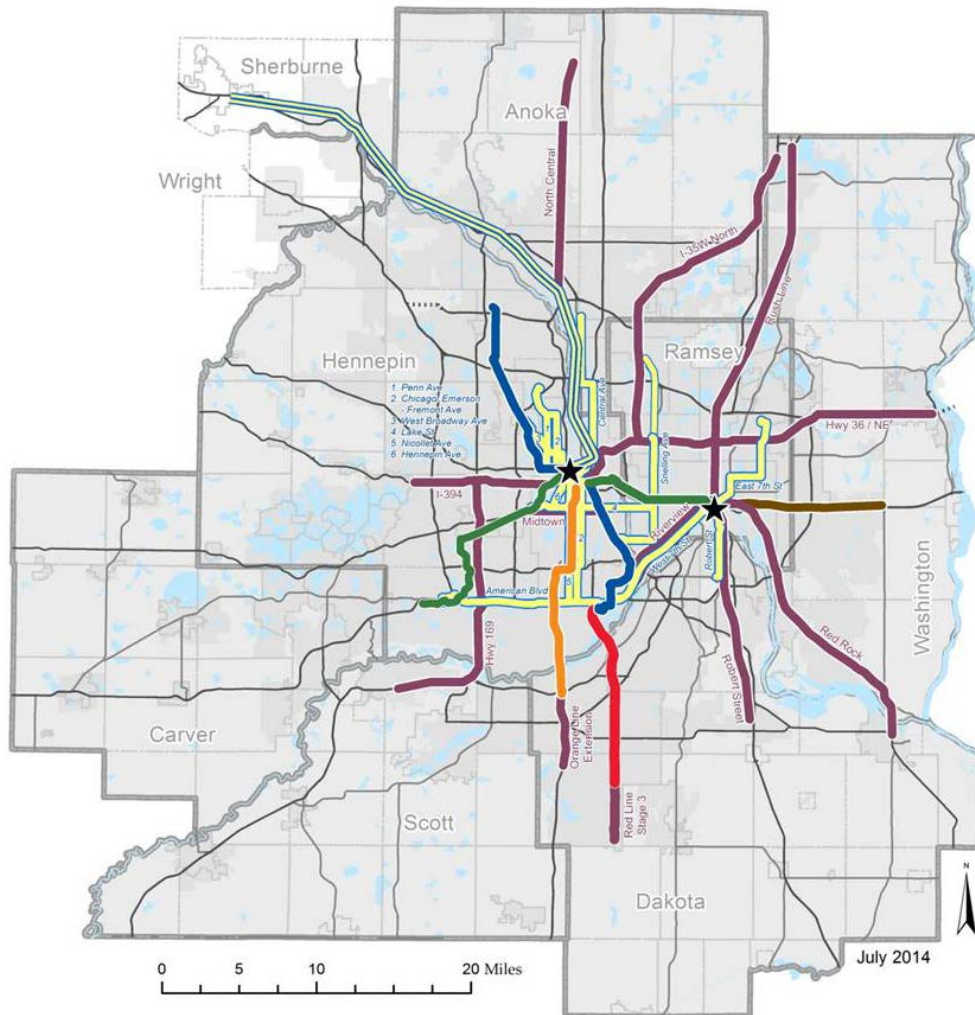









# Project Overview





# Twin Cities Transitways: 2040 Vision



-  Northstar Line
-  Blue Line
-  Green Line
-  Red Line
-  Orange Line
-  Gateway Dedicated BRT \*
-  Accelerated Arterial BRT
-  Accelerated Transitways under study
-  Regional Multimodal Hub





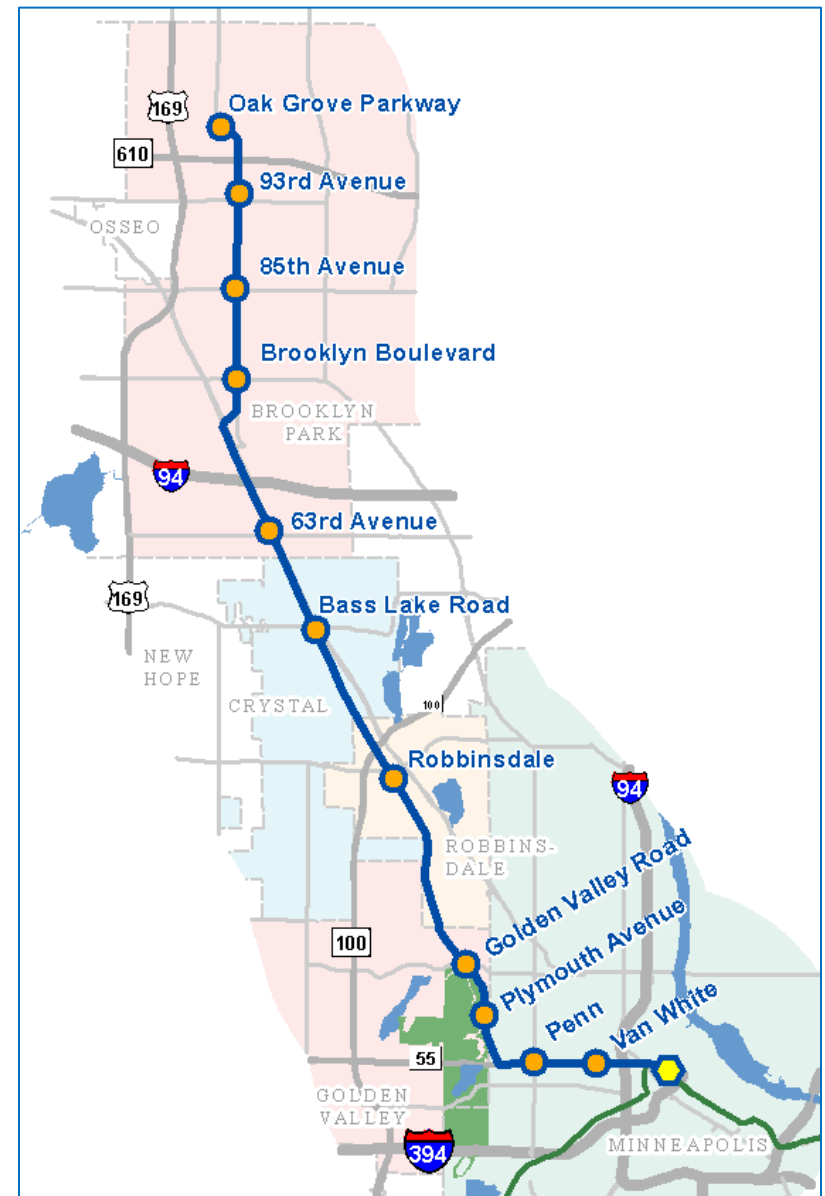
# What is Light Rail Transit (LRT)?

- High capacity
- Quick acceleration & braking
- Powered by electricity
- Quiet operation
- Frequent service 21 hours/day
- Stops every ½ - 1 mile



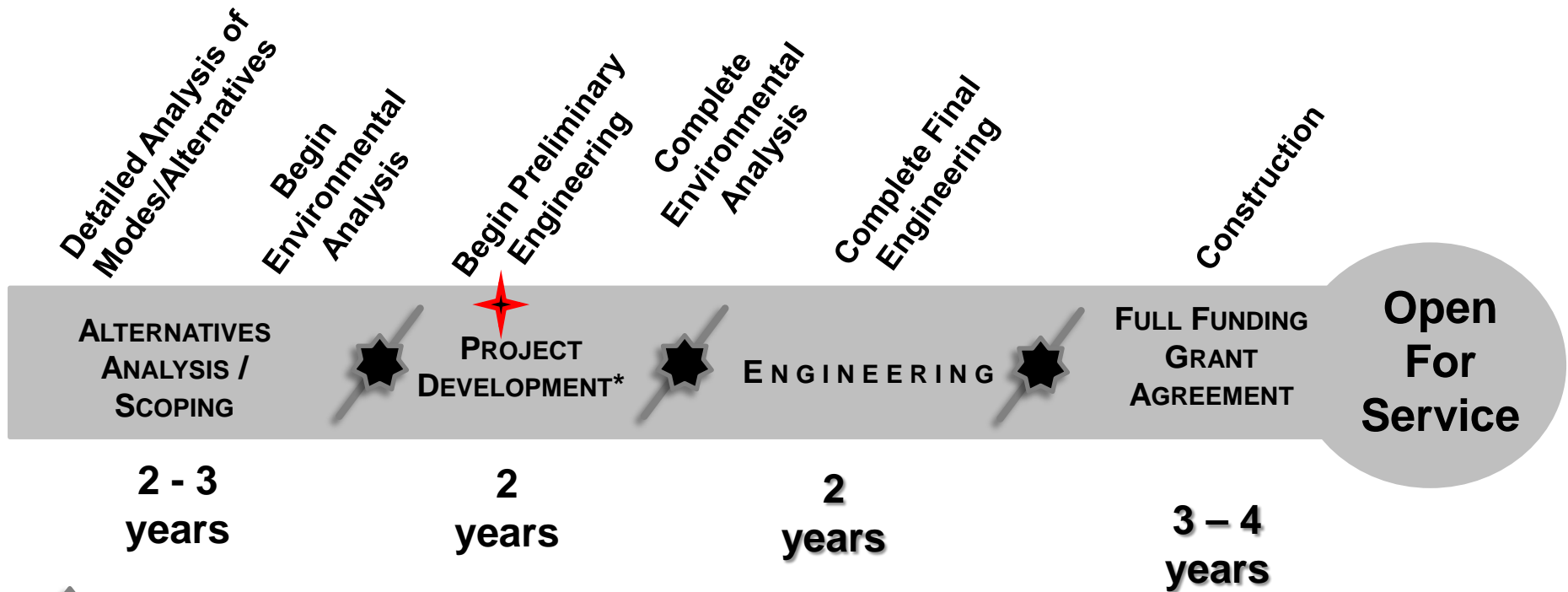
# Project Description

- 10 or 11 new stations
- 13 miles of double track
- Serving Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, Golden Valley & Minneapolis
- Provides one seat Blue Line ride to MSP and MOA
- Connections to METRO Green Line, Northstar and bus services
- 27,000 est. rides by 2030



# Federal Transit Administration Map-21 Overview

## Typical Fixed Guideway Capital Project (New Starts) Project Timeline

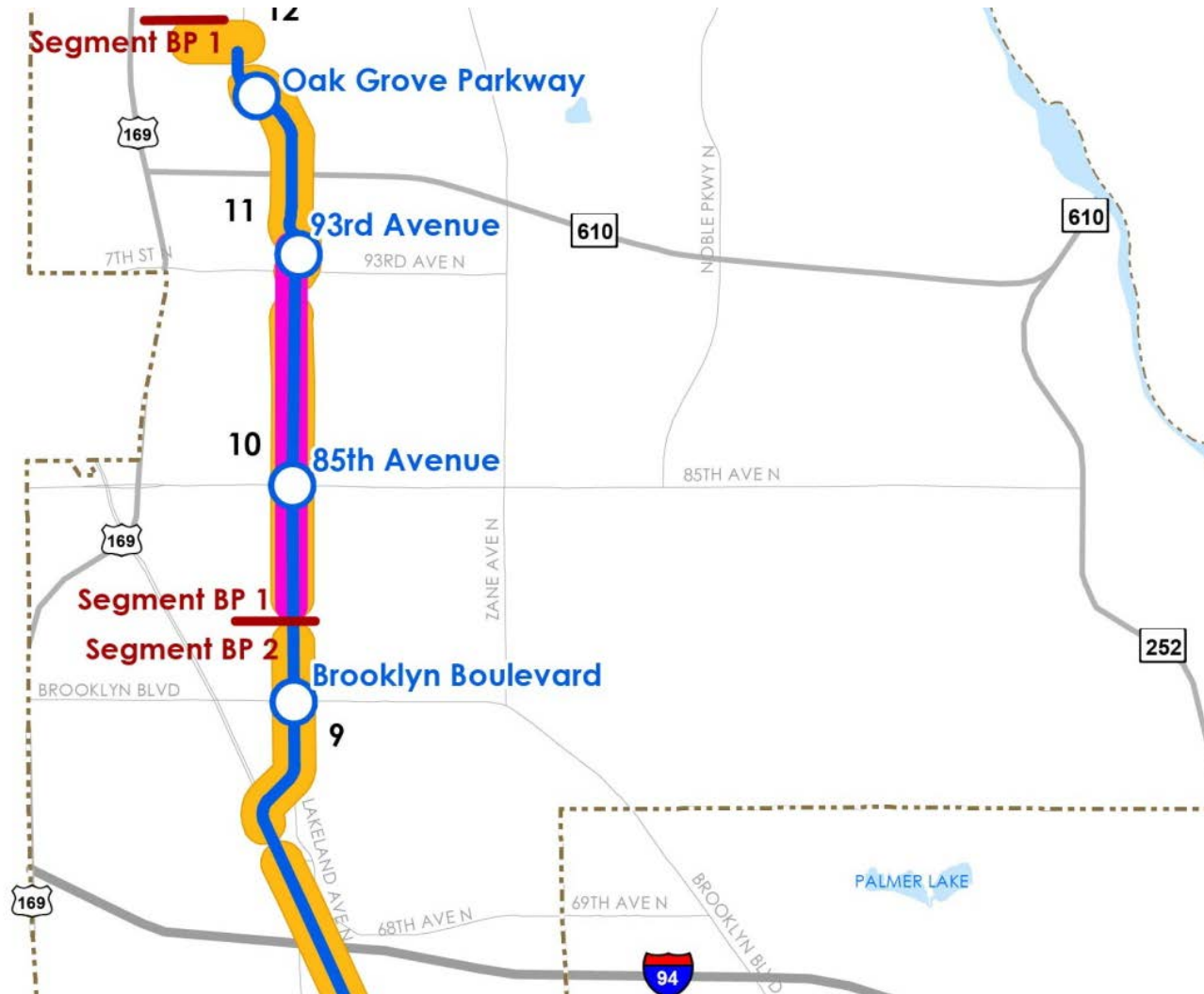


★ FTA Approval Point  
★ **BLRT CURRENT PHASE**

\*Lead Agency shifts from host county to Met Council upon FTA approval to enter Project Development



# West Broadway Reconstruction Candlewood to 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave.





# LRT Design Elements: Station and Tracks



# Road Design Elements

	2-Lane	4-Lane
Number of Vehicle Through Lanes	2	4
Turn Lanes	Left and Right	Left
Location Where Buses Stop	Shoulder	In-Lane
Residential Properties with Partial Right of Way Impacts	30	31



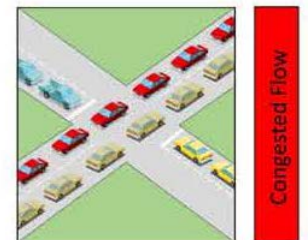
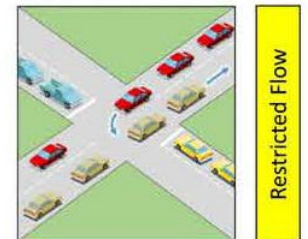


# Road Design Elements: 2 vs 4 Lanes

Existing Daily Traffic Volumes



Legend



### - Annual Daily Traffic (ADT)

↖ - Traffic Volume Direction of Travel



# Pedestrian & Bike Elements:

	2-Lane	4-Lane
Type of Bicycle Improvement	10-foot trail and roadway shoulder on both sides	10-foot trail on both sides
Distance from Sidewalk/Trail to Moving Traffic	14.7 feet	10 feet
Number of Crossings (75 <sup>th</sup> – 93 <sup>rd</sup> )	16	16
Lanes to Cross	4	5
Average Length of Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossings	100 feet	105 feet

# Pedestrian & Bike Elements: Trails



10 foot trail



8 foot trail



# Pedestrian & Bike Elements: Crossings



Countdown timer



Truncated domes mark crosswalk



Sign marks crosswalk and alerts drivers



Tactile button and audible tones announce when crossing is permitted



# Safety Features



Warning devices alert pedestrians to approaching trains and signs instruct people to look both ways.



# Security Features

- Open and transparent station design to promote visibility



Security camera



Emergency phone



# Paying Fare

- No Fare boxes on trains
- Pay for ride before boarding; speeds up boarding
- Police officers randomly check proof of fare payment on trains and stations



Card validator (left) and ticket vending machine (right)

# Current Fares

Transit Mode	Fare
Light Rail & Local Bus	\$1.75 \$2.25 (peak period)
Express Bus	\$2.25 \$3.00 (peak period)
Northstar	\$3.00 - \$6.00 depending on station

**\$180 fine for riding trains or buses without paying**





# Environmental Review Analyzes Potential Impacts

- Land use
- Community
- Property
- Business
- Historic properties
- Parks
- Visual
- Safety
- Transportation
- Water resource
- Soils
- Plants
- Animals
- Noise
- Vibration
- Contaminated sites
- Air quality



# Environmental Review for W. Broadway and LRT Projects

- W. Broadway reconstruction has its own needs and can stand alone as separate project
  - Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) will be completed in 2015
- LRT project can stand alone as a separate project
  - Requires its own analysis as a much larger project
  - Anticipates Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) published in 2016
- Both W. Broadway EAW and LRT FEIS will document the combined effects and benefits



# What is the Property Acquisition Process?

- Prepare preliminary design
- Seek municipal approval/consent
- Complete environmental review
- **Begin appraisal process**
- Prepare construction plans
- **Begin offers & negotiations for property acquisition**
- Construction



# Who Will Be Acquiring Property?

- Candlewood to 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue:  
Hennepin County
- South of Candlewood  
and North of 93<sup>rd</sup>:  
Metropolitan Council



# Light Rail and Community/Economic Development in the Twin Cities

- Blue and Green Lines exceeding ridership forecasts
  - In 2014, Blue Line average daily ridership was 27,400 (2020 forecast: 24,600)
  - In 2014 Green Line average daily ridership was 34,548 (2015 & 2020 forecast: 27,500 & 35,600, respectively)
- Blue and Green Lines development
  - 7,700 new housing units have been constructed along the Blue Line since 2000
  - \$2.8B of development complete or in some phase of development within ½ mile of the Green Line



# Transforming Community: Sept. 2013

## Center for Transportation Studies Report

Key Findings	
<b>Improves access to jobs and workers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blue Line made 14,000 additional low-wage jobs accessible within a 30-minute transit commute</li></ul>
<b>Promotes development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 2012, 18 developments worth more than \$275M began construction or entered planning stage along the Green Line</li></ul>
<b>Marketplace values transit access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prices per building-square-foot increased near Blue Line, controlling for other factors</li><li>• Home values in Blue Line station areas up an average of \$5,000 compared with homes outside of station areas (2004 – 2007)</li></ul>

<http://www.cts.umn.edu/publications>



# Timeline and Next Steps





# Timelines: Light Rail

# W. Broadway Ave.

2015

- Project Development Begins

- City endorses design
- Environmental Assessment

2016

- Municipal Consent
- Final Env. Impact Statement
- Begin Property Acquisition

- Engineering
- Begin Property Acquisition

2017

- Engineering

2018

- Full Funding Grant Agreement

2018-2020

- Construction

- Construction

2021

- Passenger Operations



# Next Steps

- April: Draft Recommendations
  - Community Meeting #3: April 7
  - Corridor Management Committee: April 9

**April 27: Staff recommends and Brooklyn Park City Council endorses a design approach**



# More Information

## METRO Blue Line Extension

Website: [BlueLineExt.org](http://BlueLineExt.org)

Email: [BlueLineExt@metrotransit.org](mailto:BlueLineExt@metrotransit.org)

Twitter: [@BlueLineExt](https://twitter.com/BlueLineExt)

## West Broadway Reconstruction

Website: [Hennepin.us/WestBroadway](http://Hennepin.us/WestBroadway)

