



# Community Advisory Committee: April 7, 2021



Brooklyn Park | Crystal | Robbinsdale | Golden Valley | Minneapolis





# Today's Topics

- Approve Meeting Summary
- March 22 Meeting Follow-up
- Community Engagement Activities
- Supporting Communities in Place



A service of the Metropolitan Council

COUNTIES *Transit*  
Improvement  
BOARD

# Approval of March 1 & 22, 2021 Meeting Summary

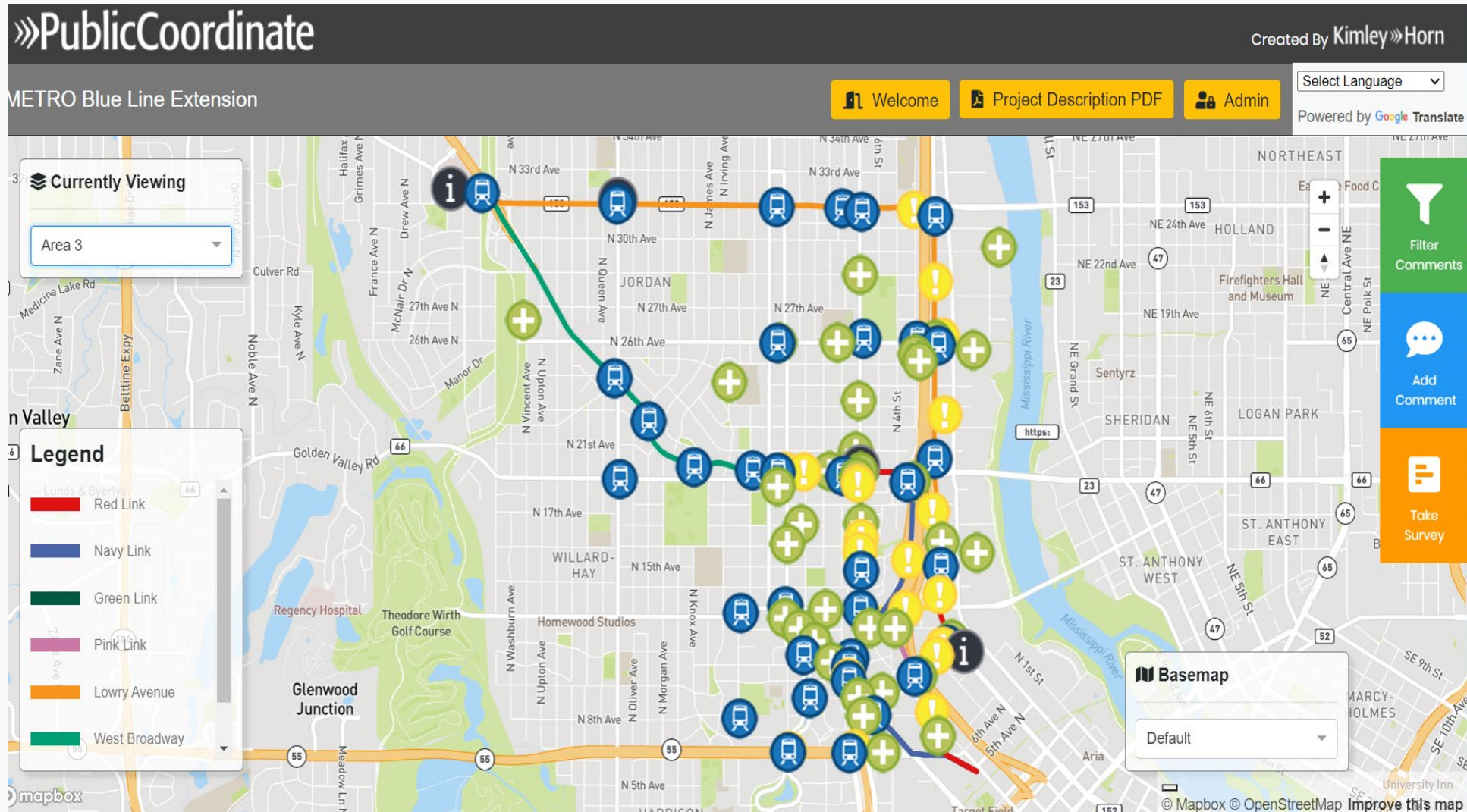
# March 22 Meeting Follow-up

# Community Engagement Activities

# Receiving Ongoing Community Feedback

- Advisory committees
- Three Townhalls with ~150 participants
- Initiating community & business stakeholders check-ins
- Interactive map: 200+ comments
- Survey: 700+ responses
- General comments via online form/email: 20+
- Many more questions and phone calls

# Example Responses





# Emerging Themes and Questions

- General support for LRT and improved transit, coupled with the requests for more information
- Questions about specific impacts to roadway & adjacent home/businesses
  - Desire to preserve businesses
- Other emerging themes:
  - Focus on green infrastructure
  - LRT structures: tunnels or elevated
  - Stations

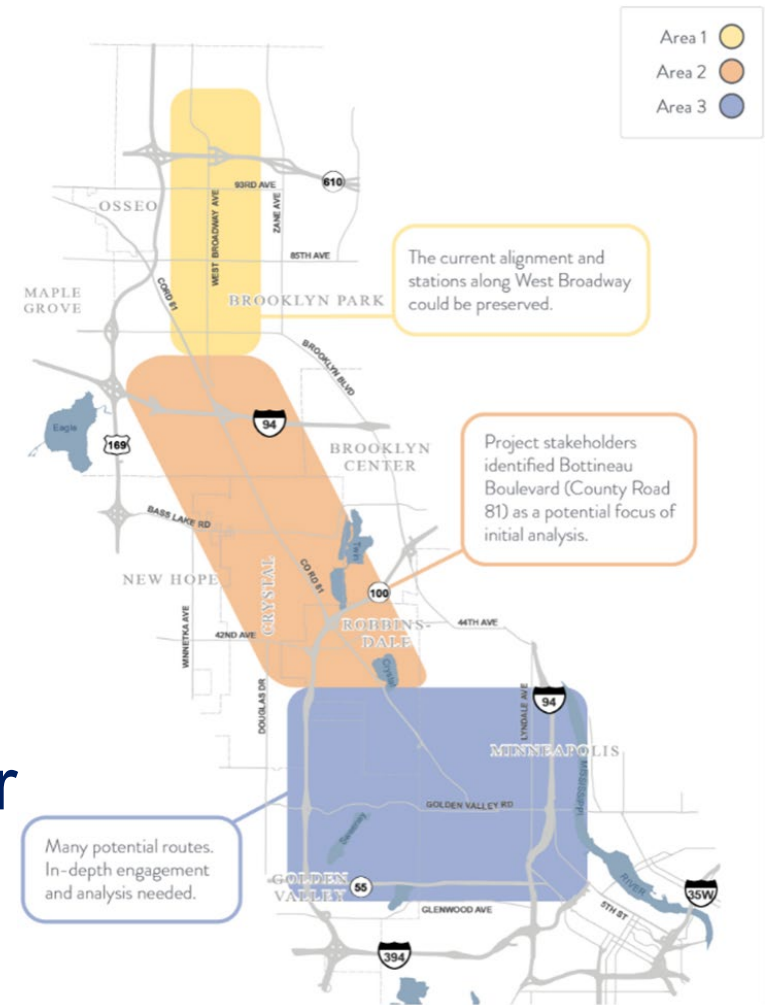


# Preliminary Survey Results

- Route options:
  - 55% prefer West Broadway Avenue
  - 22% prefer Lowry Avenue
  - 23% Need more information or have another preference
- 60% of responses cite these top priorities for Project Goals:
  - Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations
  - Advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional racial disparities

# Community Engagement Cohort Contractors

- 14 community organizations that are trusted community partners with expertise on cultures and geographies
  - Area 1: Focus of 4 community organizations
  - Area 2: Focus of 2 community organizations
  - Area 3: Focus of 13 community organizations
- Four groups focused on communications
- Collaborative and coordinated across the corridor
- 10-month contracts



# Community Engagement Cohort

Contact	Organization	Areas
Ange Hwang	Asian Media Access Inc	Area 1, 2, 3
Ekta Prakash	CAPI USA	Area 1, 3
Tezzaree El-Amin Champion	Encouraging Leaders	Area 3
Nichole Buehler	Harrison Neighborhood Association	Area 3
Kristin Murray	Juxtaposition Arts	Area 3
Sunny Chanthanouvang	Lao Assistance Center of MN	Area 1, 3
Jackson George	Liberian Business Association	Area 1, 2
Warren McLean	Northside Economic Opportunity Network	Area 2, 3
Martine Smaller	Northside Residents Redevelopment Council	Area 3
Felicia Perry	West Broadway Business Coalition	Area 3
Cathy Spann	Jordan Area Community Council	Area 3
Danecha Goins	Cleveland Neighborhood Association	Area 3
Diana Hawkins	Hawthorne Neighborhood Council	Area 3
Markella Smith	McKinley Community Neighborhood Association	Area 3

# April Goals & Next Steps

- Host and participate in events targeted at specific community groups and areas of the corridor
- Identify geographic and community gaps to broaden the conversation
- Working with the project team to respond to specific feedback and larger requests/input



# Supporting Communities in Place

# Continue to Seek Solutions

## Project Goals, Objectives and Criteria

## Conceptual Engineering and Design

Engineering Analysis to Understand LRT &  
Roadway Configurations

Potential Station Locations

Right of Way Impacts

## Community Benefits

Further efforts to address anti-displacement, equitable development and community wealth building

## Previous Project Commitments

Address investments related to the previous alignment

# Today's Focus

## Community Benefits

Further efforts to address anti-displacement, equitable development and community wealth building

## Previous Project Commitments

Address investments related to the previous alignment

# Community Feedback: Issue

- Displacement and gentrification issues are a major concern for community members
- New development or redevelopment must emanate from the needs/desires of the community and are in alignment with community vision
- Previous alignment brought community investments; needs remain
- Community members must be at the table
- Project sponsors have an obligation to address these issues and develop strategies/policies in conjunction with the LRT project



# Community Feedback: Aspirations

- Recognition and celebration of existing vibrant and dynamic community assets
- Expansion of community wealth for every generation
- Tangible solutions: policies/strategies that are supported by resources
- Any effort to address issues must include community members/ public/private/non-profits/philanthropy

# Project Partner Reflection

- Recognize we need to work together to address community concerns at all levels and across sectors
- Recognize our mere presence can raise concerns over trust, sustainability of effort, and past trauma
- Recognize our existing tools might not work for every community

# Project Partner Commitment

- Recognize community/non-profits/philanthropy/public/private entities all have a role
- Actively address short and long-term needs
- Identify resources to address these issues
- Take actions that are tangible and measurable

# Building the Table

- Goal: Establish an Anti-Displacement Working Group to create implementable recommendations
- Build a team that has the support, expertise, and resources to deliver measurable outcomes
  - Convened and managed by a third-party facilitator
  - Meets on a regular basis through the duration of the project
  - Reports regularly to Blue Line Extension Advisory Committees and Community Works Steering Committee
  - Develops workplan



# Discussion Point: Shared Understanding

- Coming to consensus on definitions of:
  - Displacement
  - Gentrification
  - Community benefits
  - Other questions?

# Setting The Table

- Who is a trusted facilitator to convene and manage these efforts?
- Philanthropic, non-profit, community organizations, and private development currently working in community that could help deliver outcomes?
- Other public agencies?



# Setting The Table

- Initial actions?
- What does success look like?
- How will we define success?
- Other questions?



# Next Steps

- Review with BLRT advisory committees in May steps forward to begin implementation
  - Develop an approach to form and support the Working Group
  - Begin to identify initial framework for Working Group



# Next Meeting: Tuesday May 4

# Stay Connected!

- Project website: [bluelineext.org](http://bluelineext.org)
  - Project news, maps, surveys, what we're hearing
  - Committee meeting materials: agenda, handouts, presentations, meeting minutes
  - Sign-up for GovDelivery project updates
  - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation
- Follow us:
  - Twitter: @BlueLineExt
  - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension

