Today’s Topics

• Draft Report Comment Overview

• Anti-Displacement Working Group Update
Approve December 2021 Meeting Summary
Chair’s Update
Committee Reports

- Community Advisory Committee Report
- Business Advisory Committee Report
Draft Report Comment Overview
Comment Period Overview (Dec 13-Jan 25)

- Comment Form: 132 responses
- Emailed Comments: 13
- Agency Comment Letters: 5 (Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and Maple Grove)
- Interactive Map Comments: 296 (during the comment period)
- Open House Comments: 55 comments
  - Meetings were held in Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and 2 virtual meetings
Summary

- 296 public comments received since Dec. 13
  - 23 comments in Brooklyn Park
  - 13 comments in Crystal
  - 52 comments in Robbinsdale
  - 110 comments on Lowry Route
  - 81 comments on West Broadway Route
  - 17 in other locations (Brooklyn Center, Champlin, Saint Anthony)
Overall Themes

• Need for efficient transit option that also connects to other modes/transit routes
• Select route that serves zero-car households and access to more businesses / destinations
• Other investments needed as part of the project related to traffic, bus, bike/ped improvements and safety
• General support or opposition for West Broadway, Lowry, or overall project
• More info needed about:
  o Project ridership, safety impacts, station renderings, train travel times, cost of each route option, TOD produced by each route option, construction timelines/impacts, funding for equitable community development along the route

Open house in Robbinsdale – January 11, 2022
Overall Themes (continued)

- Efficient, well-connected transit: 11%
- Serves community destinations and zero-car households: 29%
- Minimize impacts (to traffic, pedestrian movements, businesses, homeowners, environment): 17%
- General support or opposition: 22%
- More info needed: 7%
- Other investments needed instead of/in addition to this project: 14%
- More info needed: 7%
**Common Themes of Goal 1:** Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Put BRT on the route that isn’t selected to serve people in all the</td>
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<td>neighborhoods along the two proposed routes</td>
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<td>• LRT needs to connect to other transit routes</td>
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<thead>
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<th>Area 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Park-and-rides should be walkable</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Need to plan connections to nearby parks and trails (Rush Creek Trail</td>
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<td>and Shingle Creek Trail)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crystal</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Concern about traffic impacts on County Road 81</td>
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<table>
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<th>Robbinsdale</th>
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<td>• Station near Downtown Robbinsdale would serve many of the businesses</td>
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<td>• Concern about access to neighborhoods and business during construction</td>
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<td>• Mixed feedback about park and ride location</td>
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Lowry - Opportunities

- Stations east of I-94 provides access to the underdeveloped areas along the river
- Allows extension north along I-94 into NE
- Opportunity to bring more residents and businesses to the area
- Connects to existing and planned BRT routes
- Serves zero vehicle households
- Provides access to North Loop, Upper Harbor Terminal development, attractions in NE

Lowry - Concerns

- Location between I-94 and river is mostly industrial, little residential
  - People who use LRT would need to cross I-94 to access it
- Would result in many pedestrian crossings being cut off between neighborhood streets
- Lowry only serves commuters (people passing through North Minneapolis)

Common Themes of Goal 1: Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations.
**West Broadway - Opportunities**

- West Broadway is a vibrant cultural/economic corridor with many destinations and services
- Brings more customers to local businesses and help to revitalize West Broadway
- Connects to existing and planned BRT routes

**West Broadway - Concerns**

- Concern about traffic on West Broadway; need for a more pedestrian friendly environment
Common Themes of Goal 2: Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor.

Overall
• Mixed feedback about elevated track options

Crystal
• Need for LRT to work well with traffic
• Desire for a fast route into downtown

Robbinsdale
• Concern about LRT splitting Robbinsdale, impacts on businesses, traffic congestion, emergency response
• Supportive of LRT in Robbinsdale – BRT/bus are too slow due to traffic, LRT is easier, more frequent
Lowry - Opportunities

• Ability to improve transit efficient / traffic in the area for buses
• Lowry route would cause less congestion going in/out of the downtown area

Lowry - Concerns

• Traffic impacts – 10\textsuperscript{th} Ave already has heavy traffic
• Narrow right-of-way at 10\textsuperscript{th} Ave and Washington, limited parking in this area/need to maintain parking
• Sharp turn would be noisy and slow down travel times
• Worsening traffic

Common Themes of Goal 2: Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor.
Common Themes of Goal 2: Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor.

West Broadway - Opportunities

• More efficient/direct route
• Desire for design options that are not impeded by traffic

West Broadway - Concerns

• Concern about the congestion/traffic signals on West Broadway slowing the train down
Common Themes of Goal 3: Provide transit improvements that maximize transit benefits, while being cost competitive and economically viable.

Overall
- Received comments about BRT or LRT being a poor use of taxpayer money

Crystal & Robbinsdale
- Concern about money already spent on roadway improvements

Lowry/West Broadway
- Concern about compete roadway reconstruction
Common Themes of Goal 4: Support communities’ development goals.

Brooklyn Park
- Transit connections create opportunities for future TOD

Lowry - Opportunities
- Desire to build business nodes, and small businesses
- Desire to see affordable housing developed using vacant lots businesses and affordable & market-rate housing

West Broadway - Opportunities
- West Broadway is an important commercial corridor – existing businesses would benefit from presence of light rail
- Opportunity for more mixed use residential and business development
- Ensure development benefits existing businesses, leverages current community initiatives, supports small, POC owned enterprises
Common Themes of Goal 5: Promote healthy communities and sound environmental practices including efforts to address climate change.

Overall

• Community input on station design and placement – stations should be unique and reflect neighborhoods they are in; budget money for station art
• Prioritize bike/ped traffic over vehicle traffic to/from stations
• Consider EV charging near stations
• Need to ensure safety of all riders and community
Common Themes of Goal 5: Promote healthy communities and sound environmental practices including efforts to address climate change.

**Brooklyn Park**
- Need for a safe bike/walking route to near by trails/destinations

**Crystal**
- Concern about high traffic volumes at Bass Lake Road Station; stressful to cross with high vehicle speeds; consider above/below grade transit stations and crossings

**Robbinsdale**
- Desire for a pedestrian bridge over County Road 81
- Concern about noise coming from station near North Memorial
Common Themes of Goal 5: Promote healthy communities and sound environmental practices including efforts to address climate change.

Lowry - Opportunities
- Stations would feel safe to walk to
- Hope that residents would use transit instead and reduce VMT

Lowry - Concerns
- Concern about walkability to station on Washington

West Broadway - Opportunities
- Opportunity to create a better pedestrian environment along West Broadway
- Enables residents to get rid of car, saving money and prevent emissions
- Adding LRT provides opportunity to calm traffic on West Broadway

West Broadway - Concerns
- Concern that adding LRT to West Broadway will worsen pedestrian safety
Common Themes of Goal 6: Advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional racial disparities.

Overall
• North Minneapolis deserves both routes; reparation for disinvestment over many decades
• Concern that selecting a route will lead to displacement

West Broadway - Concerns
• Concern about business impacts during construction
• Concern about parking

West Broadway - Opportunities
• Investment opportunities

Lowry - Opportunities
• Has wider right-of-way and more vacant adjacent properties already publicly owned
City Feedback on Report

• **Brooklyn Park**
  - Supports the route change from rail corridor to County Road 81
  - Pedestrian crossings need to be evaluated at 63rd St Station and ensure that development opportunities are retained in the 73rd Ave flyover area

• **Crystal**
  - Additions to report to include details about vehicular mobility impacts from reducing County Road 81 from 6 to 4 lanes
  - Requesting opportunity for further input on a decision about at-grade or grade separation at Bass Lake Road
City Feedback on Report (continued)

• Robbinsdale
  ▪ Robbinsdale evaluated separately in the report
  ▪ A no-build option should be evaluated as part of the report

• Minneapolis
  ▪ Need for additional information to assist identifying a preferred route between West Broadway/Lyndale and Lowry/Washington Avenues

• Maple Grove
  ▪ Request to include design options to accommodate a future BLRT spur to Maple Grove
Consideration of Comments

• Two types of comments received:
  ▪ Consistent themes from what we previously heard
  ▪ Request to provide additional information for the analysis

• Comments received will be incorporated into the Route Modification Report
  ▪ 30-day comment period will follow release of Report to allow communities to comment on the recommendation
Anti-Displacement Working Group Update
BLUE LINE EXTENSION

Anti-Displacement Work Update

C TERRENCE ANDERSON
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH PROGRAMS
Timeline/Updates

- ADWG members set by around February 11
- First ADWG meeting (orientation) in late February
- Full Saturday Meetings
  - May (lessons from existing B/GLRT, including BLE planning)
  - September (housing and cultural displacement)
  - October (business displacement)
  - February (finalizing recommendations)
- Qualitative and quantitative research has begun
- Planning overall outreach and engagement on the project around full Saturday meeting timeline
Working alongside organizing in the community

1. Co-developing expanded research agenda with collaborative community partners to ensure research
2. Convening community and governmental stakeholders to process and participate in research and the work of the Anti-Displacement Work Group
3. Convening a process to develop recommendations for anti-displacement investment and policy
4. Working with Hennepin County, Metropolitan Council, City of Minneapolis, City of Brooklyn Park, City of Robbinsdale, and City of Crystal staff on an implementation plan
FORMATION OF ANTI-DISPLACEMENT WORK GROUP
ADWG/Interviews

- Interviewing about 50 candidate
- Representation from the full corridor
  - Diverse racially
  - Candidates from both from org and not from org
  - Light representation in Crystal
- Identifying philanthropic representatives
  - Phillips/MPLS Foundation
  - McKnight Foundation
  - Northside Funders Group
  - Headwaters
- Governments identifying their representatives and internal working groups
Research Plan

1. Review of best practices in anti-displacement policy, locally and nationally
2. A case study of the existing Green and Blue Lines and their effects on displacement of residents and businesses. What are the lessons from the existing Green and Blue Lines?
3. A thorough baseline study of the Blue Line Extension Corridor
4. Needs assessment for investment in the corridor
5. Development of policy recommendations based on findings in 1-4 above
6. Development of indicators of resident and business displacement along the Blue Line Extension corridor as a means of monitoring impact over time.
Next Meeting: April 14
Stay Connected!

• Project website: 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