Business Advisory Committee: February 1, 2022
Today’s Topics

• Draft Report Comment Overview

• Anti-Displacement Working Group Update
Approve December 2021 Meeting Summary
One New Co-Chair Selection
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

Open house in Minneapolis – January 12, 2022
Interactive Map Comments

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 transit dependent 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)

- More info needed 7%
- Efficient, well-connected transit 11%
- Serves community destinations and transit dependent populations 29%
- Other investments needed instead of/in addition to this project 14%
- Minimize impacts (to traffic, pedestrian movements, businesses, homeowners, environment) 17%
- General support or opposition 22%
- More info needed 7%
Overall

• Put BRT on the route that isn’t selected to serve people in all the neighborhoods along the two proposed routes
• LRT needs to connect to other transit routes

Area 1

• Park-and-rides should be walkable
• Need to plan connections to nearby parks and trails (Rush Creek Trail and Shingle Creek Trail)

Crystal

• Concern about traffic impacts on County Road 81

Robbinsdale

• Station near Downtown Robbinsdale would serve many of the businesses
• Concern about access to neighborhoods and business during construction
• Mixed feedback about park and ride location

Common Themes of Goal 1: Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations.
**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
Common Themes of Goal 2: Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor.

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 – 10th Ave already has heavy traffic
• Narrow right-of-way at 10th 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.

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
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

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

Common Themes of Goal 6: Advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional racial disparities.
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
Next Meeting: March*
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

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