Today’s Topics

• Timeline
• Route Options
• Discussion
2021 Timeline
Project Goals

• Select & adopt a community supported alignment by the end of 2021
  ▪ Evaluate route options for benefits and impacts
  ▪ Advance conceptual engineering
Approach & Timeline

December 2020 – March 2021
- BLRT Project Principles
- Develop Initial Route Modifications

We are Here
- Evaluation Based on Initial Screening Criteria and Community Feedback

Late Spring – Summer 2021
- Refine Route Modifications

Evaluate Based on Project Goals, Objectives, and Evaluation Criteria

Winter 2021
- Route Modifications Recommended for Evaluation in EIS

TIER 1: Qualitative Evaluation Grounded in Project Purpose and Need

TIER 2: Quantitative Evaluation
2021 Milestones

Tier 1: Initial Screening
- Routes options released for analysis and discussion

Tier 2: Route Evaluation
- Draft report with routes evaluated against project criteria with additional engineering work, and preliminary station locations released for comments
- Final draft report with recommended route released for comments

Recommended route
- Route advances for further engineering and environmental work in 2022
2021 Activities and Beyond

• End of 2021: Adopt a community supported route
  ▪ Conceptual engineering for new route options, including station locations
  ▪ Evaluation of project benefits and impacts
  ▪ Identify a community supported route
  ▪ Identify environmental path moving forward

• Beyond 2021
  ▪ Begin environmental analysis
  ▪ Municipal Consent
  ▪ Develop construction ready engineering plans & design details
Initial Route Identification
Area 1 Considerations

• The current alignment & stations along West Broadway in Brooklyn Park can be preserved
  ▪ Route is not impacted by the freight rail corridor
  ▪ Modifications to the route and stations is not needed to connect to the remainder of the project

• Consistent with the Project Principles:
  ▪ Retain as much of the previous alignment as possible
  ▪ Maintain existing termini: Target Field Station in Minneapolis and Oak Grove Station in Brooklyn Park

• Serves major destinations in Brooklyn Park: North Hennepin Community College, multiple commercial areas, Target Campus
Area 2 Considerations

• Consistent with Project Principle: Maintain existing alignment as much as possible
  ▪ Multiple station area elements could be preserved

• Need to avoid geographic features such as Crystal Lake, Twin Lakes, and the Crystal Airport

• Serves major destinations including Crystal's business district, downtown Robbinsdale, North Memorial Campus
  ▪ North Memorial Campus identified as most missed destination from former alignment
Area 2
Area 3 Considerations

- Review of options consistent with Project Principles:
  - Minimize residential, commercial and environmental impacts
  - Complement existing and planned METRO transitways
  - When appropriate, pursue opportunities to serve even more people and destinations, especially areas with lower rates of car ownership/vehicular access and those with mobility challenges
Area 3 Considerations: Public Right of Way

- To fit the LRT guideway, sidewalks, and two travel lanes about 75 feet of right of way is needed.

- When additional right of way is available other elements can be included: boulevards, bikeways or street parking.
Area 3 Considerations: Compatible Land Use

• Light rail is better suited to higher density residential and commercial areas

• Best to place routes where the LRT investment can also leverage related community benefits
Area 3 Connections
Route Options: Not Recommended

- Penn & Emerson/Fremont were not recommended as they did not meet the multiple Project Principles:
  - Complement existing and planned METRO transitways
  - Minimize residential, commercial and environmental impacts
- Both roadways have narrow Right of Way
- METRO C & D Lines are a valuable part of transit network
Route Options: Not Recommended

- Lyndale between West Broadway & Lowry
  - Narrower right of way
  - Significant residential impacts
  - Houses are closer to the sidewalk/street
Route Options: Not Recommended

- Highway 55 to Highway 100
  - Does not serve as many riders and destinations
  - Longer route could result in increased travel time
  - Greater diversion from previous alignment
  - Very little initial support for this corridor
Feedback Sought

• Begin discussion on the new options to advance
  ▪ Validate if the options presented seem right
  ▪ Understand what options are resonating with residents and businesses
  ▪ Identify if anything is missing
  ▪ What opportunities or issues does the community see right away
  ▪ What other information is needed to support a route option
  ▪ Begin discussion about desired station locations along new portions of the route

• Evaluation goals, which will help refine objectives and evaluation criteria to help analyze the benefits and impacts between options
Communications & Engagement

• Ongoing communications & engagement effort through April 30, 2021:
  ▪ Radio and newspaper ads reaching diverse communities
  ▪ On-going social media efforts
  ▪ Videos
  ▪ Continued reach out to community & business stakeholders
  ▪ Community consultants’ kick-off efforts
Visit Project Website: BlueLineExt.org

- Tools to engage
- Information and maps
- Committee details
- Contact information
Multiple Methods to Share Feedback

• Leave comments on the interactive map
• Take a survey
• Provide general comments online or by emailing sophia.ginis@metrotransit.org
• We will come to you: invite us to an event or gathering
Upcoming Virtual Townhalls

• A staff presentation followed by time for the community to ask questions and provide comments

• Events will be recorded and available on the project website via YouTube

• Thursday, March 25: 6:00 – 7:30 PM
• Tuesday, March 30: 12:00 – 1:00 PM
• Tuesday, March 30: 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Committee Discussion
Next Steps: 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
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