



METRO Blue Line Extension Project Decision Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	February 19, 2025 9:00 am-10:30 am
Location	Blue Line Extension Project Office, North Conference Room, 6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 600, St Louis Park, MN 55426
Members	Charlie Zelle, Jeff Lunde, Reva Chamblis, Marion Greene, Lisa Cerney, Robin Hennessy, Peter Hanf
Project Staff	Nick Thompson, Shahin Khazrajafari, Dan Soler, Nkongo Cigolo, Kelcie Young, Jer Yang

Action Required

1. Call To Order

Charlie Zelle, Chair of the Metropolitan Council called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Decision Board (PDB) Meeting to order at 9:04 am, and welcome members to the meeting.

2. Minutes from January 15, 2025 Meeting

Chair Zelle asked for a motion to approve of January 15, 2025 Meeting minutes. Reva Chamblis, Metropolitan Council Member moved to approve the minutes, and seconded by Jeff Lunde, Hennepin County Commissioner.

Approved

2/19/2025

The minutes were officially approved.

3. Lowry Avenue Station Update

a. Resolution 25-PDB-007 to modify the Lowry Avenue Station area concept

Shahin Khazrajafari, BLE Deputy Project Director, reported that during the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) publication and Municipal Consent phase, the Lowry Avenue station design generated significant community feedback and concerns. In response, the BLE Project Team collaborated with key stakeholders and corridor partners, including the City of Minneapolis, the City of Robbinsdale, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), and North Memorial Hospital, to develop eight additional design options for the Lowry Avenue Station.

Approved

2/19/2025



These options were presented to the community through two open houses, discussions with the MPRB Board, and the recent BLE Corridor Management Committee (CMC) meeting. During the engagement process, the BLE Team received the most favorable feedback for two options: the original Municipal Consent design (Option A) and Option H. Mr. Khazrajafari provided details on the design elements of these options and highlighted the benefits and impacts of Option H.

Mr. Khazrajafari further noted that Option H would increase the project cost estimate by an additional \$50 million and extend the station's construction timeline by one year. He also stated that among the two options, Option H is preferred by stakeholders, partners, and the community.

Nick Thompson, BLE Project Director, stated that the project team is requesting PDB members to approve the resolution to modify the Lowry station area concept to Option H, adding that if the resolution is passed today, the project team will be able to analyze Option H as the design concept in the SFEIS and keep the project's SFEIS development on schedule.

Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) Commissioner Marion Greene asked whether any stakeholders or community members had expressed concerns about the additional year of construction. In response, Kelcie Young, Environmental Manager, stated that no concerns regarding the impacts have been raised.

Commissioner Lunde express his support to pass the Resolution 2025-PDB-007, which was seconded by Council Member Chamblis.

The Resolution passed.

4. Next Meeting: March 19, 2025

5. Adjourn

Chair Zelle concluded the meeting and adjourned it at 9:44 am.

Meeting Materials Provided:

Meeting Agenda, February 19, 2025

PDB Presentation

January 15, 2025 PDB Minutes

Resolution 25-PDB-007 to modify the Lowry Avenue Station area concept



Respectfully submitted, Jer Yang, Blue Line Ext. Recording Secretary