



METRO Bronze Line BRT Project Update

TAB TAC's Planning Committee

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Welcome & Introductions

Craig Lamothe | Council's Project Manager



Today's Topics

- Project History
 - Original LPA and TPP
 - New LPA and CMC Actions
 - Revised LPA/TPP Amendment Process
- Project Overview
- Project Capital Funding and Delivery
- Public Outreach
- Next Steps

Project History

Craig Lamothe | Council's Project Manager

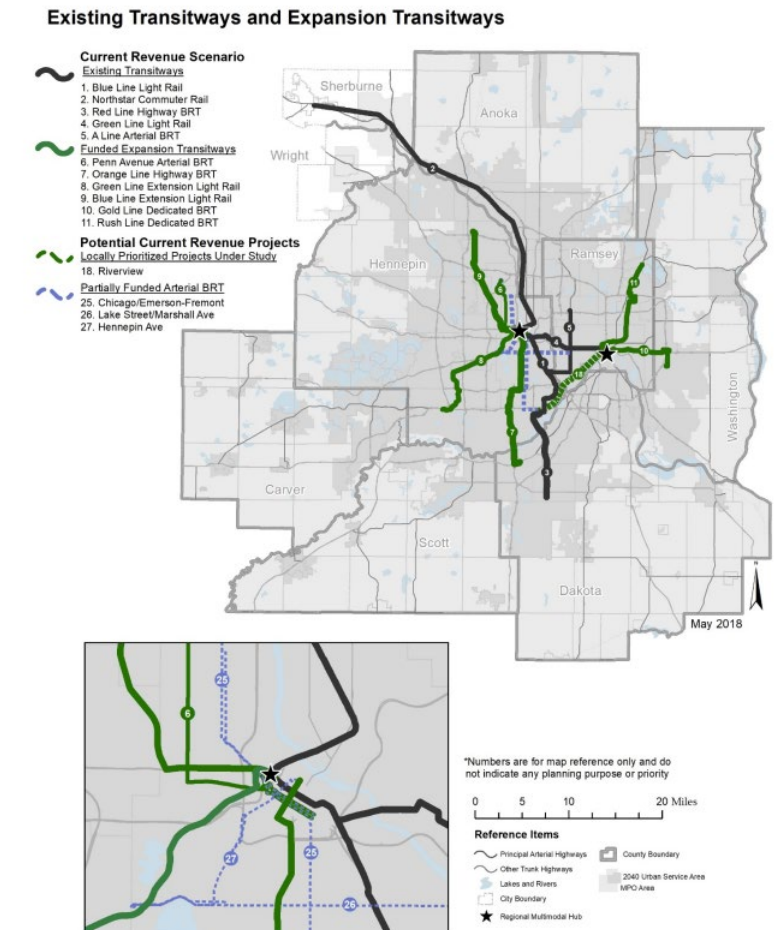


Original LPA and TPP

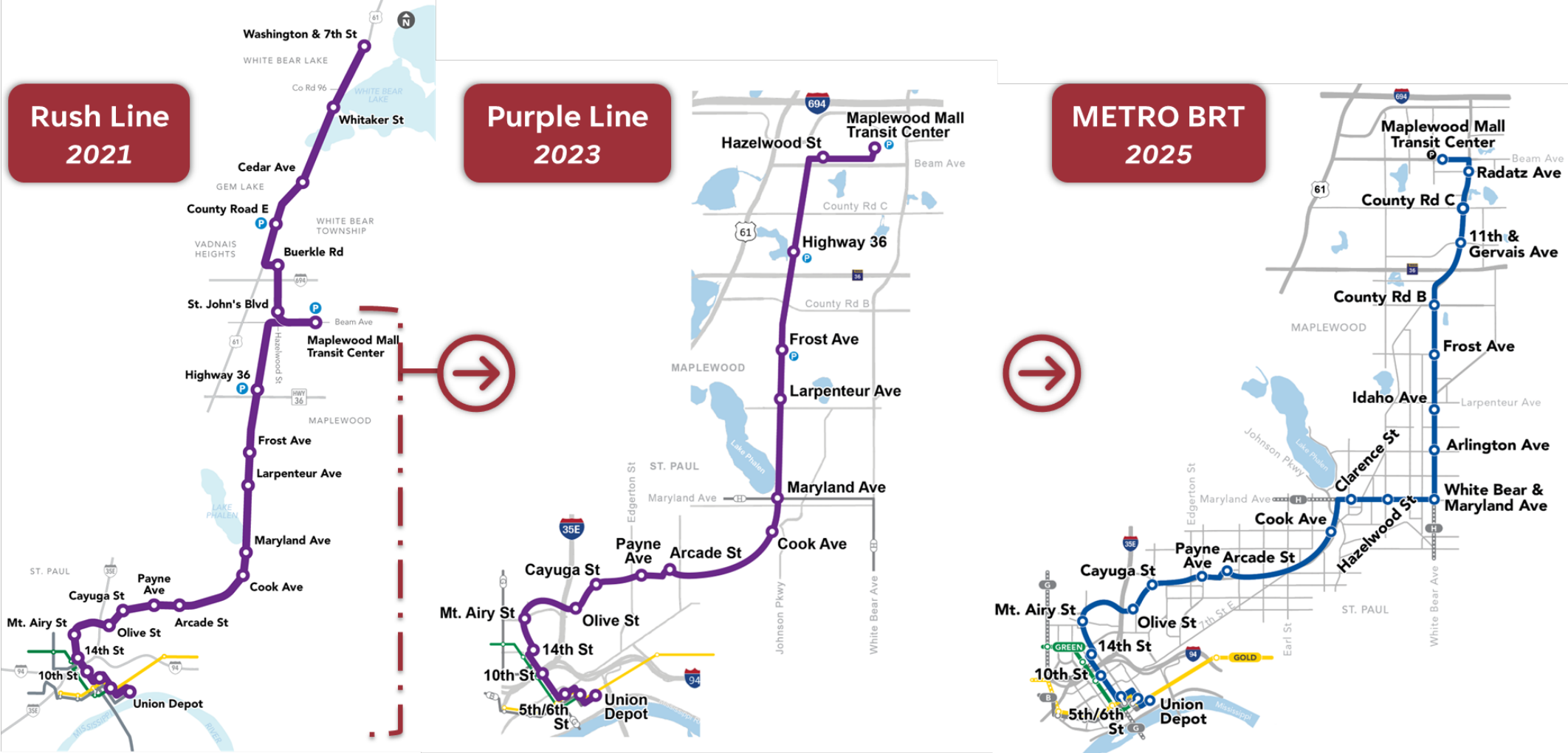
- May 2017: Rush Line Policy Advisory Committee recommended the Rush Line LPA, a 15-mile BRT route from Union Depot to downtown White Bear Lake.
- 2018 Update to the 2040 TPP added the Rush Line LPA to the Current Revenue Scenario with a \$480M capital budget and planned opening in 2026.

“Rush Line Dedicated BRT This project will connect Saint Paul, Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, and White Bear Lake. The project’s locally preferred alternative is dedicated BRT generally from Union Depot along Phalen Boulevard, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority property (adjacent to Bruce Vento Trail) to I-694, and Highway 61 terminating in downtown White Bear Lake. Work is ongoing on station-area planning, environmental review, and early engineering in preparation for eventual request into the FTA New Starts project development phase.”

Figure 6-8: Map of Existing Transitways and Current Revenue Scenario Expansion Transitways



Project History



12/11 Purple Line Corridor Management Committee (CMC)

Approved Actions

In support of implementing the stations, bus lanes, and bridges in the planned locations in Saint Paul and Maplewood, the CMC:

ACTION: Recommends METRO Bronze Line as the revised Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Project formerly known as Purple Line.

ACTION: Recommends the Cities of Saint Paul and Maplewood, and Ramsey County adopt Resolutions of Support for the recommended revised LPA.

ACTION: Recommends the Metropolitan Council amend the recommended revised LPA into the region's long-range transportation plan.

Amending the Revised LPA into Imagine 2050 TPP

- **Revised LPA Recommendation** by CMC in December 2025
- **Resolutions of Support** for Revised LPA Recommendation by cities of Saint Paul and Maplewood, and Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and Regional Railroad Authority by end of March 2026
- **Informational Presentations**
 - 1/22/26: Transit Planning Technical Working Group
 - 3/4/26: TAB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - 3/12/26: TAB TAC Planning Committee
 - 3/18/26: Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Project Overview

Liz Jones | Project's Public Involvement Manager

Stephen Smith | County's Project Manager



Engagement Efforts



Since 2022, outreach staff have reached over **6,000 residents**



6,050+
people were engaged during RMS I and RMS II



Project staff tabled at **68** community events (**21 for RMS I** and **47 RMS II**)



89 stakeholder/committee meetings were held for RMS I and RMS II



RMS I and RMS II had over **2,325** survey responses

Over **1,000 residents** were reached through door-knocking for RMS II



TYPES OF ENGAGEMENT



1 ON 1

- Door knocking
- Meetings with property owners
- Elected officials, City staff



NEIGHBORHOOD

- Elim Church
- Reallife Coop
- Iowa Hi-Rise
- National Night Out



COMMUNITY

- District Council meetings
- Community organizations (WBABA, ESABA)

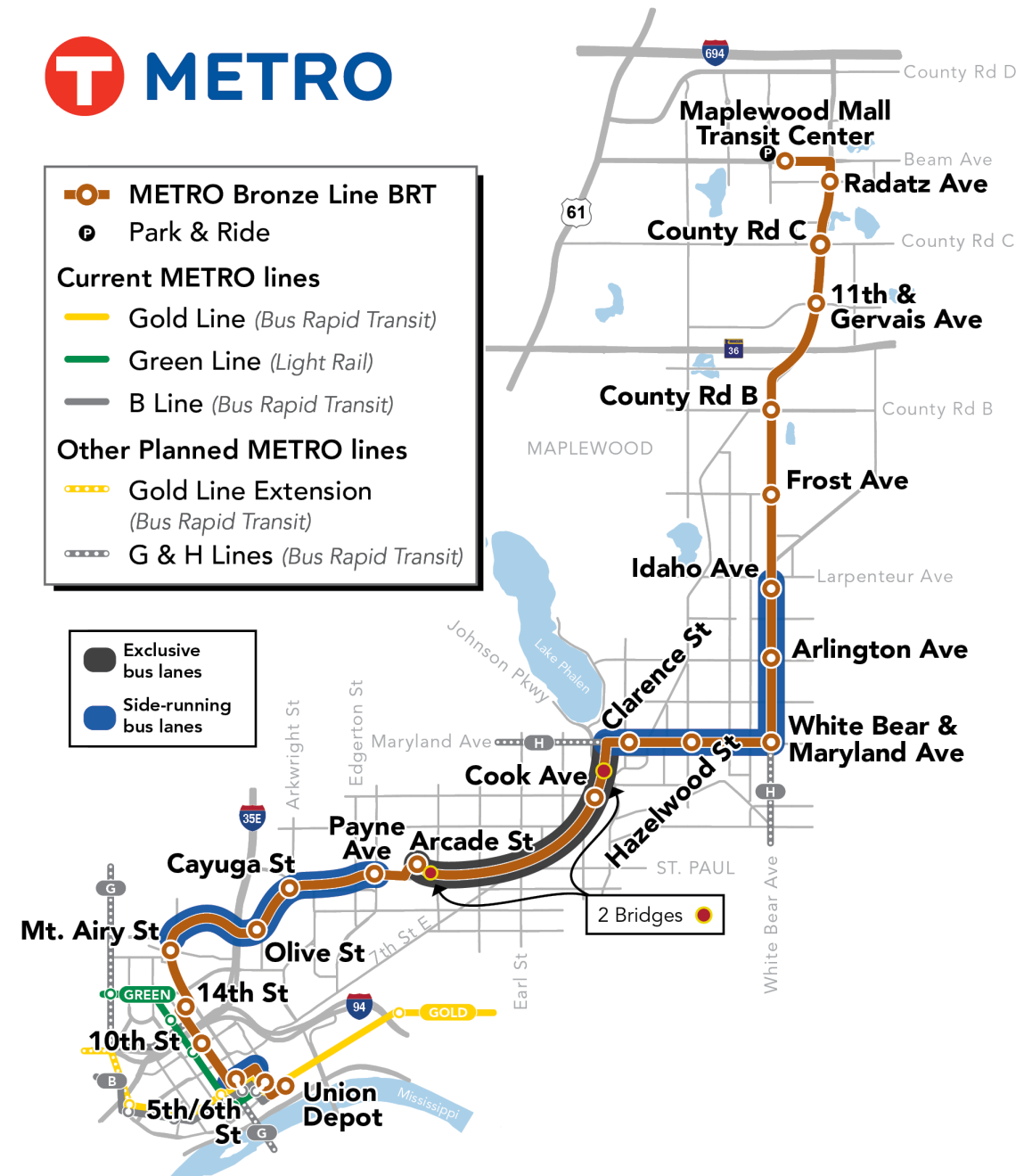


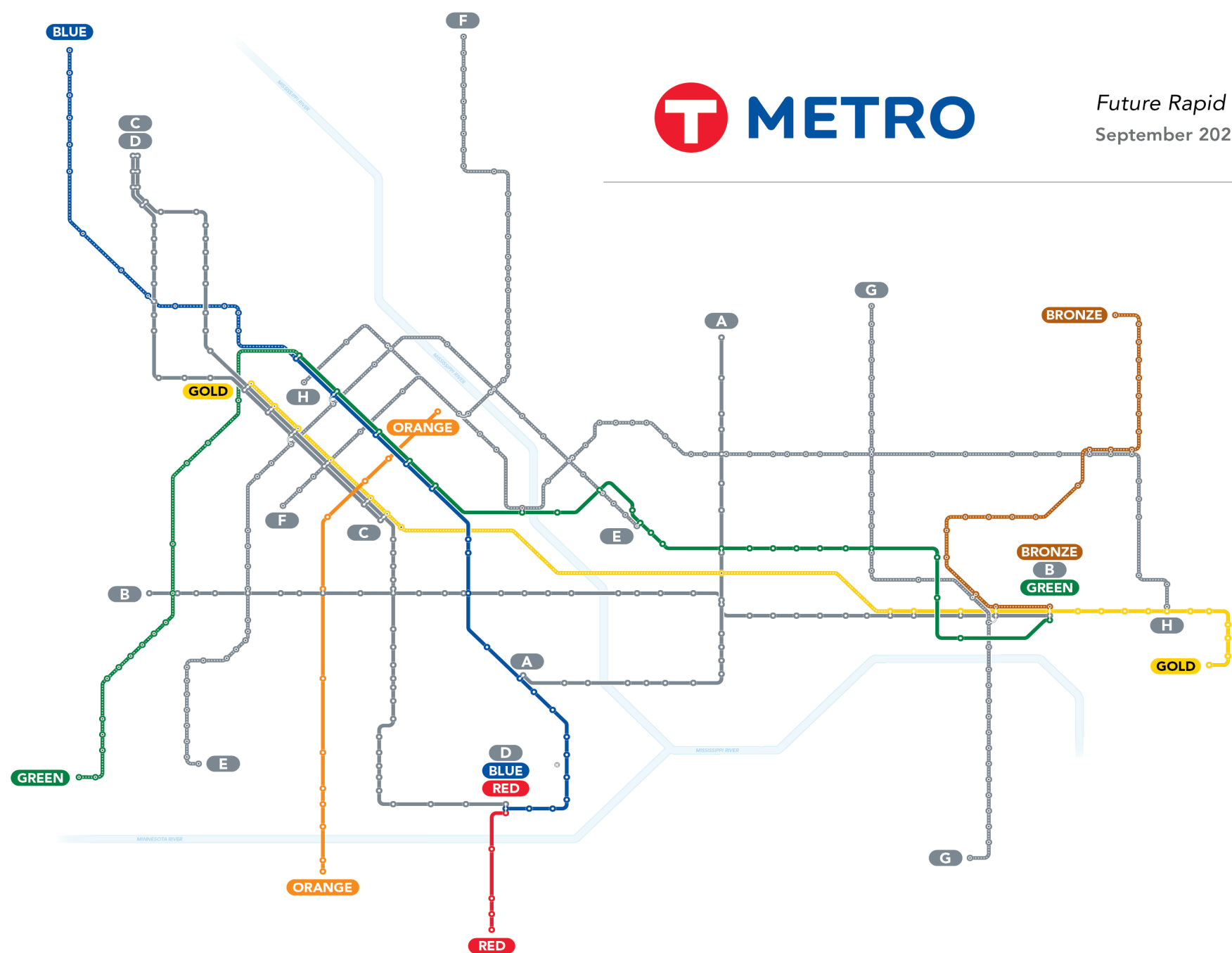
CORRIDOR LEVEL

- Open houses
- Online engagement
- Hello Lamp Post
- Community Business Advisory Committee

METRO Bronze Line!

- A reimagined and community-responsive version of the former Purple Line BRT project
- Will improve transit reliability and enhance safety along key corridors
- 10-mile route between St. Paul's Union Depot and the Maplewood Mall Transit Center
- 22 stations and feature 5 miles of bus lanes and two new bridges





Who is the Project serving



- 61% BIPOC



- 17% 0-car Households



- 20% Population in poverty



- 11% Population over 65



- 38% Population under 25



- 13% Population with a Disability



- 18% Population with Limited English Proficiency



12

Schools



5

Healthcare Facilities



2

Libraries

Features of a BRT Station



Saint Paul south of Maryland Ave:

- Union Depot Station to Cook Ave. Station: Preliminary Engineering Complete
 - Major design features such as platforms and bridges are set.
- Union Depot Station through 10th St. Station have been or will be completed by other BRT projects



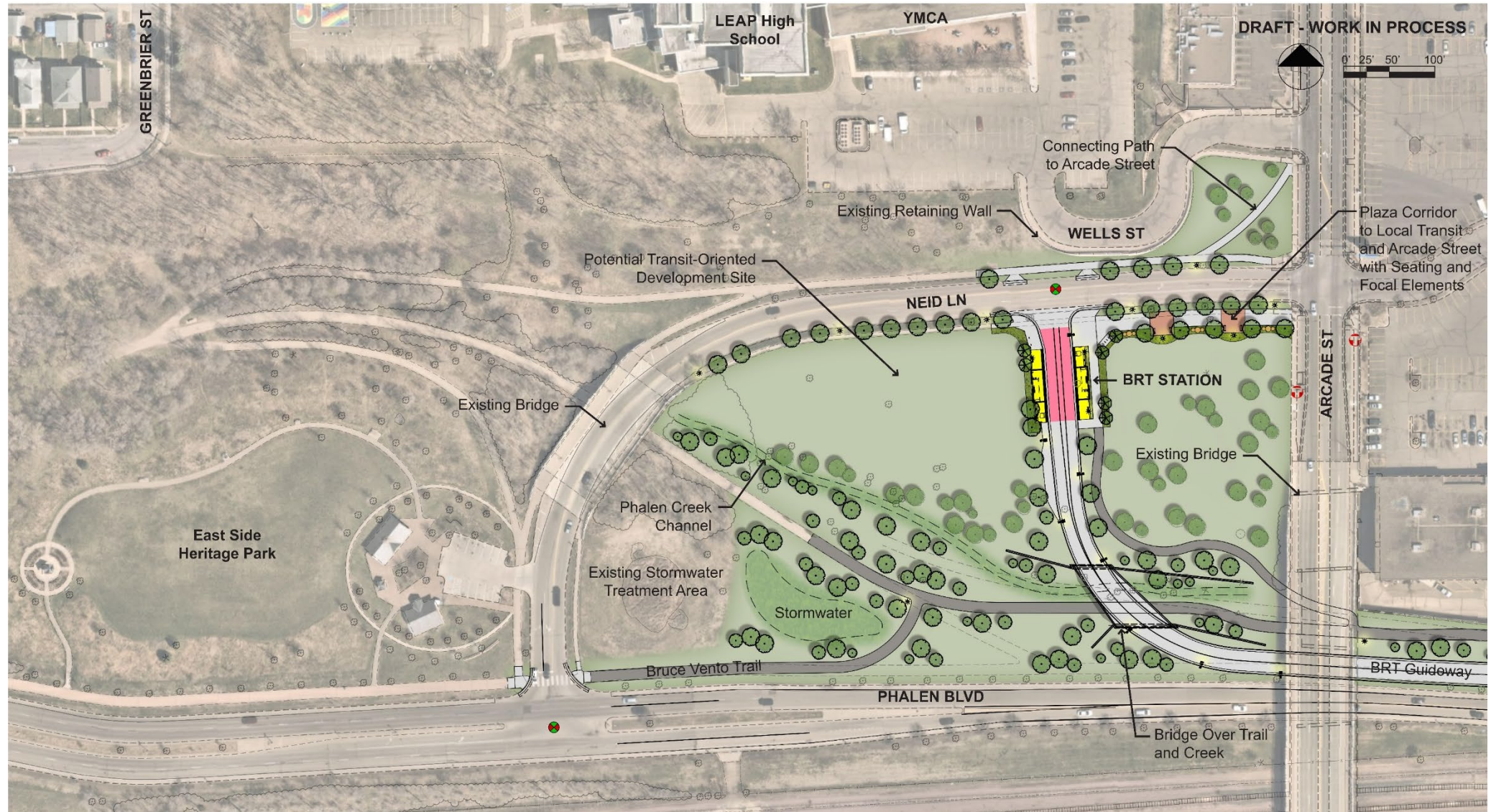
Pennsylvania Avenue

Project Area



- Currently under study by Ramsey County between I-35E and Rice Street.
- Part of the BRT alignment and will become part of the project to ensure design consistency and corridor operations.
- Includes multimodal improvements and dedicated transit lanes.
- Construction timing will align with corridor BRT delivery schedule.

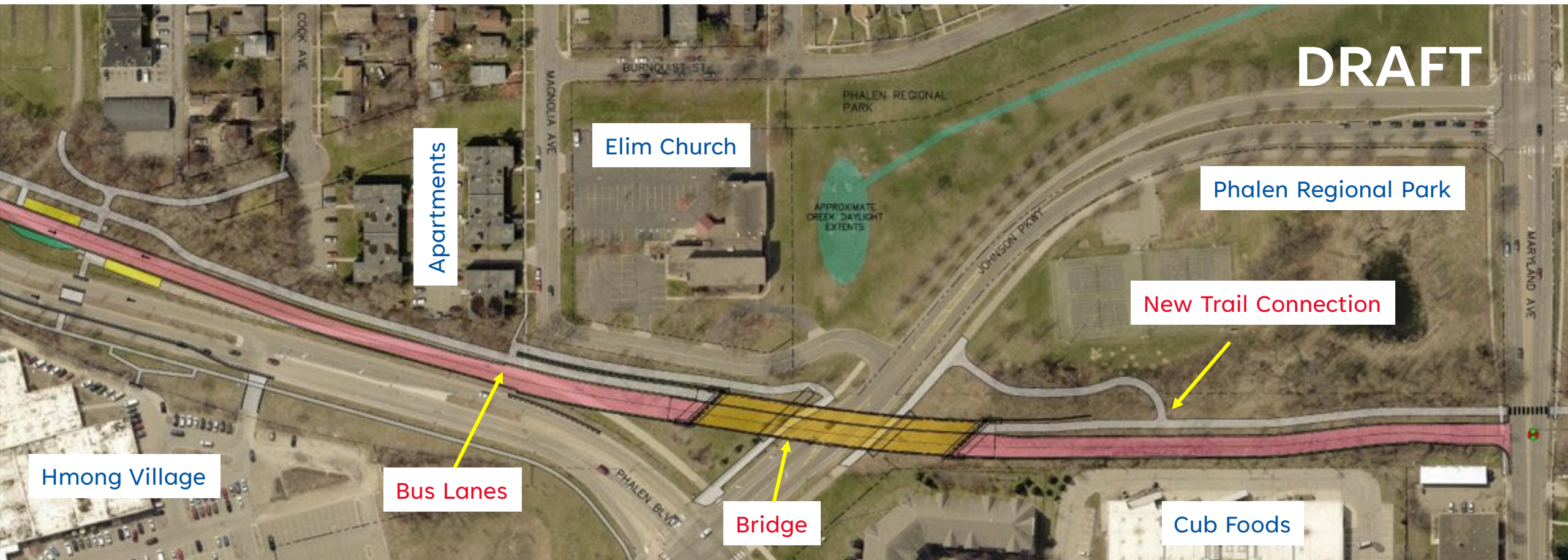
Arcade Station Location



Artist Rendering of the Arcade St Station Area



Johnson Parkway – Bridge Layout



DRAFT

Johnson Parkway Bridge (Artist Rendering 2019)



Saint Paul on Maryland and White Bear avenues:

- 5 BRT stations on Maryland and White Bear avenues
 - Clarence, Hazelwood, White Bear & Maryland, Arlington, Idaho
- Side-running bus lanes
 - General traffic to make right-turns onto local streets or into driveways
- Full roadway reconstruction

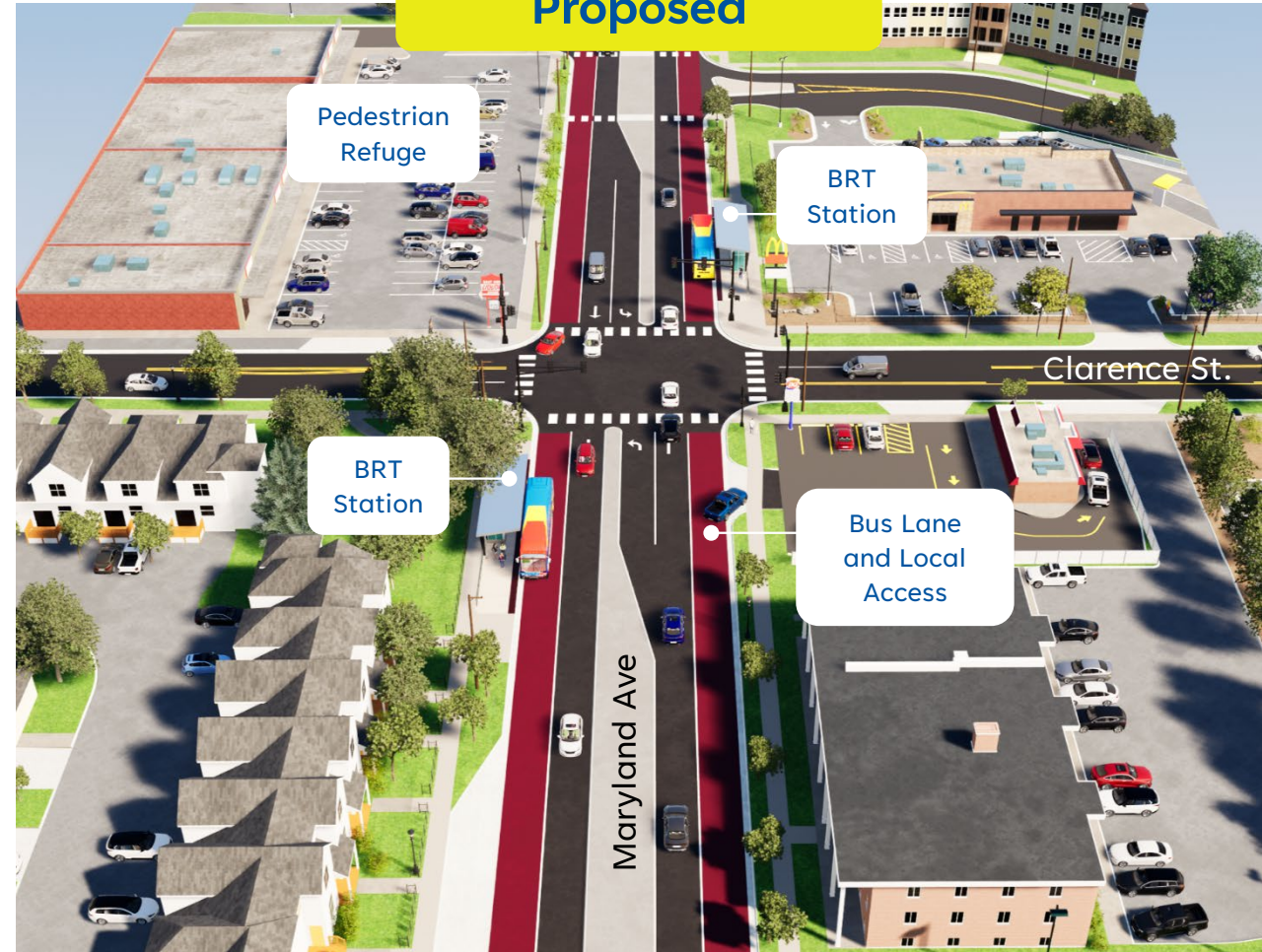


Bronze Line in Saint Paul (Maryland Ave)

Existing



Proposed

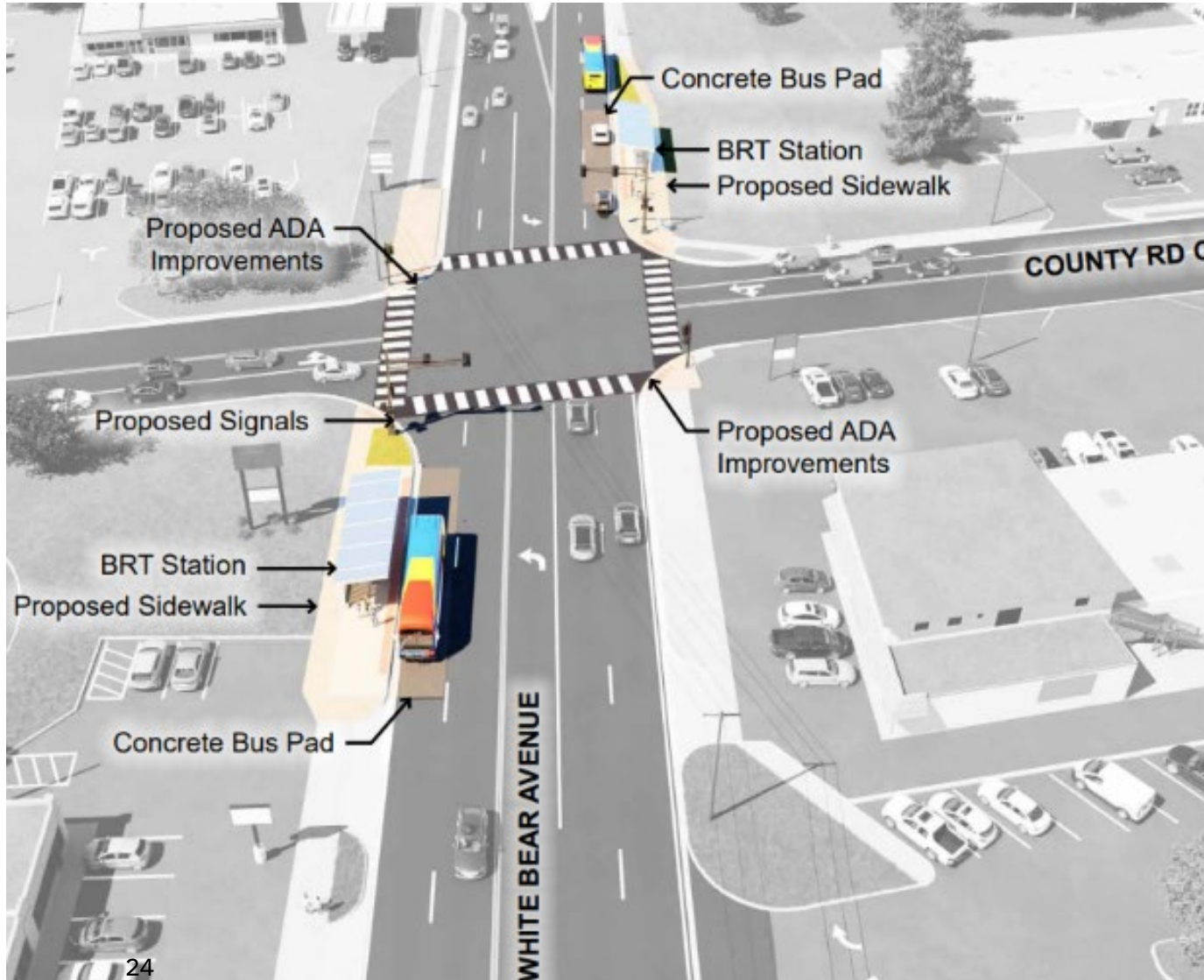


Maplewood – White Bear Ave north of Larpenteur Ave:

- 6 BRT stations
 - 5 new stations (Frost, County Rd B, 11th/Gervais, County Rd C, Radatz)
 - End-of-the-line station at the Maplewood Mall Transit Center
- Pavement Replacement
 - Frost to Beam avenues



Bronze Line in Maplewood



- Limited right-of-way acquisition to accommodate station platforms
- Behind the curb improvements limited to station intersection corners
- Pavement replacement but no full roadway reconstruction

North Terminus

- New end of line station
- Maplewood Mall Transit Center improvements
- Connection to a new [Metro micro](#) service zone
- Connection to new and improved Route 219 and 223 service (by end of 2027 through [Network Now](#)).



Project Capital Funding and Delivery

Craig Lamothe | Council's Project Manager

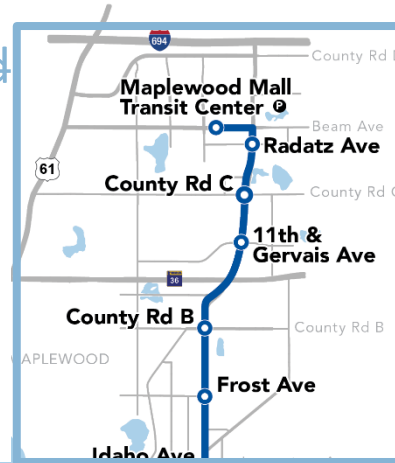
Stephen Smith | County's Project Manager



Project Capital Cost Estimate Funding Split

~~\$375 Million – 100% Local Funded~~

~~Met Council Funded~~



~~Ramsey County Funded~~

- **Ramsey County (\$340 million):**
 - All project costs in Saint Paul
 - Pavement replacement in Maplewood
 - Labor and expense costs for Ramsey County staff
 - Some labor and expense costs for select Met Council staff
 - Cost to complete state environmental review process
 - Bus propulsion type could reduce funding commitment
- **Met Council (\$35 million):**
 - All project costs in Maplewood except pavement replacement
 - Labor and expense costs for most Met Council staff
 - Bus propulsion type could increase funding commitment

Contracting Approach

- Multiple Contracts with Coordinated Work - Engineering & Design Phase
 - Council design contract:
 - All stations, intersection improvements in Maplewood, Maplewood Mall Transit Center and Union Depot improvements, two new bridges, and exclusive bus lanes.
 - County design contract:
 - County road reconstruction (Pennsylvania, Maryland, White Bear) and Phalen mill and overlay in Saint Paul; **Pavement replacement (White Bear) in Maplewood**
 - Strategic Communications, Public Outreach & Engagement, and Community Relations contract
 - Procured by County; Managed and daily work overseen by Council
- Single Construction Package
 - Council or County to issue a single construction package encompassing both design packages

Communication, Coordination, & Collaboration

- Previous project committee structure, through 2025



- Overall project committee structure, including committee charter and membership, is under evaluation.
 - Focus on distinguishing between effective communication/information sharing vs. meaningful engagement on issues needing input

Fall/Winter 2025 Public Outreach

Liz Jones | Project's Manager of Communications, Public Outreach
& Engagement and Community Relations



Key Messages

- Met Council, Ramsey County and the cities of Maplewood and Saint Paul announced the new METRO Bronze Line BRT project, a reimagined and community responsive version of the former Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.
- The Bronze Line Project reflects local input, improves transit reliability, and enhances safety along key corridors in Maplewood and Saint Paul.
- The Bronze Line Project has strong support from project partners, changing to best meet the needs of the community and deliver improved transit in the east metro area.
- The Bronze Line is a BRT line operating along a 10-mile route between Saint Paul's Union Depot and the Maplewood Mall Transit Center. The new route will serve 22 stations and feature 5 miles of bus lanes and two new bridges for fast, reliable service.

METRO
 Bronze Line

METRO Bronze Line Project
 December 2025

Project Overview

The METRO Bronze Line is a planned bus rapid transit line that will provide faster and more reliable transit service to the cities of Saint Paul and Maplewood and will connect with existing and future light rail and bus rapid transit services of the METRO system, including direct connections to the Green Line, Gold Line, B Line, G Line, and H Line, as well as local and express bus routes. The line will run from Union Depot in downtown Saint Paul to Maplewood Mall Transit Center, generally along Robert Street and Phalen Boulevard south of Maryland Avenue. The line will replace Route 54 along White Bear Avenue and a portion of Maryland Avenue with enhanced service and facilities. The line will increase accessibility to jobs, housing, and services, improving the overall competitiveness of the east metro area.

Project Schedule

The Corridor Management Committee (CMC) is anticipated to make a recommendation to advance the project during its Dec. 11 meeting. Afterward, the Metropolitan Council would seek resolutions of support from Ramsey County and the cities of Maplewood and Saint Paul.

The schedule for the project's design, construction, and opening is under development. More information about the project schedule will be shared once available. Construction is not anticipated before 2028.

2025				2026	
September	October	November	December	January	February
Public Outreach				Resolutions of Support	

English Factsheet
(front side)

METRO
 Bronze Line

MASHRUUCA KHADKA METRO BRONZE LINE
 DISEEMBAR 2025

Isku dubaridka la-hawlgalayaasha mashruuca ayaa keentay qeexidda soo socota:

Gudaha Maplewood, mashruuca waxaa ka mid ah:

- Hagaajinta boosajada dhamaadka wadada ee Maplewood Mall Transit Center
- Meelo kor ka dadadan oo uu rakaabku ku sugo oo istaareex ah oo leh tas-hillaad kala duwan oo ay ku jiraan iftiiminta iyo kor u qaadista bilicda
- Wax ka beddelada munaamta calaamada taraafikada gaadidka
- Hanashada chulka dariiga oo kooban si boos loo siyo aagaga boosajada
- Hagaajinta isgoysyada boosajada, sida:
 - Taagga dadka lugaynaya iyo calaamada
 - Beddelidda suurtagalka ah ee nalalka taraafiga ee gaabooy
- Basaska waxay adeegsan doonaan seedadka ujeedooyinka guud ee waqooyiga Larperneur Avenue

Gudaha Saint Paul, mashruuca waxaa ka mid ah:

- Nakhshadda mashruuca waxaa ka mid ah BRT cusub iyo dhabbo buundo oo waxyaabo badan loo isticmaalo oo la dul saaro Johnson Parkway (inta u dhaxaysa Cook Station iyo Maryland Avenue)
- Meelo kor ka dadadan oo uu rakaabku ku sugo oo istaareex ah oo leh tas-hillaad kala duwan oo ay ku jiraan iftiiminta iyo kor u qaadista bilicda
- Basaska waxay mari doonaan seedadka gashaah ah ee wadooyinka Maryland iyo White Bear ee koonfurta Larperneur Avenue tasoos u oggolaanaysa gaadidka guud inay midig ugu leedaan wadooyinka ama dariigayada maxalliga ah
- Nonumamada kale ee Saint Paul waxaa ka mid ah:
 - Seedad u gaar ah baabuurta bidu u leaanaysa iyo meelo u dheer iyo wadooyinka oo cusub
 - Taagga dadka lugaynaya iyo calaamada
- Wax ka beddelada munaamta calaamada taraafikada gaadidka
- Hanashada chulka dariiga si ay boos u siiso dib-u-dhiska wadada iyo goobaha boosajada

KU XIRNOW

Isqor si aad warbixinta imayl ugu hesho: metrotransit.org/bronze-line-project

Imayl noo soo dir: BronzeLine@metrotransit.org

Na soo wac: 651-402-1955

Na soo follow-garee: [MetroTransitMN](https://www.facebook.com/MetroTransitMN)

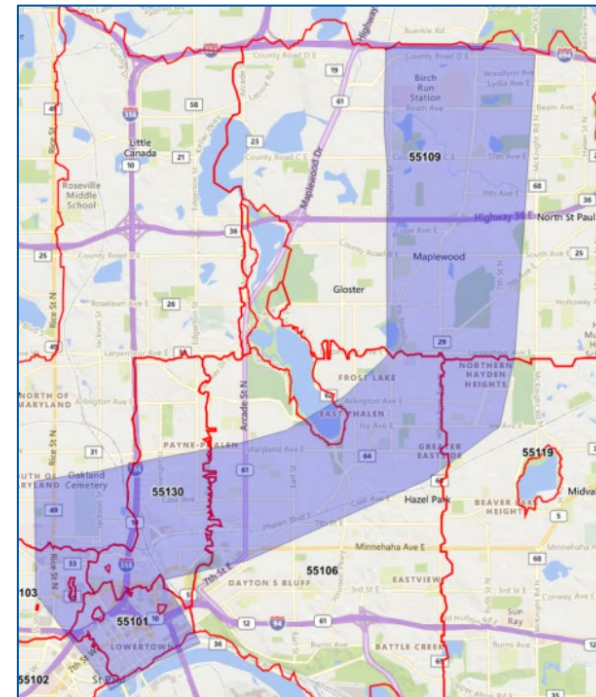
If you need this information in an alternative format or language, contact:

Si necesta esta información en un formato o idioma alternativo, póngase en contacto con:

Yoo koj xaw tau cov las no tahas las hmoob toosias xaw tau ib tus neeg pab tahas cov las no rau koj, tauj:

Haddi aad dooneysio in aad macluumaadkan ku hesho syaabo kale ama afaf kale, la xiriir: metrotransit.org/bronze-line-project

Somali Factsheet
(back side)



Postcard Mailer Radius

COMMENT CARD

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____ ☐ Check the box if you would like to be contacted

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

Please leave this card in the comment box. Your feedback will be shared with project staff and included in the project record. Comments and questions may also be directed to BronzeLine@metrotransit.org.

Comment Card

METRO
 Bronze Line

PROJECT UPDATE!
 The Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County and the cities of Maplewood and St. Paul announce the METRO Bronze Line bus rapid transit project.

metrotransit.org/bronze-line-project



UPCOMING

COMMUNITY MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Social Media

METRO
 Bronze Line

METRO Bronze Line

The Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County, and the cities of Maplewood and Saint Paul are excited to announce the METRO Bronze Line, a reimagined version of the former Purple Line bus rapid transit (BRT) project.

The Bronze Line will span about 10 miles, with 22 stations, five miles of bus lanes, and two new bridges. Stations will have near-level platforms, real-time arrival info, lighting, security cameras, and seasonal shelter amenities. BRT vehicles will allow all-door boarding with off-board fare collection. It will operate in mixed traffic in Maplewood and a mix of exclusive lanes and mixed traffic in Saint Paul.

To learn more about the project, share your feedback on an interactive map, and find meeting and pop-up event details:

metrotransit.org/bronze-line-project

STAY CONNECTED!

Attend a virtual community meeting on Dec. 10 to learn more about the trajectory of the METRO Bronze Line and how it will move forward in Saint Paul and Maplewood.

VIRTUAL MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 10 | Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Visit the website for the meeting link.

If you are interested in having Bronze Line staff come to your neighborhood groups, community organization, business, or event, please reach out.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES:

metrotransit.org/bronze-line-project

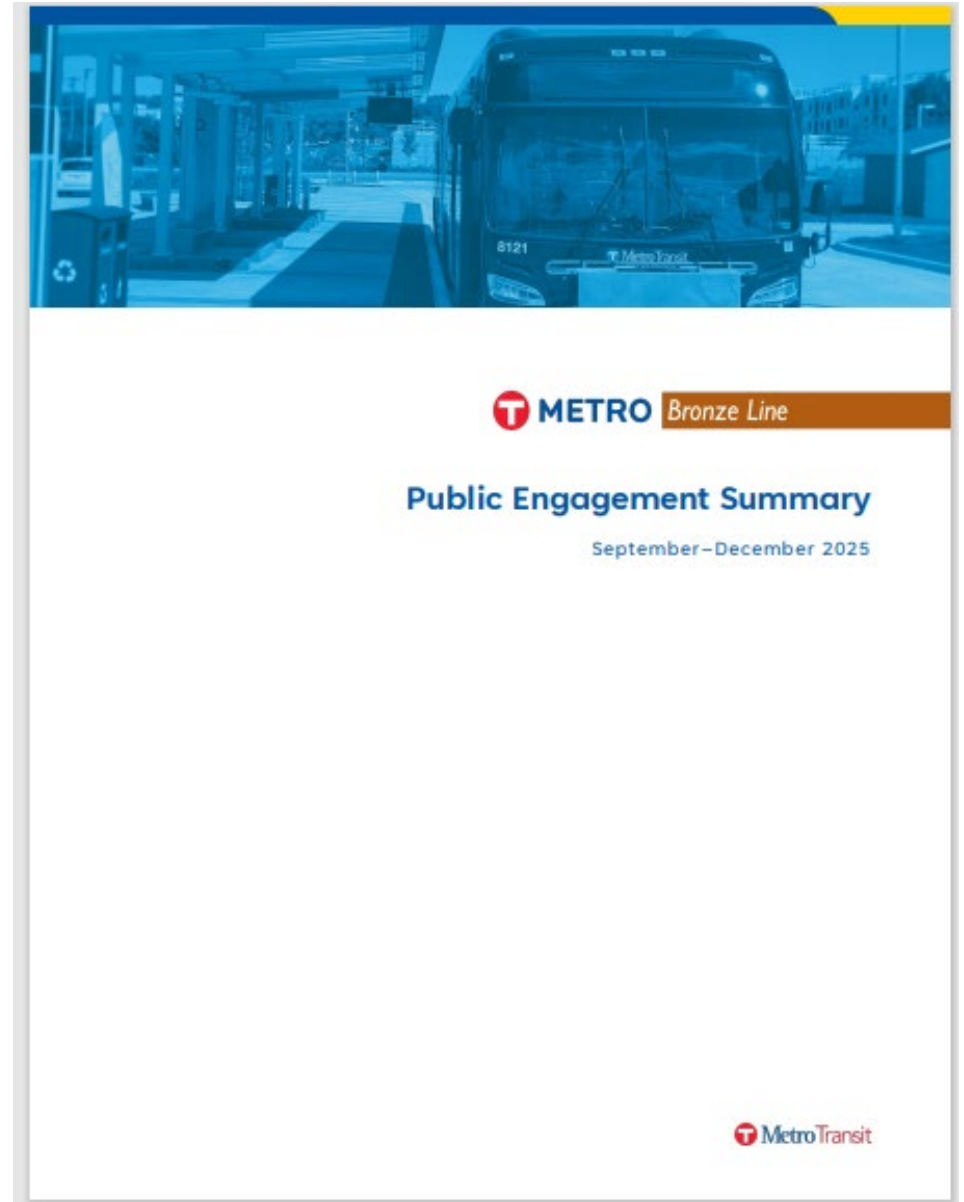
Email us: BronzeLine@metrotransit.org
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Postcard



Outreach Summary Report

Fall/Winter 2025 Engagement



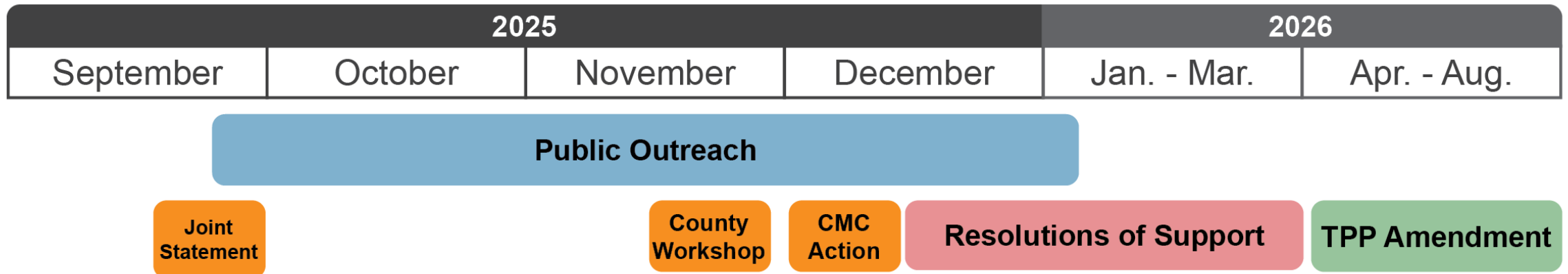
Next Steps

Craig Lamothe | Council's Project Manager



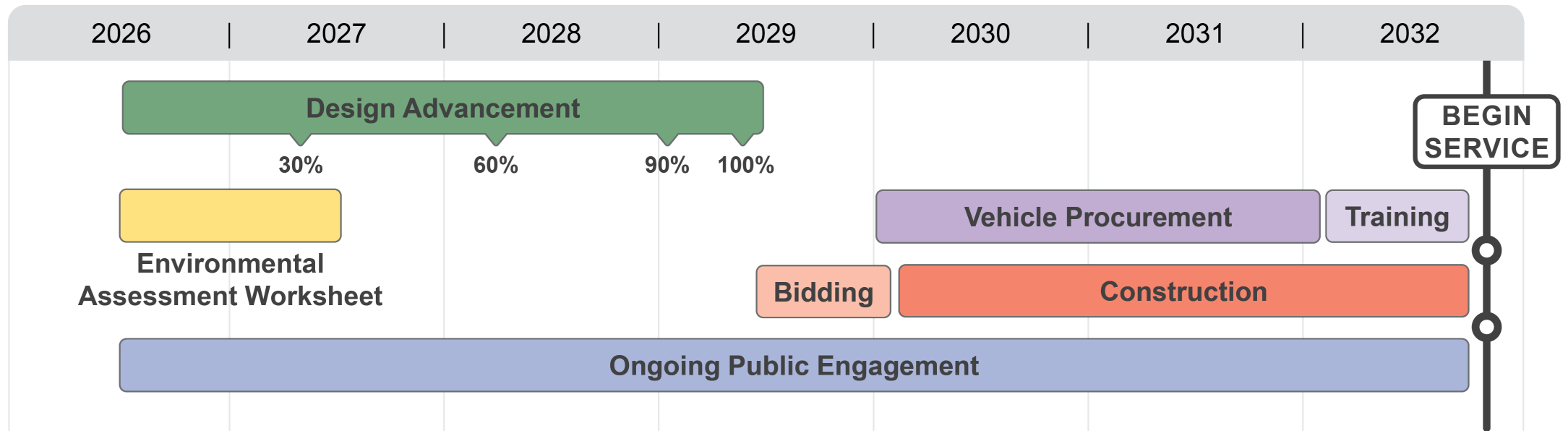
Near Term Look Ahead

- January – August 2026
 - Issue Requests for Proposals for consultant support during the engineering phase
 - Secure Resolutions of Support for the revised LPA
 - Execute a Funding Agreement with County



Longer Term Look Ahead

- New consultant teams onboard by mid-year 2026
- Decision on bus propulsion type in 2028



Contact Us:

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Stay connected

Visit *metrotransit.org/Bronze-Line-Project* to sign-up for email updates or connect with project staff.



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612-606-1955



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BronzeLine@metrotransit.org



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For project questions or to invite us to an event, contact:

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651-602-1955