



# BLUE LINE EXTENSION

## Corridor Handbook

Learn more: [bluelineext.org](https://bluelineext.org)





# ABOUT THE METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION

The METRO Blue Line Extension is proposed to operate on 13.4 miles of light rail track connecting downtown Minneapolis to the communities of North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park. The proposed project would provide transit improvements in the highly traveled northwest area of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and a one-seat ride from Brooklyn Park to MSP airport and Mall of America.

Connecting with the existing METRO Blue Line at Target Field Station, the Blue Line Extension and its 13 new stations will be part of an integrated system of transitways serving the region, including connections to METRO Green Line, bus rapid transit lines, existing bus service, and proposed future transitways.

## This route will:

- Complete the missing northern leg of our light rail network, which supports ridership on local and rapid bus routes throughout the region.
- Help businesses and families build wealth and stability to grow by linking people to new opportunities for employment, education, and healthcare.
- Power economic growth and community development. \$12.8 billion of development has been permitted near LRT stations in the Twin Cities.
- Connect working class communities with major jobs centers in downtown and the south metro.
- Generate tax revenue for corridor cities to fund education, infrastructure, and services. Land near light rail stations generates 27 times more tax revenue per acre.
- Connect our growing region and reduce congestion.
- Corridor residents will gain transit access to 23,000 more jobs with no more than one transfer.

Planning for the Blue Line Extension has spanned over a 10-year time period. Throughout these efforts, there has been a strong level of collaboration and partnership with agency and community partners at all levels. The Met Council and Hennepin County are working jointly to develop this project.



-  Station Area
-  BLE Route Recommendation
-  West Broadway Roadway Updates

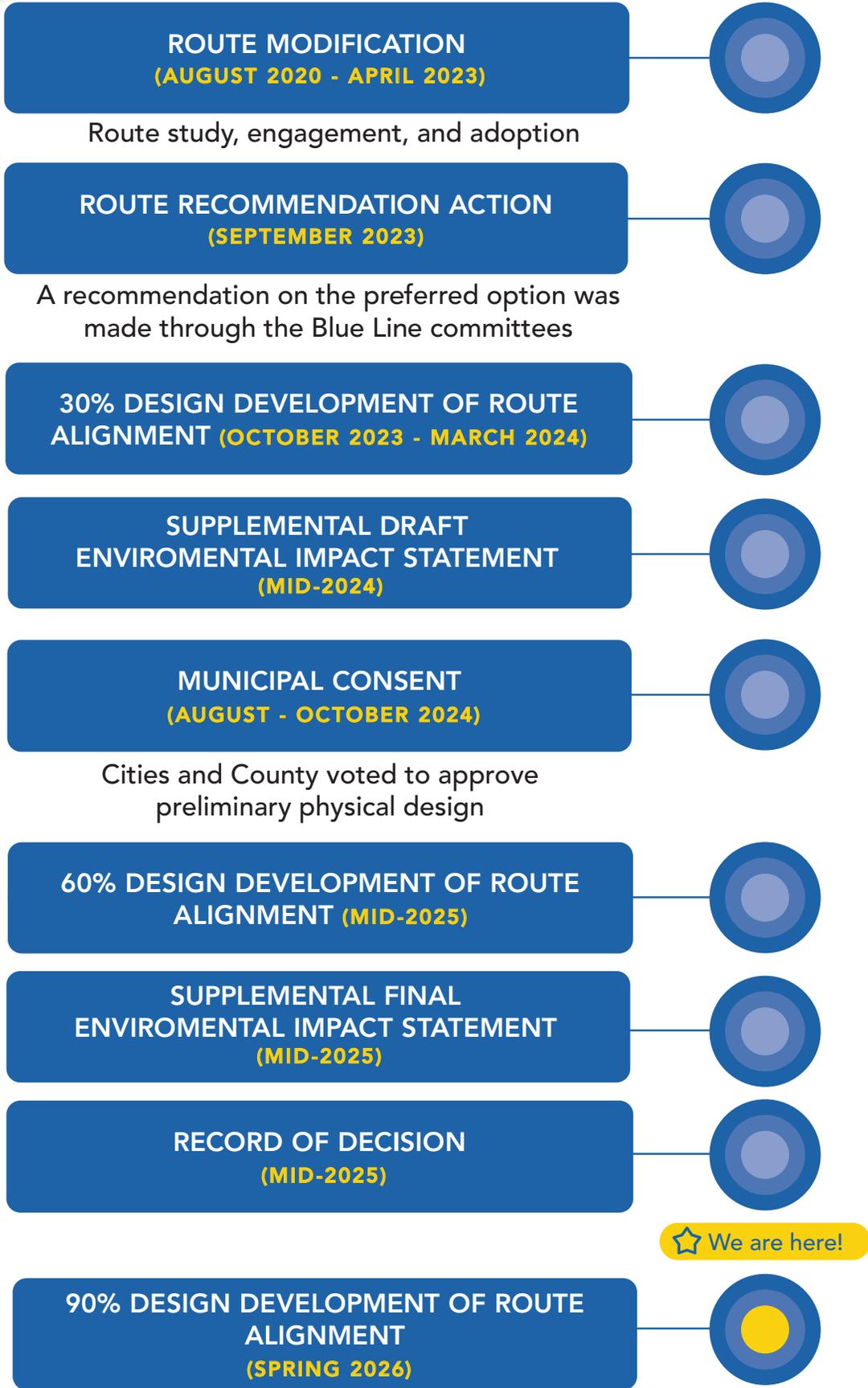


Explore the corridor interactive map






# PROJECT TIMELINE





The Coordinated Action Plan for Anti-Displacement will guide efforts to prevent displacement, maximize the benefits of future Blue Line Extension for current corridor residents, businesses.

## Preventing Displacement, Building Prosperity

Agency and community partners are working together to prevent displacement and maximize benefits of light rail for existing corridor residents and businesses.

The Coordinated Action Plan outlines existing programs as well as ideas for new strategies in several action areas, including:

- **Community engagement:** Hennepin County and partners will invest in community outreach and engagement before, during and after construction of the BLE project.
- **Relocation and property owner assistance:** The Metropolitan Council will work to minimize property (right-of-way acquisition) and will reimburse and assist property owners with relocation when necessary.
- **Business support:** Keeping existing small businesses in the corridor and supporting their success is critical and central to this plan. Proximity to the Blue Line Extension (BLE) can be beneficial for small businesses by connecting a workforce and customers to these establishments. Partners have existing resources and initiatives to support existing businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs.
- **Housing:** Partners have several existing programs and initiatives to support the development and preservation of affordable housing and to support the housing stability of existing residents.
- **Wealth building and financial stability:** Before, during, and after construction, the partners will work to ensure the local community has more robust opportunities to access workforce training and new pathways to meaningful employment and financial stability.
- **Community investment:** Partners will include community feedback in designing stations and developing plans for nearby development so that stations support the needs of existing communities and complement the surrounding environment.
- **Safety:** Ensuring that riders and those living around the stations both are safe and feel safe is critical to making sure that residents in the corridor use the light rail and experience the benefits of having it within their community.



To read the Coordinated Action Plan and to provide feedback please visit: [yourblueline.org](http://yourblueline.org)





# BROOKLYN PARK

## OPPORTUNITY GATEWAY

The Blue Line Extension will open new opportunities for education, employment, and business growth. Brooklyn Park offers regional employment and education destinations that are complemented by a thriving immigrant-owned business community. Opportunities for significant public investment will expand with the proposed BioTech District near Oak Grove Parkway Station.

### Destinations

- North Hennepin Community College
- Brooklyn Park Library
- Major employment centers like Target North Campus at Oak Grove

### Engagement Overview



### How community engagement has shaped the project in Brooklyn Park in Brooklyn Park

- ✓ Additional Station lighting
- ✓ Uniform fencing
- ✓ Trail connections to and from stations
- ✓ Traffic signal placement and access at County Road 103

### Community Voice

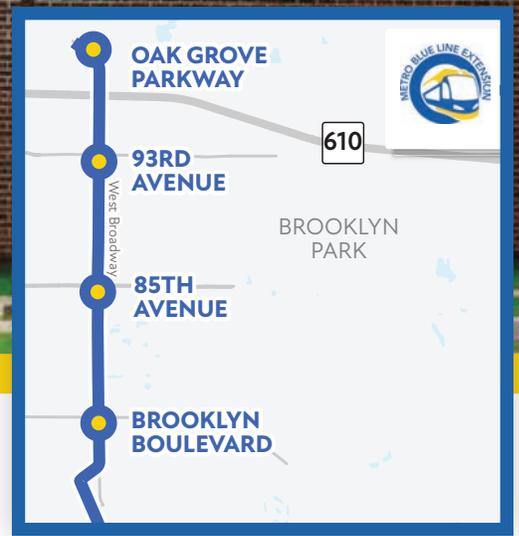


"The Northwest suburbs are home to a thriving network of immigrant business owners. The Blue Line Extension presents a rare opportunity to support these businesses, which in turn builds community wealth, creates local jobs, and contributes to the strength, resiliency, and health of Blue Line communities."

**Jackson George**

*Executive Director,*

Liberian Business Association Honorary Consul to the Republic of Liberia



## Oak Grove Station and Park-and-Ride



## Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- Roadway reconfiguration and enhancements at Oak Grove Parkway area
- Roadway improvements at 93rd Avenue North, 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Boulevard, West Broadway Avenue, and 73rd Avenue North
- Pedestrian and bike connectivity to Rush Creek and to Hennepin Community College
- Update Shingle Creek drain channel

## Anti-Displacement Outcomes



Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it thrives



Providing opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported



Improving the climate for businesses postconstruction, and prioritizing the development of spaces for small businesses



Supporting the development, preservation and access to safe and affordable housing choices



Ensuring that youth feel safe on and around the light rail and feel excited and proud to remain in their communities



# CRYSTAL

## REFASHIONING VIBRANT DESTINATIONS

Connecting to Crystal means more people can access, experience, and enjoy the recent public investments that are refashioning a new community-oriented town center district near the future Bass Lake Road station. A recent redesign of Bass Lake Road enhanced the streetscape for pedestrians and businesses, and the new Becker Park is a destination for neighbors and visitors to come together.

### Destinations

- Becker Park
- Crystal Airport
- Bass Lake Road business district

### Engagement Overview



### How community engagement has shaped the project in Crystal

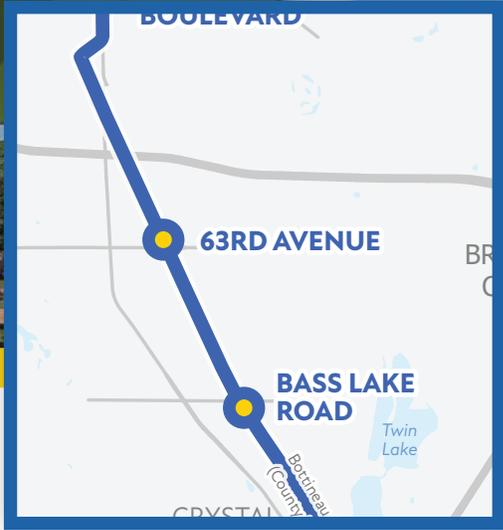
- ✓ Evaluated 4-, 5-, and 6-traffic-lane options with LRT from Bass Lake Road to Hwy. 100
- ✓ Adding a traffic overpass at Bass Lake Road
- ✓ Pedestrian safety improvements along and across Bottineau Boulevard
- ✓ Reconstruction of Bass Lake Road to support better pedestrian connection to Becker Park

### Community Voice



“As a business and property owner in Crystal, I’m very excited to have the light rail station so close to our spot. It will turn this into more of a shopping center district. It will change the face of the area substantially. I think you’re going to get an influx of people who like the convenience of light rail.”

**Steve Negaard**  
Owner of Nokomis Shoe Shop



## Bass Lake Road Interchange



## Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- Enhanced pedestrian crossings
- New grade separated interchange of County Road 81 over Bass Lake Road
- Roadway improvements at Bass Lake Road, including bike lane connections to the east
- Elmhurst/Bass Lake Road intersection improvements including new mid-block pedestrian crossing at Elmhurst.
- Connectivity to Crystal Lake Regional Trail to Becker Park (and proposed Bass Lake Road station)
- Refurbished drainage infrastructure near CPKC rail bridge

## Anti-Displacement Outcomes

-  Addressing indirect construction impacts
-  Improving the climate for businesses post construction, and prioritizing the development of spaces for small businesses
-  Supporting the development, preservation, and access of safe and affordable housing and housing choice

-  Improving infrastructure around the project
-  Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it thrives
-  Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies



# ROBBINSDALE

Robbinsdale offers a small-town feel with idyllic shopping districts, local restaurants, parks and trails. The Blue Line Extension connects many retail destinations throughout the corridor, including Robbinsdale's historic Main Street. Having North Memorial Medical Center on the line offers a new connection for its thousands of current and future employees and improved regional access to world-class health care.

## Destinations

- Robbinsdale Town Center
- Historic Main Street
- Robbinsdale City Hall
- North Memorial Medical Center
- Crystal Lake
- Grand Rounds
- Theodore Wirth/Victory Memorial Parkway

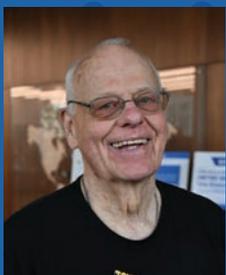
## Engagement Overview



## How community engagement has shaped the project in Robbinsdale

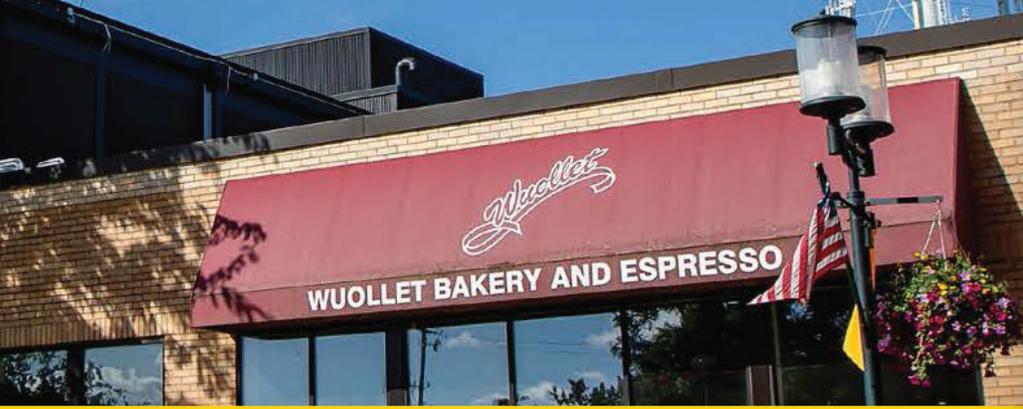
- ✓ Park-and-Ride location options
- ✓ Refined downtown station location
- ✓ Pedestrian connections to and from Lowry Avenue station, including to and from North Memorial Hospital

## Community Voice



“As we face the effects of climate change in our own backyards, I think about the future of our communities and the generations that will inherit them. I view the Blue Line Extension as a critical environmental and equity investment that will be a green and affordable transportation option for current and future Robbinsdale residents, especially those who can't afford or choose not to drive.”

**Ron Williams**  
*Robbinsdale resident*



## Downtown Robbinsdale Station



## Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- Roadway alignment improvements and pedestrian/ bicyclist connections at 42nd Avenue North and 40th Avenue North
- New trails on the north sides of 40th Avenue North and 42nd Avenue North
- Roadway improvements at various sections of Lakeland Avenue North
- New sidewalk on the south side of 42nd Avenue North
- Realigned Theodore Wirth Parkway
- Enhanced crossings across County Road 81 at 42nd Avenue North, 41st Avenue North, and 40th Avenue North
- Connectivity from Lowry station to North Memorial Hospital without roadway crossings
- Rerouting storm sewer near 41st Avenue North that currently conflicts with adjacent buildings
- Reconfigured intersection at County Road 81 and Lowry Ave to allow LRT to be at-grade without requiring gates for vehicles
- Reconstruction of large diameter water main near proposed Lowry Station

## Anti-Displacement Outcomes



Addressing indirect construction impacts



Improving the climate for businesses post construction, and prioritizing the development of spaces for small businesses



Supporting the development, preservation, and access of safe and affordable housing and housing choice



Improving infrastructure around the project



Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it thrives



Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies



# MINNEAPOLIS West Broadway

West Broadway is a main artery of North Minneapolis, home to iconic Northside institutions and beloved Black-owned businesses. Light rail presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in the places, people, and businesses that define the Northside. In response to community feedback, the light rail route will run down 21st Avenue between I-94 and James Avenue to avoid impacts on West Broadway. However, the project will still reconstruct and revitalize this section of West Broadway with community input, even though it won't carry the light rail.

## Destinations

- Capri Theatre
- Juxtaposition Arts
- North High School
- Lucy Laney Elementary School
- Jerry Gamble Boys & Girls Club
- Harold Mezile North Community YMCA
- Minneapolis Public Schools headquarters
- North Commons Water Park

## Engagement Overview



## How community engagement has shaped the project in Minneapolis

- ✓ LRT alignment on 21st Avenue
- ✓ Added West Broadway road improvements between James Avenue and Lyndale Avenue
- ✓ Added a second station between Lyndale and James Avenues
- ✓ Newly added station at Washington Avenue and West Broadway Avenue
- ✓ New connection across I-94 and 21st Avenue

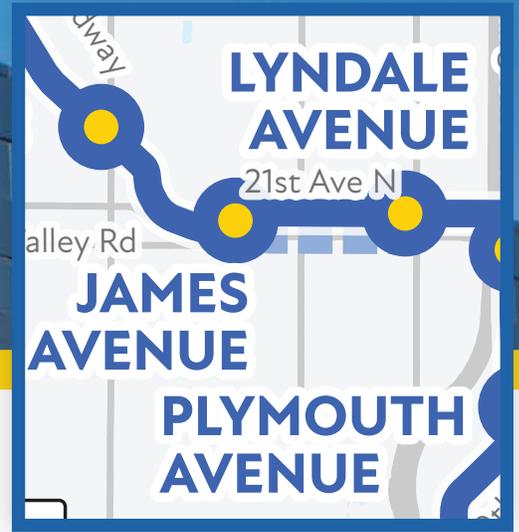
## Community Voice



"This project could be an opportunity to make real progress on community priorities. We want progress, but we don't want to be pushed out either. How are you going to make good on promises to use this investment to help our community build wealth in place, create opportunities for community ownership, and maximize benefits for the Northside."

**KB Brown**

Owner of Wolfpack Productions, 2038B, West Broadway Avenue



## Reconstructing West Broadway from James to Lyndale



## Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- West Broadway roadway reconstruction from James Avenue to Lyndale Avenue
- Improved pedestrian scale lighting, trees and landscaping along West Broadway
- Improved north/south roadway connections between 21st Avenue and West Broadway
- New connection of 21st Avenue over I-94
- 21st Avenue bikeway and James station connectivity
- New drainage system under I-94 parallel to 21st Avenue bridge

## Anti-Displacement Outcomes



Providing opportunities for community to connect to BLE and development in a joyful way



Creating opportunities for community ownership and being able to measure levels of community ownership



Empowering community to have control over decision making throughout the corridor



Providing opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported



Addressing reparations to the Harrison neighborhood from previous route alignment



Creating and enforcing structures of accountability for government agencies along the alignment



Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies



Ensuring that there is access to land, housing, and businesses in the corridor throughout all phases of construction



Ensuring that 50% of jobs from the Light Rail development are held by corridor residents



Ensuring that there is a continued role for ADWG members throughout all phases of the project



# MINNEAPOLIS North Loop

North Loop is a vibrant Minneapolis neighborhood known for its historic charm, trendy boutiques, art galleries, and thriving restaurant scene. The Blue Line connects people to the countless activities and amenities this area has to offer.

## Destinations

- Shops, restaurants, cafes, and bars
- Mississippi River and trails
- The Fillmore

## Engagement Overview



## How community engagement has shaped the project in Minneapolis

- ✓ Re-evaluated east of I-94 options
- ✓ Street parking
- ✓ Consideration of 10th Avenue transit mall
- ✓ Improved connectivity and traffic circulation

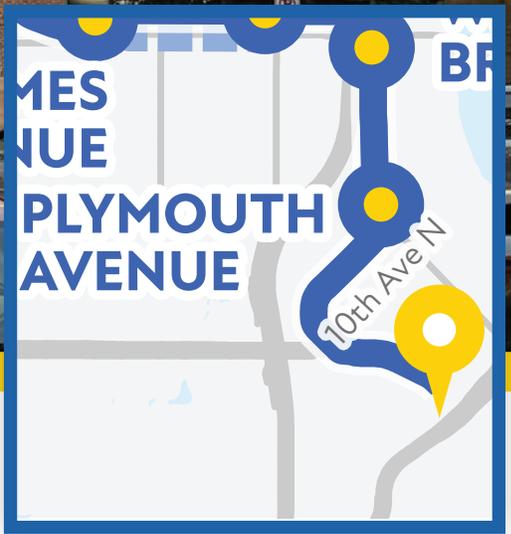
## Community Voice



"I believe the Blue Line Extension can have so much positive impact on our city. It will help bring people downtown to enjoy our businesses and venues. Minneapolis is a fabulous city and the light rail is a key component of that."

**Wendy Sullivan**

*Owner of Wenrich PD Construction*



## Plymouth Avenue Station



### Improvements Beyond Light Rail

- New access roads at 3rd Street North, 8th Street North, 9th Street North
- Coordinated bike improvements along 2nd Street
- New bikeway connection along 10th Avenue
- Utility upgrades along 10th Avenue

### Anti-Displacement Outcomes

 Providing opportunities for community to connect to BLE and development in a joyful way

 Creating opportunities for community ownership and being able to measure levels of community ownership

 Empowering community to have control over decision making throughout the corridor

 Providing opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported

 Addressing reparations to the Harrison neighborhood from previous route alignment

 Creating and enforcing structures of accountability for government agencies along the alignment

 Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development ad ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies

 Ensuring that there is access to land, housing, and businesses in the corridor throughout all phases of construction

 Ensuring that 50% of jobs from the Bottineau Light Rail development are held by corridor residents

 Ensuring that there is a continued role for ADWG members throughout all phases of the project



## Share Your Feedback

We want to hear your thoughts on the project and what you want to see from the transit system.

Visit [BlueLineExt.org](https://www.metrotransit.org/blue-line-extension) to:

- View the latest project updates
- Provide comments
- Connect with us to discuss questions or ideas
- Invite project staff to your event or gathering

## Stay Connected!

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

[BLEOutreach@metrotransit.org](mailto:BLEOutreach@metrotransit.org)



Visit [BlueLineExt.org](https://www.metrotransit.org/blue-line-extension) for more information, to sign-up for the project newsletter, and view upcoming events

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