



Franklin Station Renovation TAAC Update

Liz Morice & Kevin Murray January 7, 2026



Topics

- Introductions
- Project Update
- Engagement Update
- Up Next





Project Update

Project Priorities



Accessibility

- Provide reliable, safe, and consistent access throughout the station area.



Community Identity

- Create a welcoming platform area that celebrates the culture and history of the community surrounding the station and seeks to connect station users to the community.



Customer Experience & Safety

- Prioritize comfort, cleanliness, visibility, wayfinding, and personal safety to support a better station experience for all.



Mobility

- Improve bus, walking, and bike access in the station area and encourage safe interactions between these transportation options.



Neighborhood Connection

- Strengthen neighborhood connections and support community-led development in the station area.



Sustainability & Resilience

- Pursue sustainable and resilient design choices to support station maintenance and increase resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

Design Scope

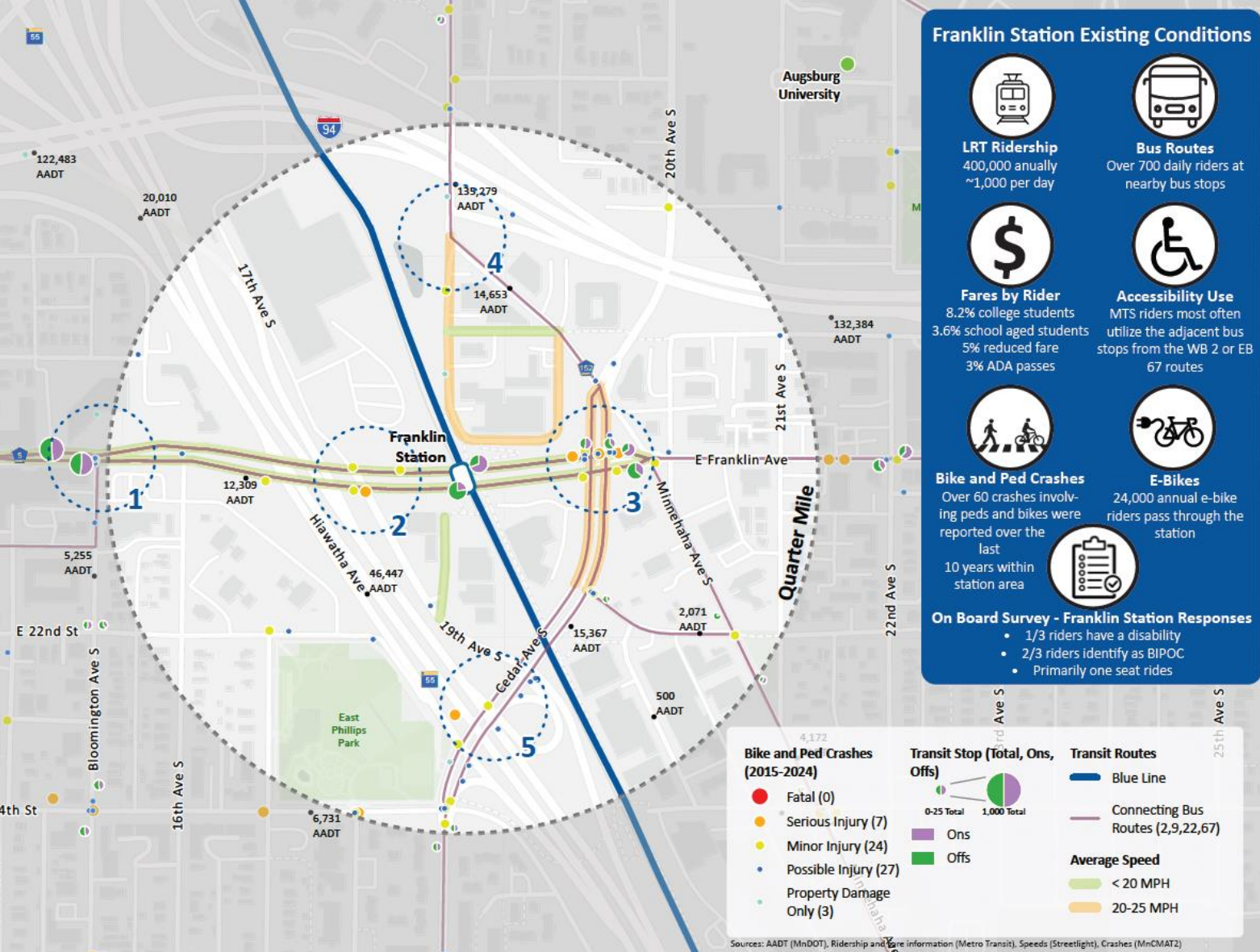
- Replace and rethink elevators
- Additional ramp or street crossing
- Platform canopy & components
- Wayfinding
- Warming area and additional cleaning facilities
- Siting police touchdown space and bathroom (designed and constructed separately)
- Bike/micromobility parking area
- Cultural elements and place-keeping



Concept Development Process

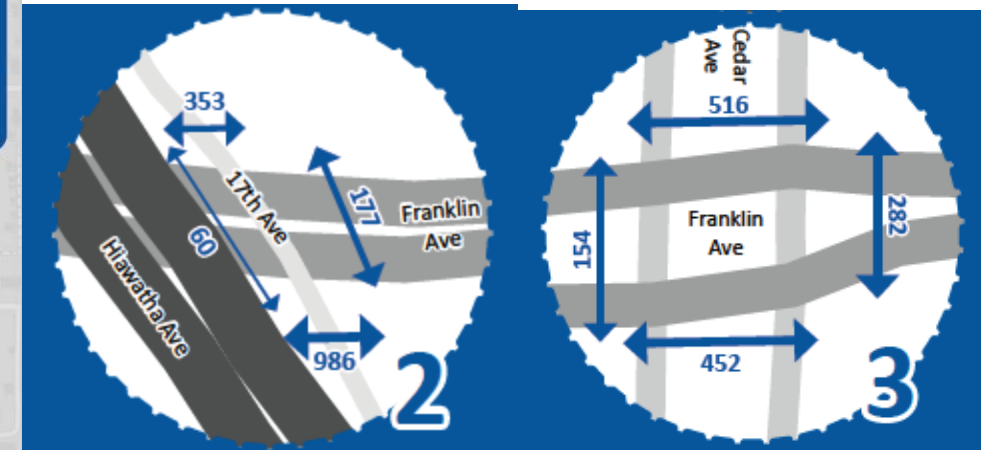
- Design Charrette
- Technical Advisory Committees: Metro Transit Staff, Hennepin County and Minneapolis
- Rail Operations
- Existing Conditions, Survey
- Review of Plans and Policies
- Mobility Data Analysis
- Transit-Oriented Development Coordination
- Sustainability Memo using Envision





Ped Crossing Data: 24 hrs

Under bridge: 134 mid-block crossings



Multi-Modal Analysis Highlights



Concept Option Examples

Engagement Highlights

- Full Circle Workshops (September and November) with about 40 participants, many from the American Indian community
- Station area pop-ups (4) and flying throughout the neighborhood (3 days with multiple staff)
- Meetings with Community-Based Organizations (AICDC, AIOIC, NACDI & others)
- Open House (December 2) ~60 participants
- Email outreach to bike and transportation activists, neighborhood organizations etc.
- Social media and gov delivery push
- Public survey- 125 responses



Engagement Themes

Safety and Cleanliness

Community members want the station to be clean, pleasant to use and feel safe.

Community members advocated for a wide range of potential improvements:

- More lighting
- Improve station security (guards and cameras)
- Fare enforcement
- Activate the space around the station with events
- Maintain cleanliness of shelters
- Approach safety with empathy
- Provide access to first aid, emergency phones and other tools to aid in crisis response

Community Connections

Community members want the station to support and celebrate the surrounding community.

Community members shared that they would like to see the station be designed to:

- Support activities such as open streets, markets, cultural gatherings and interactive arts
- Welcome the Twin Cities community to the culture and history of the neighborhood
- Orient travelers to landmarks, businesses, experiences and artwork in the American Indian Community
- Provide information about community resources to vulnerable community members

Amenities and Art

Community members want the station to feel welcoming and inviting.

Community members proposed a variety of design improvements:

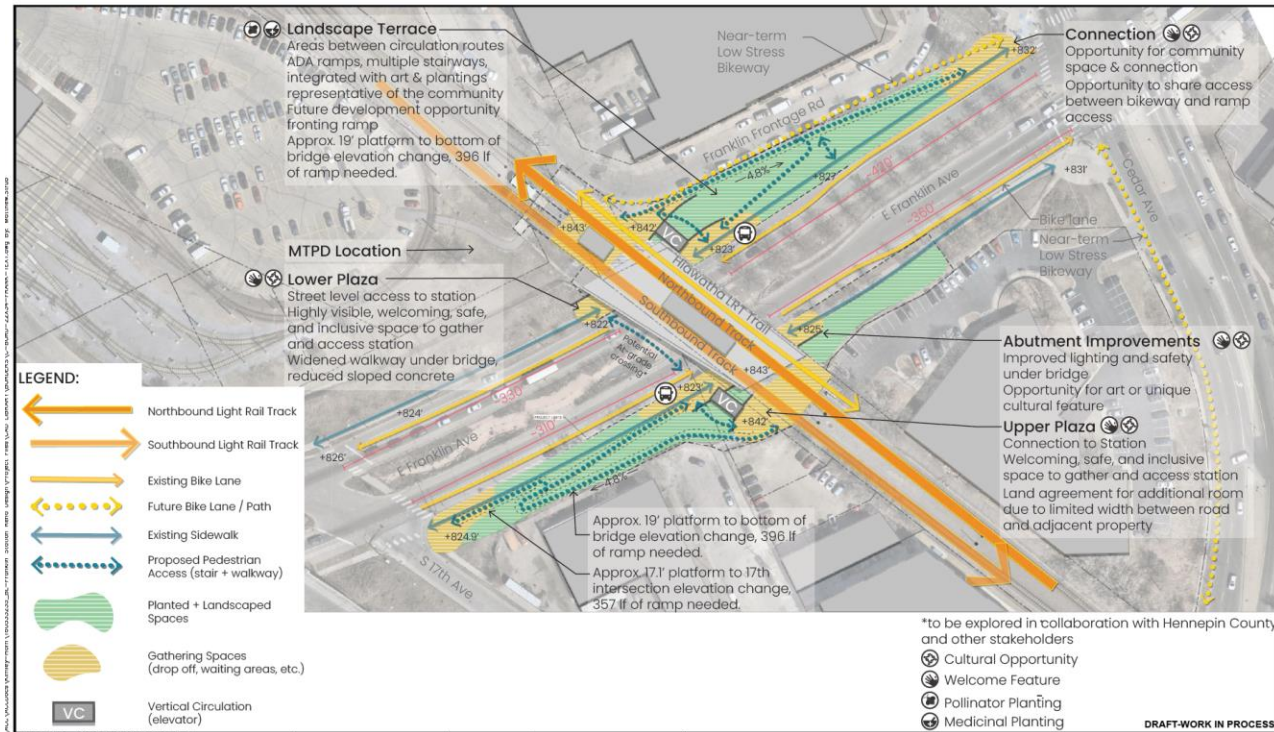
- More greenery, specifically native plantings
- Public art, including murals, sidewalk art, and sculptures
- Comfortable seating options
- Stronger heat lamps
- Community resource bulletin board
- Little Free Libraries
- Charging station
- Clean restrooms and water stations

Survey Highlights

125 responses gathered between November and December 2025

- Customer Experience and Safety is #1 Priority
 - Many community safety concerns
 - Station cleanliness, i.e., drug use, needles, trash, etc.
 - Safety as a barrier to use
- Ranked Accessibility Improvements
 1. Safer road crossings in the area around the station
 2. Ramps in addition to stairs and elevators on both sides of Franklin
 3. More reliable elevators
 4. More seating and resting areas
 5. Easier to understand signs and announcements
- Top Improvements Desired
 - Safer street crossings and walkways (#1 improvement for families using the station)
 - Better Visibility: More lighting, fewer hiding spots or tucked away places
 - Staff presence: fare enforcement, security, MTPD
 - More frequent station cleanings and removal of hazardous materials

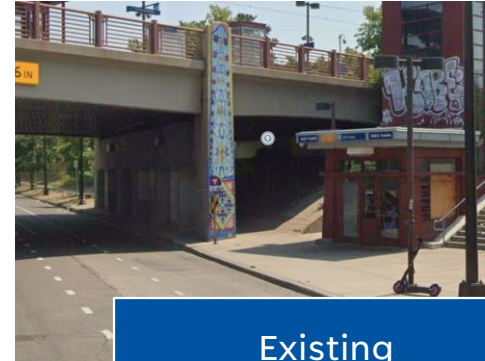
Potential Option



- Improves NE ramp and makes a connection to Cedar Avenue
- Redesigns elevators in existing locations
- Adds a ramp to the West, likely on the southwest side of the station, which will connect to 17th but further visioning with neighboring property and community is needed
- MTPD/Staff Facility Near Station on corner of Franklin Rail Operations Site/Station Level
- Ped Improvements: expanded sidewalk under the bridge, continued design of mid-block crossing

Franklin Avenue Level Improvements

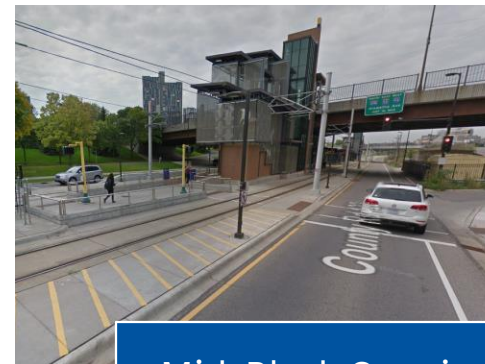
- The existing bridge is dark and attracts unwanted activity limiting space and safety for pedestrians
- Project Opportunities:
 - Expand the sidewalk, limit the sloped area (and access to the bridge)
 - Better lighting, public art and community place-keeping
 - Improved bus waiting area



Existing



Better Bus Waiting Area



Mid-Block Crossing



New Murals near Hi- Lake

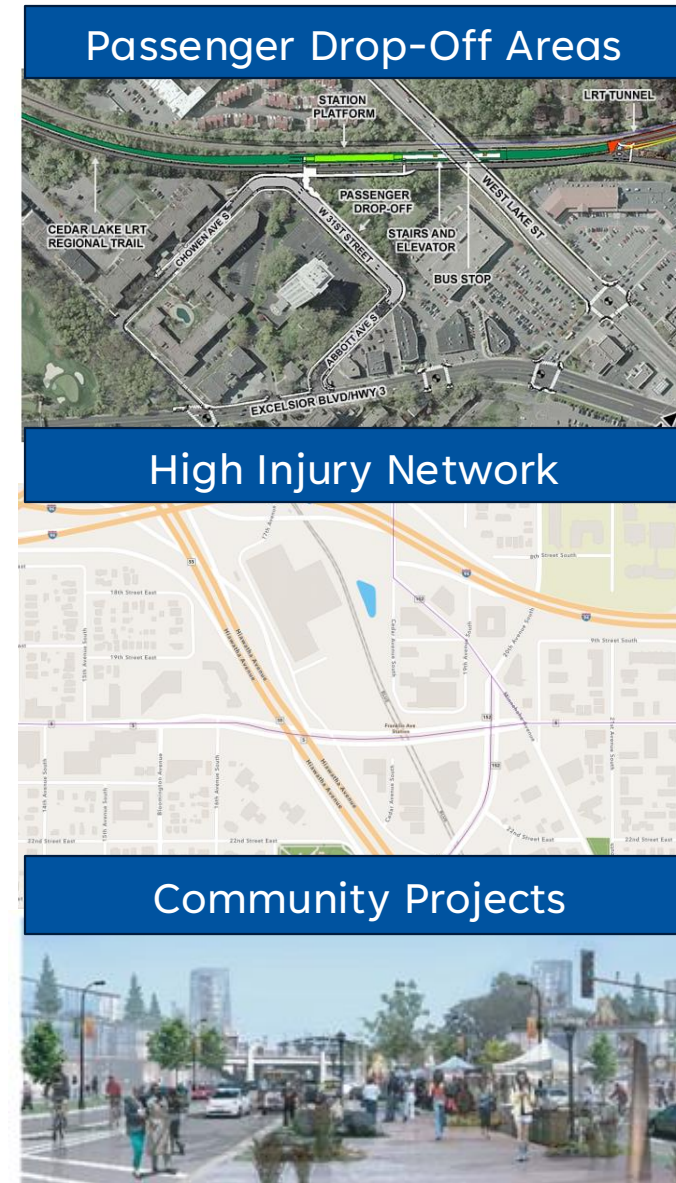
Platform Level

- Canopy will span platform
- Fare enforcement: improved signage and TVMs at end of platforms
- Improve sight lines by moving unnecessary equipment and staff facilities off the platform



Station Area Coordination

- Intersection improvements at Cedar and Franklin Avenue
- Curbside management on Franklin Ave and surrounding streets
- Connection to other neighborhood investments: American Indian Cultural Corridor
- Coordination with Transit Oriented Development and exploration of underused council-owned properties

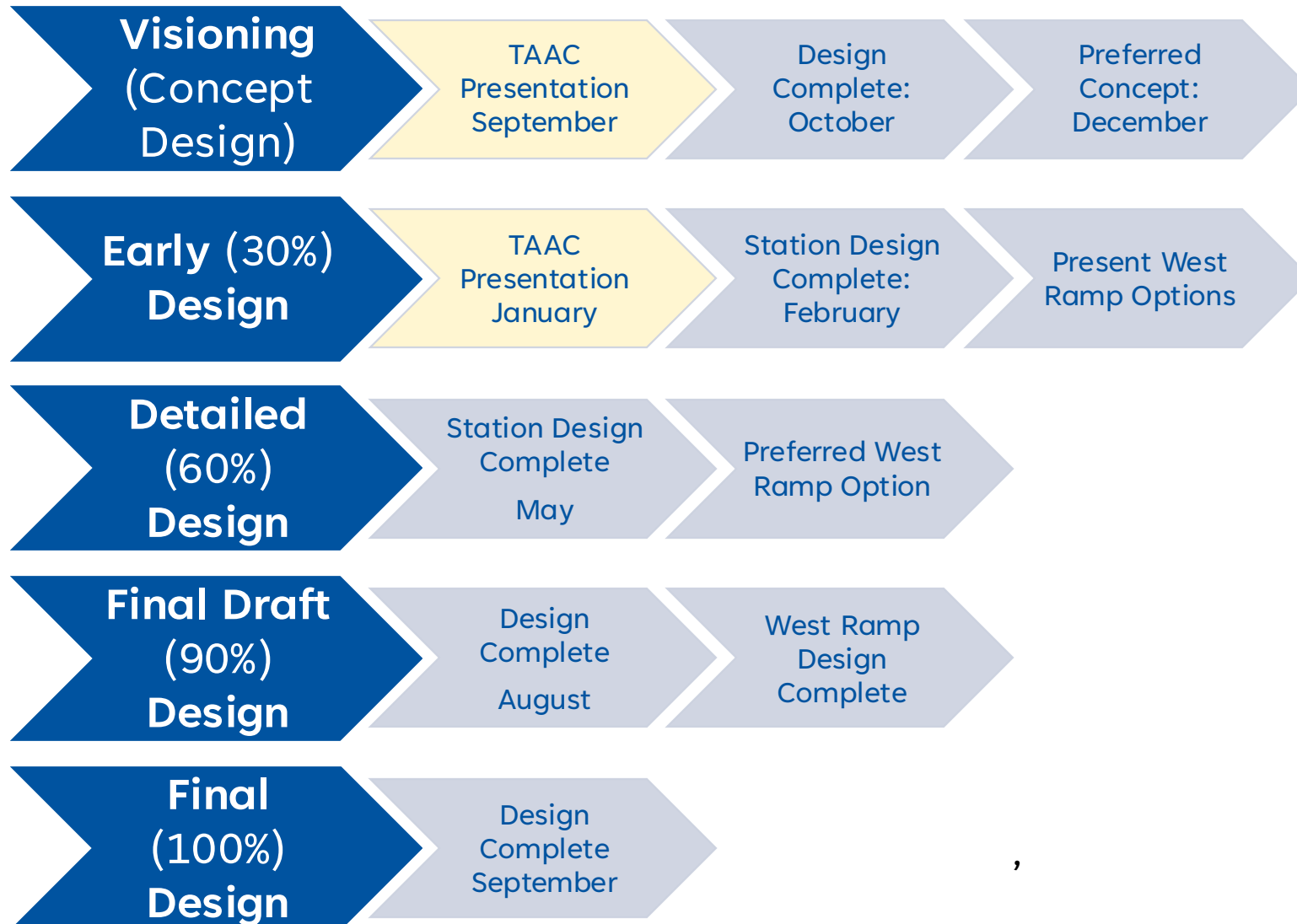


Public Engagement Next Steps

- Share feedback gathered: did we hear you?
- Meet with Community Businesses and Organizations
- Conduct pop-ups and further flyer distribution
- Share 30% and West Ramp Concepts
- Open House: March



Design Schedule



Ongoing
Public
Engagement

Discussion

- What are your thoughts on the preferred station concept?
- Is there anything we missed regarding the station design planning?

Thank you!

Liz Morice & Kevin Murray
www.metrotransit.org/franklin