

# Blue Line Extension Community Update Meeting

November 20, 2025



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



# Today's Topics

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- Project Overview
- Design Update
- Workforce Development Update
- Cultural Placekeeping Update
- DREAM Recap



# Project Overview



# Corridor Visualization Video



## METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION

### CORRIDOR VISUALIZATION

*Based on 60% Design Plans*

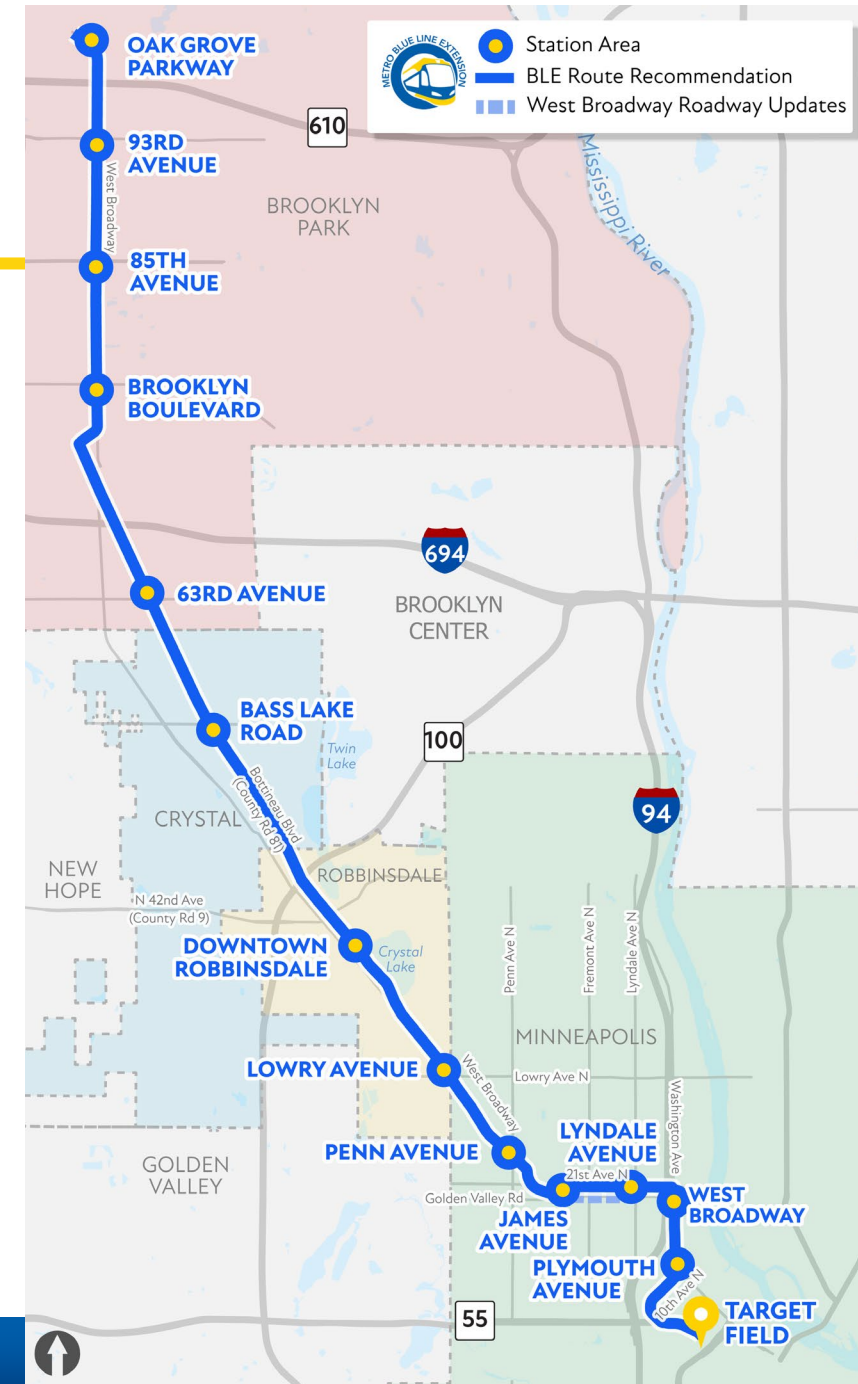
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# Project Overview

- 13.4 miles & 13 new stations connecting Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities to fast, frequent, all-day service across the METRO system
- Single seat ride to existing Blue Line stops downtown, MSP Airport, and Mall of America
- Focus on building community prosperity through anti-displacement strategies before, during, and after construction
- Robust community engagement
- 60% design completion July 2025
- Amended Record of Decision signed August 2025 – Concludes environmental review process



# Timeline to Construction

	2025	2026	2027
Environmental (mitigation, Section 106)	SFEIS/AROD	Implementation & Monitoring	
Design Progression	Design Advances		
Full Funding Grant Agreement	Securing Federal Funding		
Construction Starts			Contract RFP
Anti-Displacement	Continues Through Design Advancement		
Public Engagement	Consult and Involve		

◆ SFEIS/AROD Completed

◆ Design Completed

◆ Federal Funding Secured

◆ Construction Activity Started

*All schedules are subject to change.*



# Engagement Metrics: Aug 2020-Oct 2025

- **956** events resulting in nearly **46,000** points of contact with the public
- **430,000+** reach on social media and **10 million+** reach through newsletters and paid ads on community and cultural media (as of June 2025)
- Approximately **7,400** survey responses, written comments, and comments on the interactive map
- Corridor postcards mailed to **+250,000** properties
- Over **40,000** emails and phone calls



Robbinsdale Open House, September 2025

# Design Update





# 60% Design Level Plans Complete

- Design release timeline:
  - Crystal: May 2025
  - Brooklyn Park: June 2025
  - Robbinsdale: July 2025
  - Minneapolis: September 2025
  - Lowry Avenue Station: October 2025
- Design plans can be found on:

[BlueLineExt.org](https://BlueLineExt.org)



*Minneapolis Design Workshop - 2025*

# Community Shaped Design

- Prioritize minimizing property impacts in design
- Route decisions
  - Choice of West Broadway corridor in North Minneapolis
  - Move from Lyndale Avenue to east of I-94
  - Moving tracks off West Broadway to 21st Avenue between I-94 and James Avenue while improving West Broadway



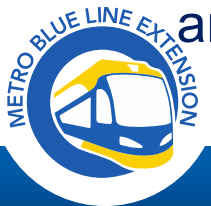
Route Identification Map - 2021





# Community Shaped Design

- Connectivity and safety
  - Trail connections and pedestrian safety improvements
  - Traffic calming and roadway improvements
  - New connection across I-94 at 21st Avenue
  - Improved roadway connectivity in North Loop
  - Addition of MTPD substation at Robbinsdale Park and Ride
  - Added "fourth leg" at West Broadway and Hwy 610





# Community Shaped Design

- Station locations and Design
  - Redesign of Lowry Avenue station
  - Addition of Station at Washington and West Broadway
  - Relocation of Downtown Robbinsdale station
  - Addition of Bass Lake Road overpass at station in Crystal





# Crystal Update



# Travel Times from Bass Lake Rd Station

Northbound Travel	Time
63 <sup>rd</sup> Ave Station	3 min
Brooklyn Blvd Station	8 min
85 <sup>th</sup> Ave Station	11 min
93 <sup>rd</sup> Ave Station	13 min
Oak Grove Pkwy Station	17 min

Southbound Travel	Time
Downtown Robbinsdale Station	5 min
Lowry Ave Station	8 min
Penn Ave Station	10 min
James Ave Station	13 min
Lyndale Ave Station	15 min
West Broadway Ave Station	20 min



*All travel times are approximate and subject to change.*



# Visualization - Daytime



*Draft work in progress as of November 2025*





# Visualization - Nighttime



*Draft work in progress as of November 2025*





# Workforce Development Update



# Blue Line Extension Workforce Development

## BLUE LINE EXTENSION ANTI-DISPLACEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Prepared for Hennepin County  
April 2023

Center for Urban and  
Regional Affairs | **cura**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## Coordinated Action Plan for Anti-Displacement

Blue Line Extension Corridor

August 2024



# Workforce Development Goals

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## Navigation & Outreach

Connect people with services through community-based organizations

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## Employment & Training Support

Monitor employment trends, and community feedback to identify employment & training opportunities

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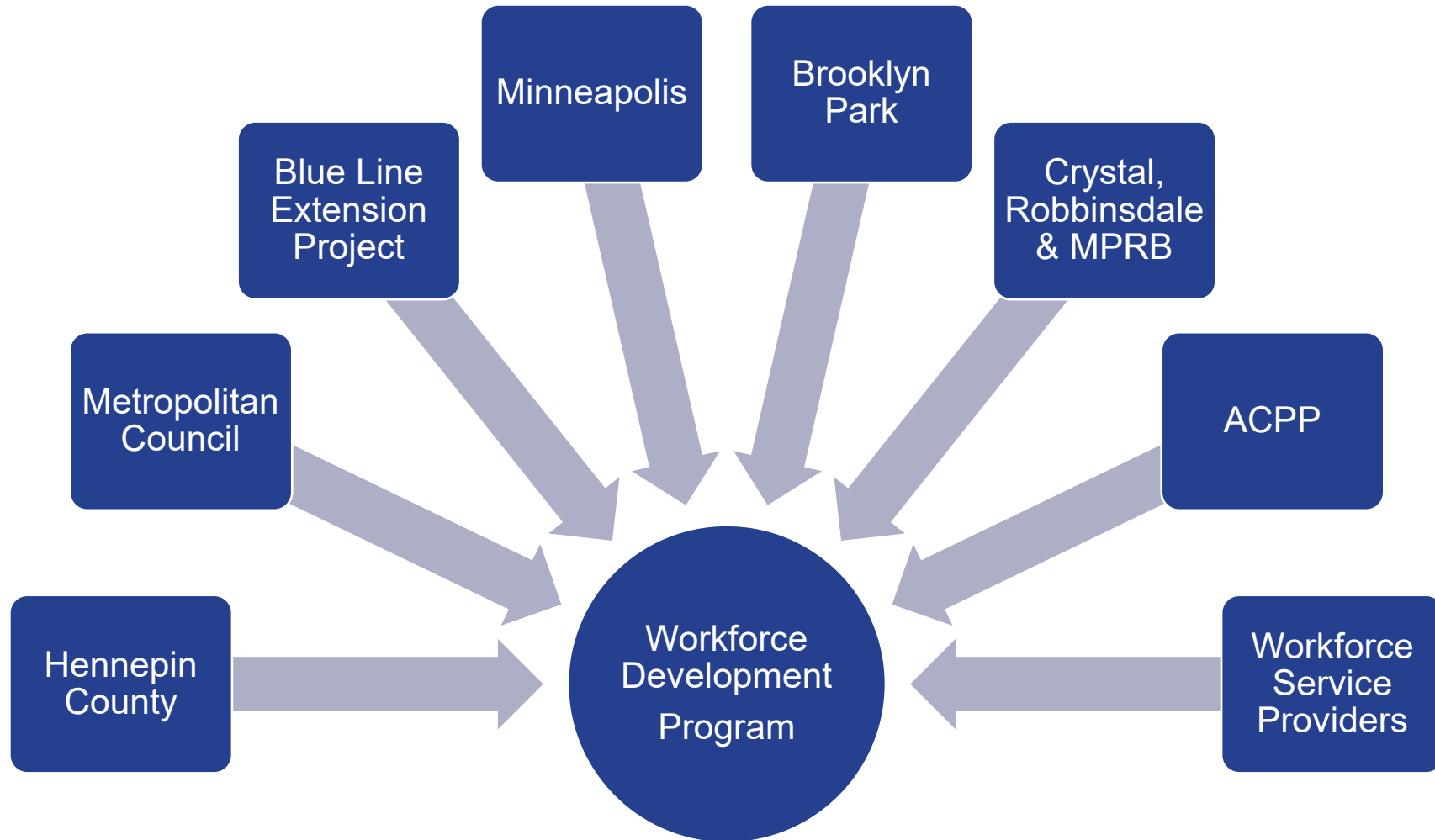
## BLE Jobs

Create local hiring preference, prepare and connect corridor residents to BLE jobs

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# WFD Program Partnership





# BLE WFD Roadmap & Next Steps



# Cultural Placekeeping



# Coordinated Anti-Displacement Strategies

## Coordinated Action Plan

### Within BLE Project

- Environmental review process to develop strategies to address impacts
- Project design / **Cultural Placekeeping**
- Construction management
- Relocation assistance – residential and business

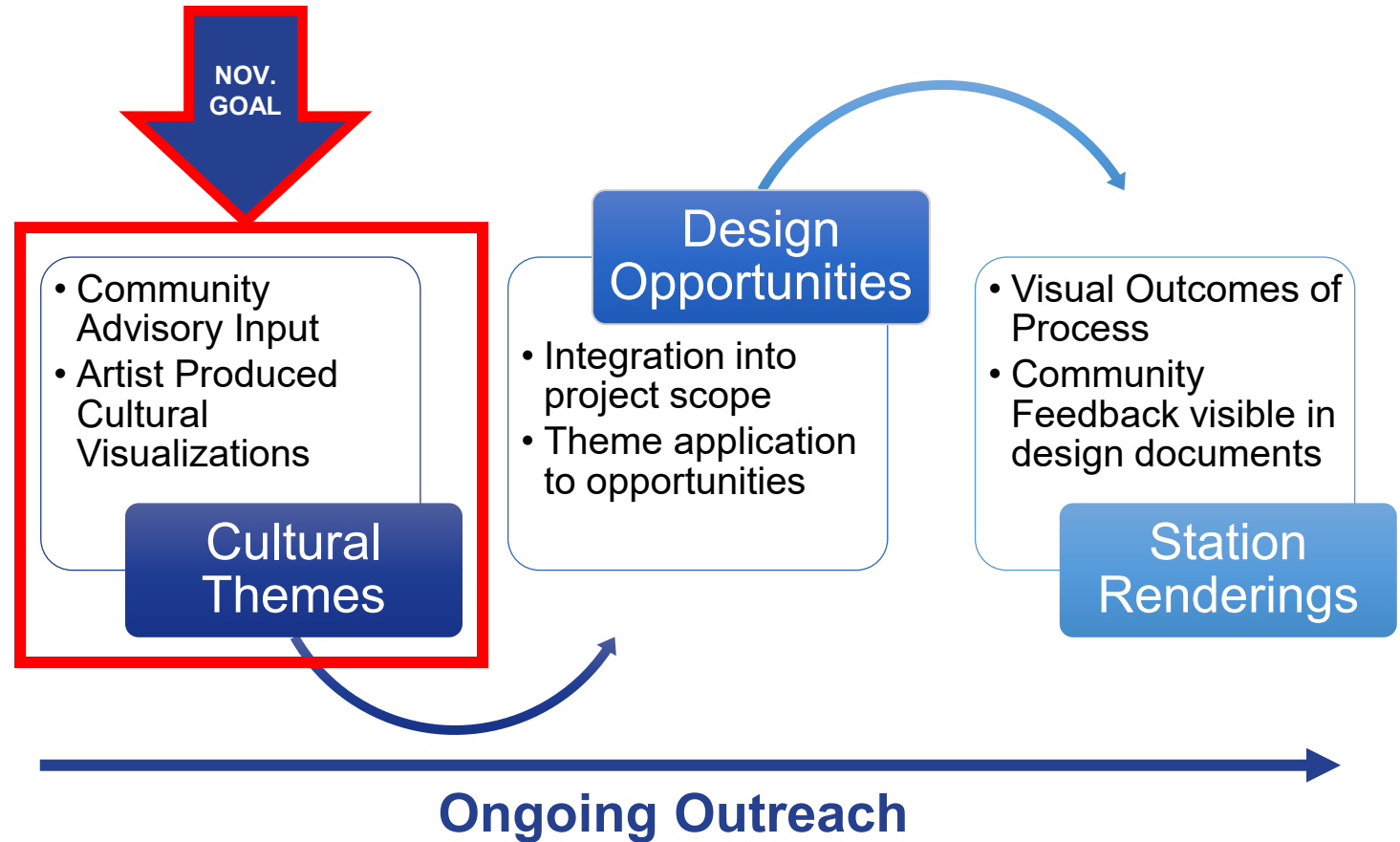
### Outside of BLE Project

- Anti-displacement Community Prosperity Program (ACPP)
- Actions by Project Partners
- Anti-displacement Coordinated Action Plan



# Approach Overview

- Develop guiding themes per station with community group
- Further outreach based on initial themes developed by work group
- Work group complete in November 2025





# Cultural Placekeeping Update

- BLE cultural placekeeping groups are looking for community members to share their ideas on how the BLE stations can reflect and honor the communities they serve
- [engage.mendcollaborative.com/bluelineculturalplacekeeping](https://engage.mendcollaborative.com/bluelineculturalplacekeeping)



**CONTRIBUTE TO CULTURAL PLACEKEEPING  
ALONG THE BLUE LINE EXTENSION CORRIDOR!**

Your voice can help shape a project that honors the people and places the future Blue Line serves.

Share your experiences, ideas, and hopes for how culture, history, and community life can be supported and sustained in this area.

*Learn more about the cultural placekeeping design groups and share your ideas by scanning this QR code:*



*Or visit our site:*

<https://engage.mendcollaborative.com/bluelineculturalplacekeeping>



# Outreach Update



# Regional DREAM Summit

## *Regional Summit at UROC on October 4*

- Community members and policy makers recapped feedback from the DREAM sessions in each city and discussed next steps

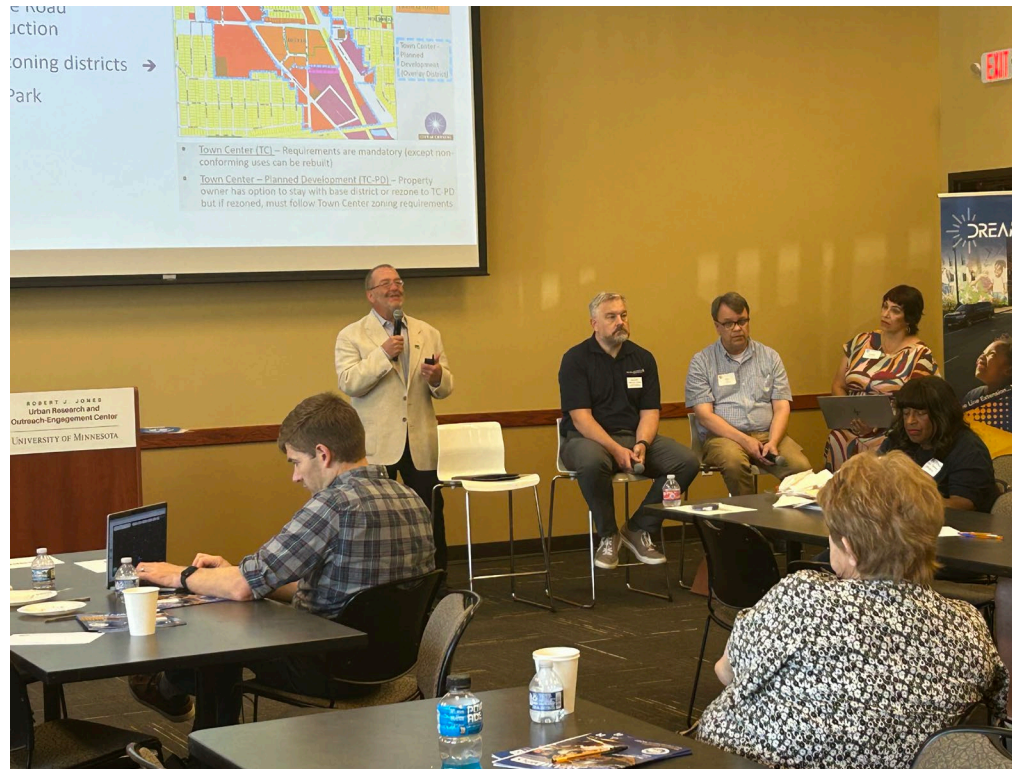




# Regional DREAM Summit

## *Topics included:*

- Status of project and anti-displacement work
- Development potential around LRT in the Twin Cities
- Lessons learned from the Green Line
- Updates from city staff on station area planning and anti-displacement work
- Safety and security update



Approximately 60 in-person attendees & 160 virtual attendees



# Stay connected

- Engagement email:
  - [BLEoutreach@metrotransit.org](mailto:BLEoutreach@metrotransit.org)
- **BlueLineExt.org**
  - For the latest project updates and to sign up for our newsletter
  - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation
- Follow us:
  - Instagram: Blue\_Line\_Extension
  - BlueSky: @BlueLineExt.bsky.social
  - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension
  - X/Twitter: @BlueLineExt

