

Quarterly Meeting – Summary

Date & Time	June 25, 2026, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Location	Crystal Community Center 4800 Douglas Dr N, Crystal, MN 55429

Format: Presentation with an open-house-style format to review roll plots and discussion

Presentation topics:

- Project Overview
- Project Budget Update
- Roll Plots for review and discussion
- Upcoming Engagement Events

Community feedback:

The Blue Line Extension Team shared a general project overview, an update on the revised project budget, and upcoming community engagement events. The presentation was accompanied by an open-house format for attendees to review and discuss the design roll plots.

Common questions and themes:

- **Project Overview**
 - Review of the 13.4-mile, 13-station route connecting Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park.
 - Single-seat ride to downtown Blue Line stops, MSP Airport, and Mall of America.
 - Focus on building community prosperity through anti-displacement strategies.
 - Progression milestones including the signed Amended Record of Decision (August 2025), 90% design completion (May 2026), and updated budget release (June 2026).
- **Project Budget Update**
 - Completion of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) risk analysis.
 - Total project budget updated to \$3.58 billion (an increase of \$336 million).
 - Key drivers for budget increase:

- Municipal Consent requested changes (e.g., redesign of Lowry Station, addition of Washington and West Broadway Ave Station).
 - Road connectivity improvements in the North Loop to offset traffic loss on 10th Ave.
- Next steps: Apply for federal funding once all nonfederal funding is identified and committed.
- **Upcoming Engagement Events**
 - **Quarter 3 Community Update Meeting:** Wed, Aug 19, 2026 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ.
 - **Quarter 4 Community Update Meeting:** Wed, Oct 14, 2026 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Metro Transit North Loop Garage (Room 104).

Roll plot and flyover video comments:

- No public comments or questions were raised about the roll plots or the flyover video during the large group portion of the presentation.
- Attendees engaged in one-on-one conversations directly with project staff at the roll plot boards during the open house session. Participants asked about safety and security, and timeline for the project.

Cultural Placekeeping Board Comments:

- **General Process & Feedback:**
 - Attendees expressed appreciation for the concepts and ideas gathered during the outreach process.
 - Questions were raised regarding how the placekeeping process was conducted and how community input was integrated.
- **Clarification on Artist Vision Boards:**
 - **Clarification:** Addressed initial misperceptions that artists were assigned to create murals.
 - **Outcome:** Re-established a shared understanding that the artists' vision boards are designed to capture the overarching feel and identity of each community and station rather than serve as final mural designs.
- **Crystal Station Design Feedback:**
 - Both community members from Crystal expressed dissatisfaction with the current visual direction for Crystal, which centers around housing and the official

city logo. They felt the proposed artwork was uninspiring and lacked the vibrancy seen in other station designs.

- **Context Provided:** Staff explained that these themes originated from the year-long engagement process and reflected the specific input provided by attendees at those sessions.
- **Community Input & Alternative Vision:** In separate discussions, both residents pointed to the historical "Crystal Ball" (from the city's past destination shopping center era) as a far more fitting symbol. They emphasized a desire for Crystal to be envisioned as an engaging destination rather than strictly a bedroom community. The "Crystal Ball" inspiration has since been added into the Cultural Placekeeping development.

Photos:





