

Community & Business Advisory Committee

Meeting #12 | July 26, 2024



Welcome & Introductions

Liz Jones | Senior Community Outreach Coordinator



Housekeeping

- Virtual meeting etiquette
 - Camera on
 - Microphone (muted when not speaking)
 - Raise hand (if you have a question)
 - Chat (feel free to ask questions in the chat)
- Meeting is being recorded
- Meeting agendas, summaries, and presentation materials are posted on the project website at <u>metrotransit.org/purple-line-project-committees</u>



Today's Topics

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Upcoming Decision Points
- 3) White Bear Ave Endpoint Staff Recommendation
- 4) Route Modification Study Phase II Corridor Comparison
- 5) Engagement Approach
- 6) Q & A
- 7) Next Steps & Stay Connected



Upcoming Decision Points

Liz Jones | Senior Community Outreach Coordinator



RMS Phase II Anticipated Decisions & Timeline

• August 1st Corridor Management Committee

- ACTION: White Bear Avenue Corridor Endpoint (County Road D Station or Maplewood Mall Transit Center Station)
- INFO: Bus Lane Compliance & Enforcement Peer Review

• September 5th Corridor Management Committee

- INFO: Network Now
- ACTION: Arcade Street Station Location(s)
- ACTION: Alternative Northern Endpoints Viability (Vadnais Heights and Century College)
- October TBD Corridor Management Committee
 - ACTION: Preferred White Bear Avenue Corridor Design Concept (center or side running)
 - ACTION: Revised Locally Preferred Alternative (route alignment)



White Bear Ave Corridor Northern Endpoint

Craig Lamothe | Project Manager

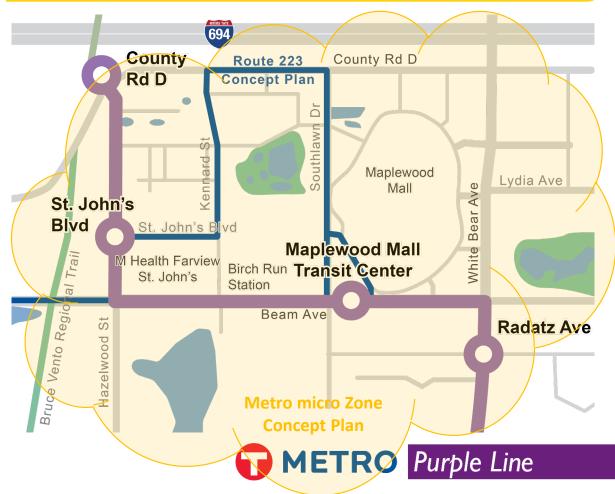


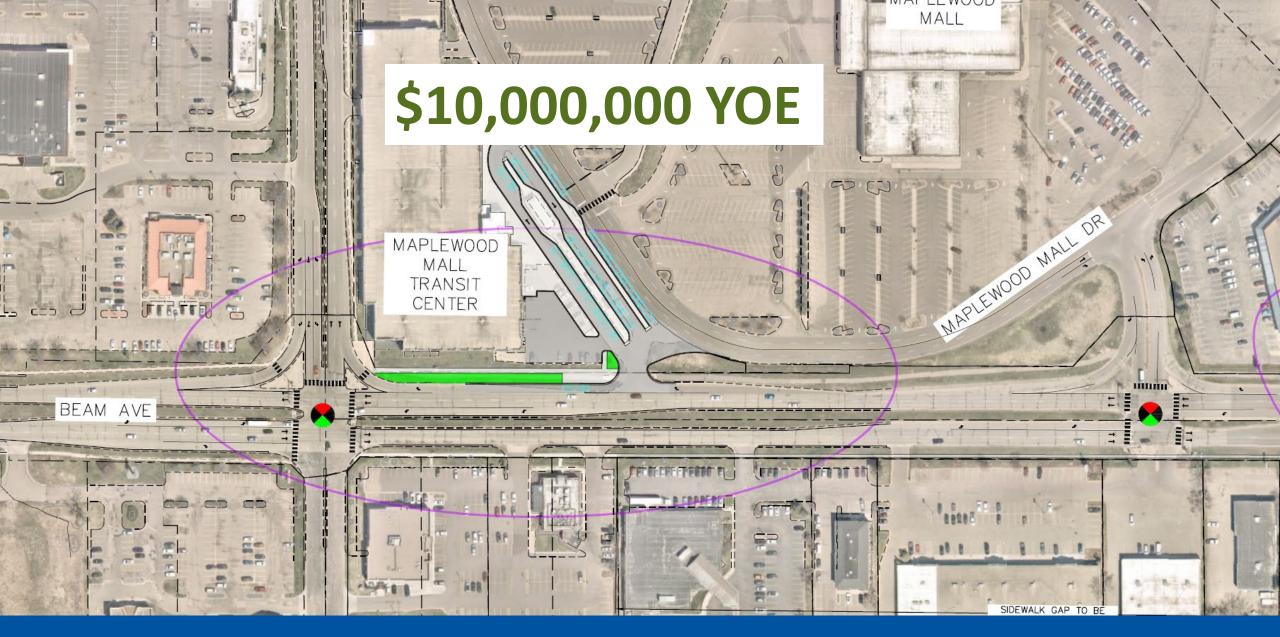
Endpoint Option 1

Endpoint Option 2

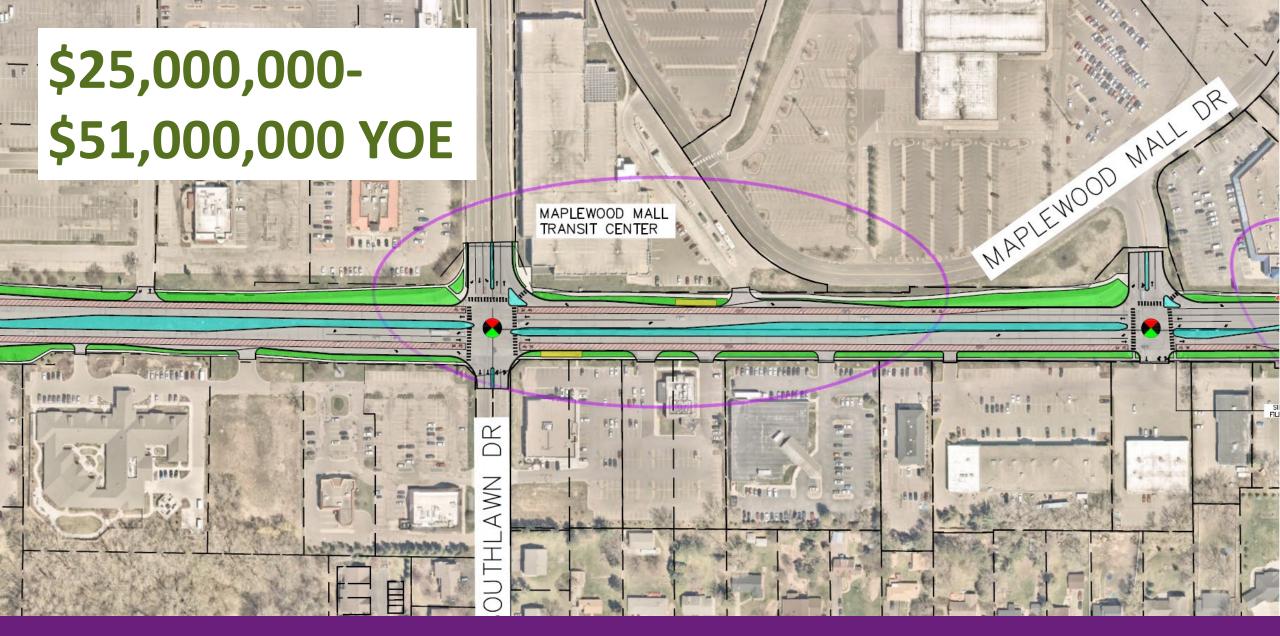


End at County Rd D and Hazelwood Street

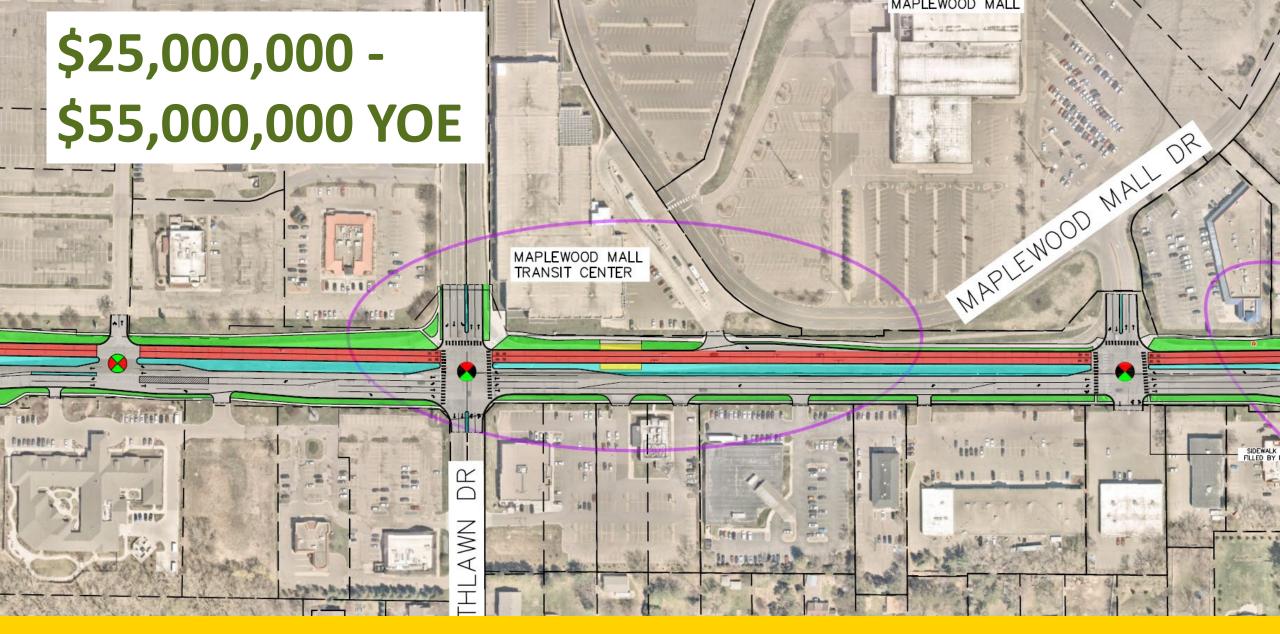




Route Ending at Maplewood Mall - Mixed Traffic



Route Continuing West – Side Running Transit Lanes



Route Continuing West – Side Running Guideway

Project Partners & Stakeholders Feedback

- Metro Transit Operations/Maintenance/Route & System Planning
 - Preference for ending at Maplewood Mall Transit Center \rightarrow ridership vs. operations/maintenance costs, facility duplication, safety and security
- Maplewood City Council
 - 4 to 1 straw vote (4/22) indicates preference for ending at Co. Rd. D \rightarrow St. John's Hospital
- M Health Fairview Administration Staff
 - Preference for ending at Co. Rd. D \rightarrow St. John's Hospital expansion
- Vadnais Heights Staff
 - Preference for ending at Co. Rd. D \rightarrow proposed housing development

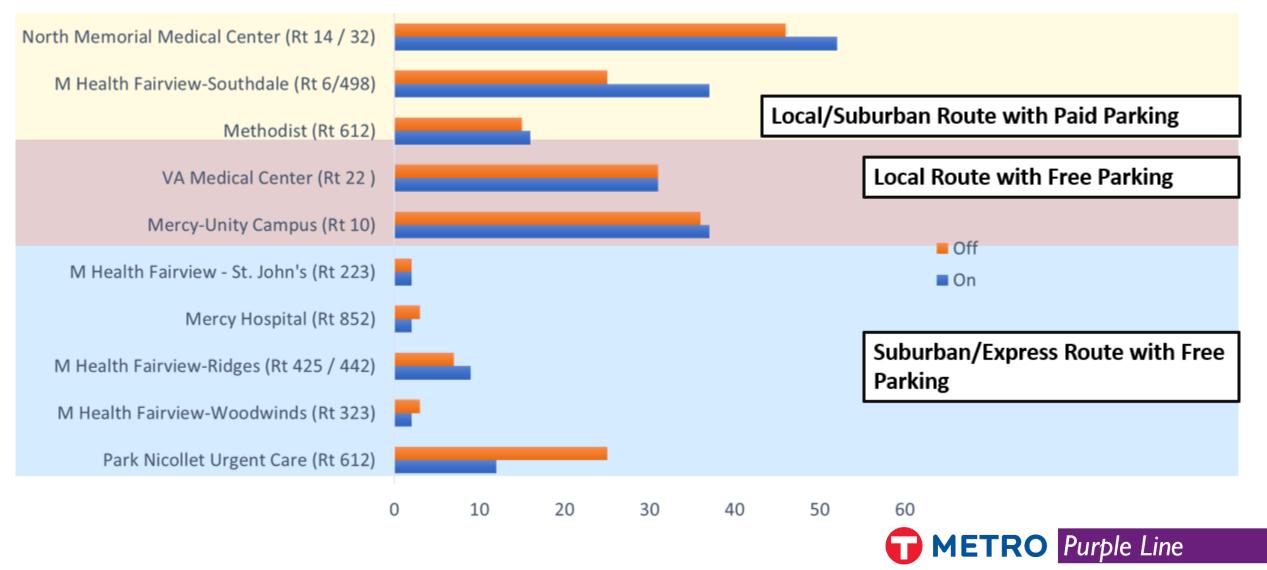


Metro Transit Impacts as Owner & Operator

- Ending at Co. Rd. D instead of Maplewood Mall Transit Center (MMTC)
 - Additional facilities (5 more BRT platforms, layover/turnaround, driver restroom, 1 more mile of exclusive/semi-exclusive bus lanes, more traffic signals) → higher maintenance cost and more workforce demands
 - Duplicates layover/turnaround and driver restroom found at MMTC
 - Additional route length \rightarrow another bus operated by multiple drivers
 - Less active neighboring uses \rightarrow fewer "eyes on the facility" (safety and security)



Regional Hospitals as Ridership Generators



Maplewood North End Stations - Ridership

Average Daily Boarding in 2045

- County Rd D Station: 50*
- St. John's Blvd Station: 25**
- Maplewood Mall Transit Center: 375

* Does not account for proposed workforce housing development

** Does not account for proposed hospital expansion



M Health Fairview St. John's Hospital Expansion

- Currently, 2nd largest employer in Maplewood (2,800 employees)
- 350,000 sq. ft. addition (approx. doubling facility space inc. 68 beds), south of St. John's Blvd and east of Hazelwood St
- Parking structure, north of St. John's Blvd and east of Hazelwood St
- Construction start pending full funding





Vadnais Heights Workforce Housing Development

- Affordable housing development proposal by Real Estate Equities
- 180 units (60% AMI)
- 1st reviewed at a May 7th
 City Council Workshop
- County Rd D Station overlaid on the right





Interested Parties Feedback

- Cardinal Point Senior Cooperative Living Community Residents (5/15)
 - Preference for ending at Maplewood Mall Transit Center \rightarrow Traffic on Hazelwood
- Legacy Village Residents/HOA
 - Preference for ending at Maplewood Mall Transit Center \rightarrow Traffic on Hazelwood
- Real Estate Equities Project Staff
 - Preference for ending at Co. Rd. D \rightarrow Affordable Workforce Housing Project



Community Feedback

- People with Disabilities and Seniors
 - Not in favor of gaining a one seat ride to the hospital if it comes at a cost of a less accessible user experience at Maplewood Mall Transit Center to other transit services
- General Public (primarily from Spring 2024 targeted engagement)
 - Mixed support for both endpoints
 - Some support for restoring local service that served the hospital
 - Some support for having direct transit access to the hospital



Key Considerations for a Recommendation

- Federal funding eligibility? \rightarrow both endpoints are viable.
- Additional ridership (75+ average daily boardings) against the additional one-time capital costs (\$15M-\$45M) and additional ongoing operations and maintenance costs (\$1M - \$1.5M annually)
- Trades offs and concerns leading to mixed preference from project partners and stakeholders, interested parties, and community members
- Connections to health care facilities/employment centers has been a long-term goal of Purple Line and has become more of a priority for FTA (proposed federal funding program guidance)



Path to an Endpoint Recommendation

• Non-Public Meetings

- July 17th: Issue Resolution Team
- July 19th: Strategic Management Team
- July 23rd: Technical Advisory Committee

• Public Meetings

- July 22nd: Maplewood City Council Workshop
- Today: Community & Business Advisory Committee
- August 1st (1p-2:30p): Corridor Management Committee



White Bear Avenue Corridor Route Alternative Endpoint Recommendation – County Road D Station

"If, during a future committee action, the Purple Line route is recommended to operate in the White Bear Avenue Corridor and not be collocated with the Bruce Vento Regional Trail, then the <u>contingent</u> <u>preferred</u> northern endpoint in Maplewood is recommended to be County Road D Station."

Contingencies are noted on the following slide.





White Bear Avenue Corridor Route Alternative Endpoint Recommendation (Co. Rd. D Station) Contingencies

- Real Estate Equities is successful in implementing the proposed Workforce Housing Project near Co. Rd. D Station which should result in "more eyes on the station" and higher station usage.
- 2) M Health Fairview implements priced parking and engages the Metro Transit Employer Services team (commuter benefits programs) which should result in higher station usage.
- 3) Maplewood Mall Transit Center Station design advancement focuses first and foremost on maximizing usability for mobility impaired customers.



RMS II - Corridor Comparison

Stephen Smith | Deputy Project Manager



Corridor Comparison



Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor

Maryland Ave to Maplewood Mall via Bruce Vento Regional Trail and Beam Ave

- 9.5 miles | 17 stations | 15 minute frequency
- 3,800 projected riders per weekday
- \$370 million estimated cost
- Eligible for federal funding
- Fewer impacts to future traffic operations
- Fewer property impacts and quicker construction
- Shorter transit travel times from end to end
- Fewer destinations within a 10-minute walk \odot or roll of stations
- Less transit-supportive development \odot
- Change of trail character that includes \odot some pedestrian improvements at trail crossings and roadway intersections

10th

St

5th/6th



White Bear Ave Corridor

Johnson Pkwy to the Maplewood Mall area via Maryland Ave, White Bear Ave, and **Beam Ave**

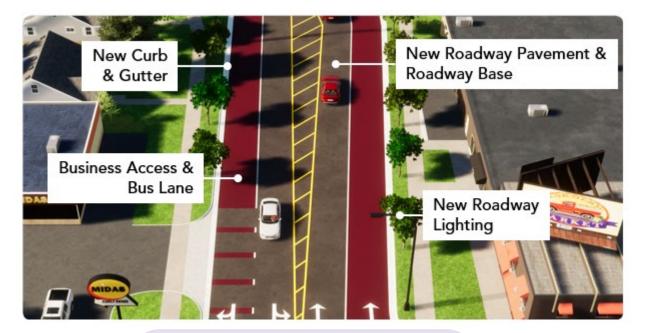
11 miles | 24 stations | 15 minute frequency

- 3,900-4,900 projected riders per weekday
- \$420-450 million estimated cost
- Eligible for federal funding
- More impacts to future traffic operations
- More property impacts and slower construction
- Longer transit travel times from end to end \odot
- More destinations within a 10-minute walk \odot or roll of stations
- More transit-supportive development \bigcirc
- Roadway and pedestrian infrastructure Ø improvements with full roadway reconstruction

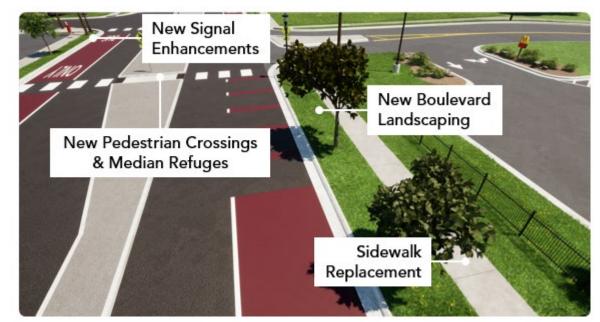


The Purple Line project is currently planned to be a full roadway reconstruction to deliver several pedestrian, traffic, and transit improvements.

Roadway Reconstruction *on White Bear Ave*



White Bear Ave North of Sherwood Ave

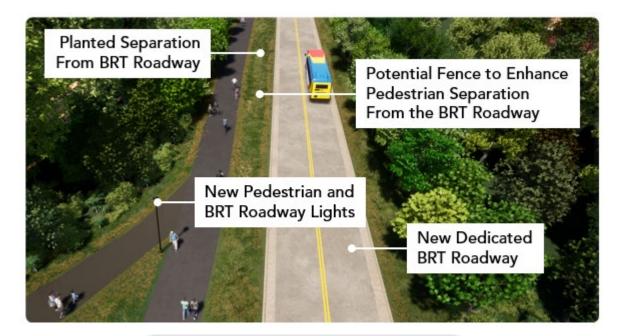


Maryland Ave & Prosperity Ave

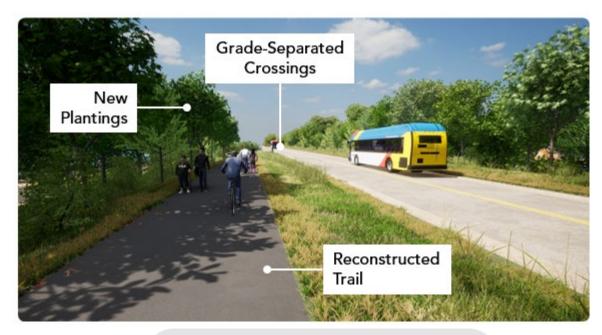


If the Purple Line co-locates with the Bruce Vento Regional Trail, the trail will be reconstructed only through the portion of the Purple Line route that uses the Ramsey County rail right-ofway (Arcade St to Beam Ave).

Trail Co-location with Bruce Vento Regional Trail

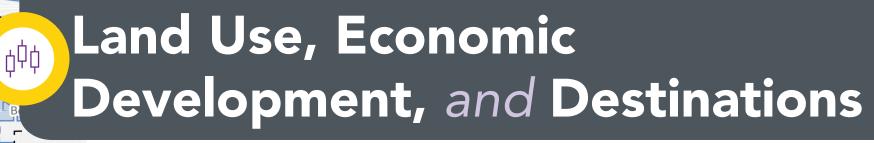


Adjacent to Hagen Drive



Adjacent to Lake Phalen





WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK OR ROLL OF STATIONS ON THE

Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor, there are:



- Fewer existing and future transit-supportive land uses
- Approximately 540 affordable housing units*
- Approximately 200 community destinations**

WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK OR ROLL OF STATIONS ON THE

White Bear Ave Corridor, there are:

Over 375 community destinations**



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More existing and future transit-supportive land uses

Approximately 1,800 affordable housing units*

 Key Destinations
 Saint Paul Neighborhood Nodes
 Maplewood Mixed-Use Areas

Transit-Supportive Land Use





County Rd D

Maplewood Mall

St. John's Radatz Ave

County Rd C

Maplewood,

Community

Ramsey County

Center-

Center

Idaho Ave

Arlington Ave

Maryland Ave

St. John's Blvd

Hospital

Harvest Park/ Harmony Gardens-Senior Living

County Rd B

(36)

Frost Ave

arpenteur, Ave

Iowa Highrise

SAINT PAUL

Franklin D. Roosevelt Housing

MAPLEWOOD

Area

Gladstone

Redevelopment

Socioeconomic Demographics and Ridership

		Bruce Vento Trail	White Bear Avenue	(
Ť	Total Population	19,983	35,429		
	Total Households	7,093	12,296		
	Age Under 18	6,560	11,558		
	Age 65 and Up	2,621	4,628		
	People of Color Non-Hispanic	9,565	15,753		
	White Non-Hispanic	8,319	16,107		
	Hispanic	2,099	3,569	9	
1	High School or Less	5,477	9,931		
2	Limited English Proficiency	3,681	5,078		
	Households with No Vehicle	905	1,577		
	Households with 1 Vehicle	2,523	4,078		
\$	Average Median Household Income	\$65,921	\$59,964		
	Employed Population	9,744	17,160		
	Number of Jobs*	6,615	10,333	9	
Ġ.	Population with Disability**	4,252	5,582		
#	Units in Single Family Buildings	4,785	8,619		
	Units in Multi-Family Buildings	2,609	4,116		
	Units in Other Building Types	50	117		
	Demographics Educational Attainment Language Transit Dependence Household Income and Employment Disability Housing Units Demographic Type				

- Within the White Bear Ave Corridor area, there are more:
 - » Low-income households

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- » Zero-vehicle households
- » Residents of color
- » Affordable housing units
- White Bear Ave is estimated to generate 3,900 to 4,900 riders per weekday
 - » 2,600 of these riders are from zero-vehicle households
- Bruce Vento Regional Trail is estimated to generate 3,800 riders per weekday
 - » 1,900 of these riders are from zero-vehicle households
- Factors that increase potential ridership on White Bear Ave include:
 - » Longer corridor with more stations
 - » More destinations
 - » Stronger transit market



Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2017 to 2021, Block Groups * Source: Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics 2020 Workplace Area Characteristics

** Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2017 to 2021, Tracts



Transit and Traffic Operations

Transit Operations

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- Bruce Vento Regional Trail will take 25-30 min from Union Depot
- Shorter transit travel times
 - » Shorter corridor
 - » Fewer stations
 - » Dedicated BRT roadway
 - » Fewer intersections
- More reliable transit service
 - » Fewer potential conflicts with traffic
- Fewer potential transit maintenance challenges

Traffic Operations

With Purple Line on Bruce Vento Regional Trail, future traffic travel time on Maryland and White Bear avenues will be **10-11 min** during peak periods.

White Bear Ave will take **35-40 min** from Union Depot

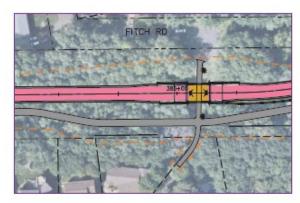
- Longer transit travel times
 - » Longer corridor
 - » More stations
 - » Less dedicated BRT roadway
 - » More intersections
- Less reliable transit service
 - » More potential conflicts with traffic
- More potential transit maintenance challenges

With Purple Line on White Bear Ave, future traffic travel time on Maryland and White Bear avenues will be **12-13 min** during peak periods.

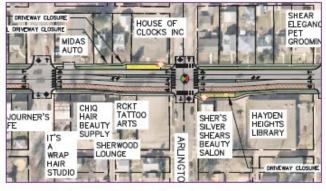


Property Impacts

- There are fewer property impacts along the Bruce Vento
- There are fewer property impacts along the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor. Impacts are largely minor and at the rear of properties.
- The White Bear Ave Corridor design options result in property impacts throughout the corridor. There are many minor, temporary impacts and some larger impacts to front yards and property access.
- The White Bear Ave Corridor design options could result in some relocations of residential and commercial properties.



Some minor property impacts are expected at the rear of properties on the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor.



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Several driveways may be closed near stations on the White Bear Ave Corridor.

Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor

	Impacted Properties
Residential	0
Businesses	1
Publicly-owned	1-4

These impacts are not total property takings. Minor impacts to the rear of properties along the corridor are expected.

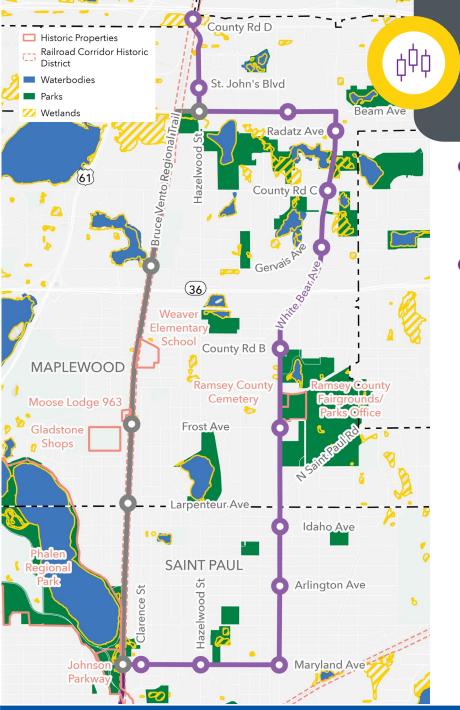
White Bear Ave Corridor (Side-Running)

	Impacted Properties
Residential	10-19
Businesses	20
Publicly-owned	1-2

White Bear Ave Corridor (Center-Running)

	Impacted Properties
Residential	56-57
Businesses	35-38
Publicly-owned	5



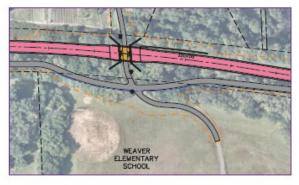


Environmental Considerations

- Based on information known at this time, the White Bear Ave Corridor appears to have fewer natural and cultural resource impacts.
- Purple Line staff determined that potential tree impacts are not an equivalent comparison between corridors. The Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor results in impacts to a greater number of trees in a "natural" environment; White Bear Ave design options result in loss of boulevard trees in an urban environment.



Minor impacts to two historic properties are expected during construction on the White Bear Ave Corridor.



Some impacts are expected at multiple historic properties along the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor, including Weaver Elementary School.



Cost and Federal Funding Eligibility

Cost

The Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor is expected to cost \$370 million. The White Bear Ave Corridor is expected to cost between \$420–450 million.

The White Bear Ave Corridor is expected to cost more than the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor.

Factors that increase the cost of the White Bear Ave Corridor include:

- Longer route and larger roadway
- Driveways, sidewalks, and additional street reconstruction at intersections
- Increase utility impacts
- Increased red paint for bus lanes
- More stations

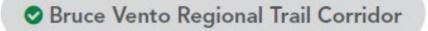
 More traffic signals and pedestrian crossing signals

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- More electric buses
- More permanent property acquisitions

Expected Federal Viability

Currently, both corridors are likely to be eligible for federal funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program.



White Bear Ave Corridor



Engagement Approach

Liz Jones | Community Outreach & Engagement



Engagement Plan (July-August)

- **Purpose:** Focused engagement on narrowed center running option in St. Paul and corridor wide engagement of Bruce Vento Regional Trail Co-location and the White Bear Avenue Corridor Route Alternatives.
- Events:
- 3 project-hosted community meetings
- Pop-ups/tabling at community events
- Canvassing
- Stakeholder presentations
- Property impact meetings with businesses

• Collecting feedback via:

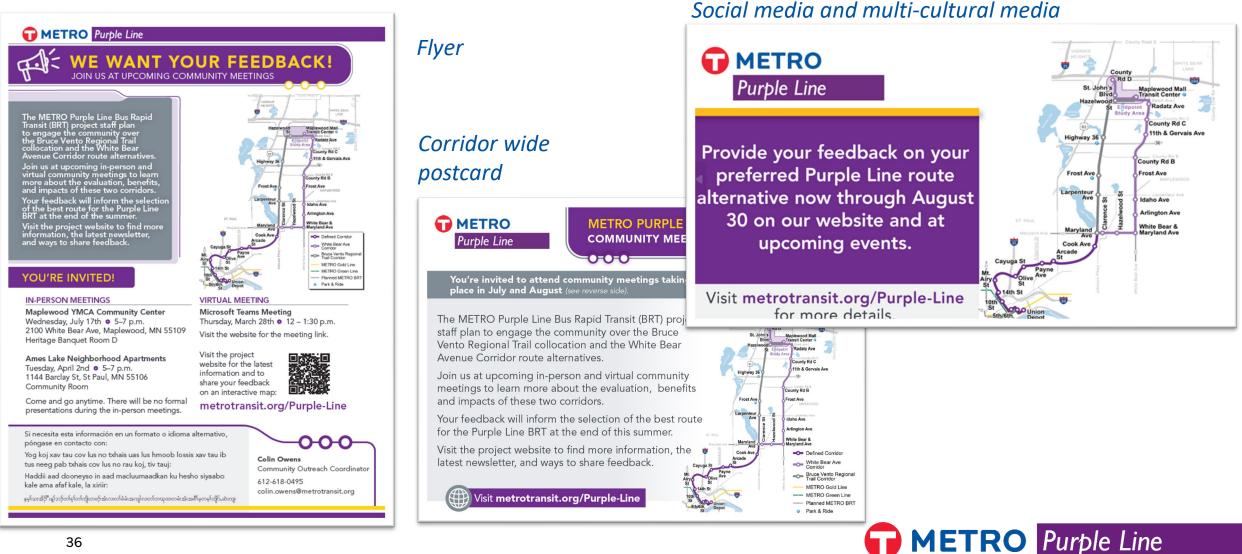
- Comment forms/surveys & Phone/email
- Display boards and surveys at libraries and community centers
- Hello Lamp Post: a two-way communication platform via signage and user's cell phone on signs and sidewalk decals posted along the Bruce Vento Regional Trail and White Bear Ave corridors



Example Hello Lamp Post sign with QR code



Sample of July-Aug Notices



Sample of July-Aug Materials



Trail Co-location

the Ramsey County rail right-of-way (Arcade St to Beam Ave).

with Bruce Vento Regional Trail

If the **Purple Line** co-locates with the Bruce Vento Regional Trail, the trail will be reconstructed only through the portion of the Purple Line route that uses

Diverse Engagement Media Outlets

Media Outlet	Media	Audience	Timeframe
Minnesota de Hoy	Digital	Spanish Communities in Minnesota	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
Sahan Journal	Digital	Diverse Communities in Minnesota	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
3 Hmong T.V.	Digital T.V.	Hmong	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
Somali T.V.	Digital T.V.	Somali	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
La Voz Latina	Digital & Print	Latino Community of the Twins Cities	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
MN Spokesman Recorder	Digital	African American	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
Access Press	Digital + Print	Minnesota's Disability Community	Aug. 1 to Aug. 31



Corridor Comparison Comment Form

- Which corridor would you like to see Purple Line travel on between Maryland to Beam avenues?
 - White Bear Avenue Corridor
 - Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor
- Why did you choose this corridor?
 - Open-ended
- What is important to you in selecting a corridor for Purple Line?
 - Open-ended

- Optional demographic questions:
 - Race, ethnicity, and/or
 origin, age, gender, access
 to a car, disability status,
 income
- How often do you use public transit?



Events

Community open houses:

- Maplewood: YMCA
 Community Center on
 Wednesday, July 17 from 5
 7 p.m.
- St. Paul: Hazel Park Rec
 Center on Tuesday, July 30
 from 5 7 p.m.
- Virtual: Wednesday,
 August 14 from noon –
 1:30 p.m.

Pop-ups at community events/locations:

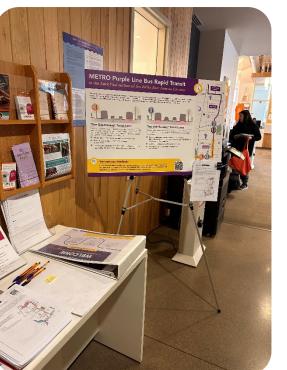
- Union Gospel Mission (downtown)
- National Night Out (several locations)
- Dragon Fest (7/13)
- YMCA, Sun World,
 Centromex
 Supermercado
 (Arcade)
- Hmong Village

- Union Depot
- India Fest (8/17)
- Maplewood Mall
- Maplewood Celebrate
 Summer (7/24)
- Bruce Vento Regional Trail Walk/Rolls
- HealthPartners Clinic
- Iowa Hi-Rise



Display Boards at Libraries and Community Centers

- Distribute display boards to local libraries to catch visitors from the community
 - 30 locations throughout the entire corridor
- Materials: surveys (multiple languages), display boards, info books
- Sticker activity to select preferred corridor
- Boards will be collected at the end of the comment period



Spring 2024 Display Boards





Next Steps & Stay Connected

Liz Jones | Community Outreach & Engagement



Provide Input

Please provide your input on which corridor you think will benefit the community.

METRO Purple Line

METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit - Preferred Corridor Survey

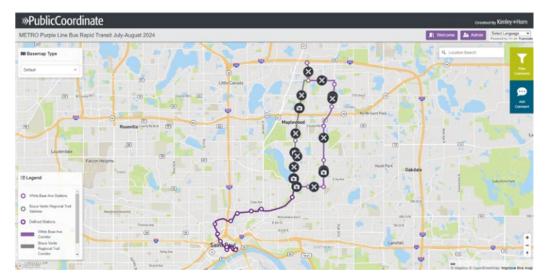
Should Purple Line run along the Bruce Vento Regional Trail or White Bear Avenue?

Thank you for taking taking the time to complete this brief survey for the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Your feedback will inform the selection of the best route for the Purple Line at the end of this summer.

Online Comment Form

Please send us your thoughts on the design concepts by filling out the online comment form. Scan the QR code:





Interactive Map

In addition to the online survey, please send us your thoughts/concerns by adding comments to the project area map.

Visit:

https://app.publiccoordinate.com/#/projects/Purpl eLineBRTCorridor/map



CBAC Meeting Look Ahead

- Meetings have been scheduled through Sept. 2024
- Agenda topics for each meeting will be shared in advance
- We are returning to a single 1.5-hour CBAC meeting. These sessions would be held virtually on Fridays.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings	Anticipated Topics
8/23	Arcade Street Station Update, Johnson Pkwy Crossing update
9/27	Revised Locally Preferred Alternative Staff Recommendation, White Bear Avenue Corridor Design Concept Staff Recommendation







Contact Us

For more information: <u>www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project</u>

Facebook and X/Twitter @PurpleLineBRT

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