Station Area Planning

Station Area Working Group Summit | September 12, 2023
Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions

• Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Overview
  – BRT route and station design
    • Led by: Metropolitan Council
  – BRT station area planning
    • Led by: Ramsey County
  – BRT station area plan approval and implementation
    • Led by: City of Saint Paul; Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

• Station Area Working Group Role

• Hopes + Fears Activity

• Goal Setting

• Next Steps
Welcome and Introductions

Denetrick Powers | Community Engagement Lead
Purple Line BRT Project Overview – Route and Station Design

Colin Owens | Purple Line BRT Community Outreach Coordinator
Stephen Smith | Purple Line BRT Deputy Project Manager
Future Transit

Current METRO network
- A Line
- C Line
- D Line
- Blue Line
- Green Line
- Orange Line
- Red Line

Planned METRO network
- Planned BRT
- Gold Line
- Purple Line
  Project under study; route and stations subject to change.
- Green Line Extension
  Project under study; route and stations subject to change.
- Blue Line Extension
  Project under study; route and stations subject to change.
- Riverview Line

Project under study; route and stations subject to change.
Evolution of Purple Line BRT

• First "Locally Preferred Alternative":
  - Identified in May 2017
  - Started at Union Depot in Saint Paul
  - Ended in Downtown White Bear Lake
  - Portion of route in purple circle was removed after White Bear Lake pulled support in March 2022
Evolution of Purple Line BRT

• **Dark Purple:**
  - Union Depot to Cook Ave.
  - Has stayed the same since May 2017

• **Grey:**
  - Bruce Vento Regional Trail Corridor
  - Original route, now ending at Maplewood Mall Transit Center

• **Light Purple:**
  - New route alternative along Maryland Ave. and White Bear Ave.
  - Under evaluation over the next year
What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

• More frequent service
  – every 10-15 minutes

• Faster ride
  – pay before you go, raised platforms, fewer stops, priority at traffic lights

• Stations with extra features
  – heat, lighting, bike racks

• Specialized, electric buses
Features that Define "Dedicated" Bus Rapid Transit

• **Bus-only lanes:** Buses can travel faster and more reliably

• **Pay before you go:** Riders pay their fare at the station, instead of on the bus

• **Priority at traffic lights:** Buses receive priority at intersections

• **Raised Platform Boarding:** Riders of all abilities can board easier with 10” high platform
Purple Line Purpose and Needs

• Purpose: To provide transit service that:
  – satisfies the long-term regional mobility and accessibility needs for businesses and the traveling public
  – supports sustainable development within the corridor area

• Needs:
  – Serving the needs of people who rely on transit
  – Meeting increasing demand for reliable, high-frequency transit
  – Planning for sustainable growth and development
  – Expanding multimodal travel options
Project Schedule

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**
2.5 Years
- Advance engineering and design
  - Identify locations of stations, and station design
- Environmental clearance
- Seek city support of the BRT design
- Station area planning

**FINAL DESIGN**
1.5 Years
- Final engineering
- Develop construction-ready plans
- Real estate acquisition
- Station area planning

**CONSTRUCTION**
2-2.5 Years
- Bidding and construction
- Capital grant agreement
- Federal funding

*BRT projects are complex and unforeseen challenges arise. Schedules and timelines are subject to change.*
Contact Us

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

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Purple Line BRT Station Area Planning

Emma Lucken | Station Area Planning Project Manager
Station Area Planning:

• Focuses on use of land within ½ mile of transit stations.

• Identifies ways to make it safer to walk and bike to transit stations.

• Supports development of housing and businesses near transit stations.
Key Questions: Access to stations

• How can we improve the area to make the station easy to access and connect to?

• Is the station physically connected to safe walking and biking paths?
  – What are the conditions of the sidewalks surrounding the station?
  – Which sidewalks or street crossings need to be safer?

• Who is using existing public transit and bike paths in the station area?
Key Questions: Development

• How can design make the physical station area welcoming, visible, and safe?
• What types of new development (housing, stores, etc.) will support the needs of those who live and work near the station, both now and in the future?
• What properties in your neighborhood would you like to see redeveloped?
What is the outcome of the Station Area Planning process?

• Recommendations for policies and guidelines that:
  – Serve the needs of existing residents, future residents, and employers.
  – Communicate the goals of the surrounding community.
  – Center the needs of people of color and low-income residents.
  – Inform where future investment should take place.

• These recommendations inform the Station Area Plans.
Purple Line BRT Station Area Planning – Plan Approval and Implementation

Emma Brown | City of Saint Paul
City of Saint Paul Station Area Plan Adoption Process

1. Ramsey County station area planning initiation
2. Station area planning process and plan drafting
3. Draft station area plans complete
4. Comprehensive & Neighborhood Planning Committee (CNPC) review, recommendation for public release
5. Planning Commission releases plans for public review, sets public hearing date
6. City Council review, Public Hearing, adoption
7. Planning Commission makes final recommendation on plans to City Council
8. CNPC considers changes to plans based on public comments, makes recommendation to Planning Commission
9. Planning Commission Public Hearing
Station Area Working Group Role

Denetrick Powers | Community Engagement Lead
In your Station Area Working Groups, you will help us understand:

• neighborhood needs and opportunities (businesses, housing, green space)
• what will help pedestrians and bikers feel safe
• how vacant buildings and land should be used in the future
• what should be preserved in the neighborhood
Hopes + Fears Activity

Denetrick Powers | Community Engagement Lead
What are your hopes and fears about your neighborhood changing?

• Directions
  – Review the station area map at your table.
  – Take 5 minutes to write down your hopes, using the post-it notes and pens.
  – Take 5 minutes to write down your fears.
  – Take 10 minutes to share your hopes and fears with the large group.
Station Area Map Introduction
Goal Setting

Denetrick Powers | Community Engagement Lead
Station Area Working Group Goals

• Take 10 mins to discuss at your table the following questions:
  – What do you hope to achieve as a participant of the Station Area Planning process?
  – How can we support your understanding and learning during this process?
Where do we go from here?

• First round of working group meetings October 2 – 20, 2023
• Broader engagement and survey October – November, 2023
• Second and third working group meetings in 2024
  - (tentatively January and June)
Thank You!

For more information: 
www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-station-area-planning

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