



July 12, 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PHASE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Agenda

- Welcome.
- Introductions.
- Role of the Community Advisory Committee.
- Rush Line BRT Project overview.
 - Purpose, need and goals.
 - Project tasks schedule.
 - BRT characteristics (video).
 - Small-group discussion: overall corridor, station locations, community engagement to-date.
- Next Community Advisory Committee meeting.

Introductions

- Why did you want to be on the Community Advisory Committee?
- What about the Rush Line BRT project is most interesting to you/your neighborhood/community?



Role of Community Advisory Committee

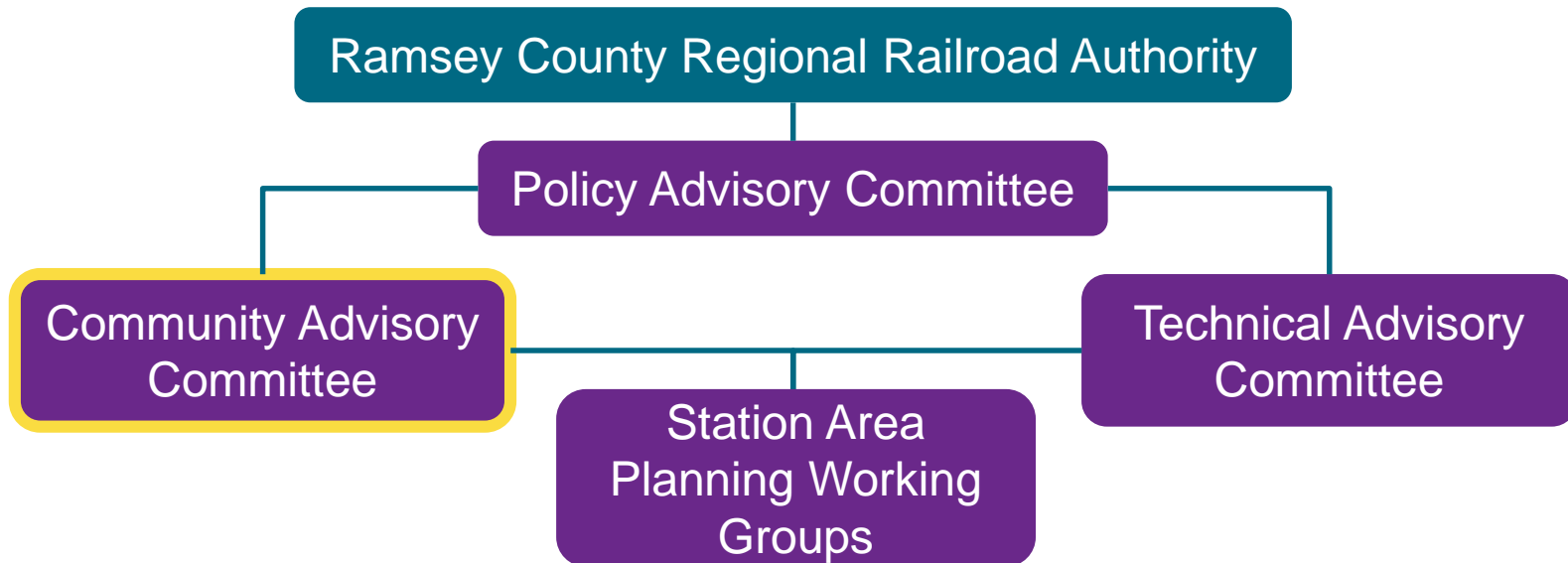
Role of the Community Advisory Committee

- Advise Rush Line BRT Project team and decision-makers on key project design, station area planning, environmental analysis and operational plan decisions from a community and business perspective.
- Advise on public engagement techniques and assist with ensuring that information regarding public engagement opportunities is effectively communicated to the public.

Environmental Analysis Phase Advisory Committees and Working Groups



B R T



Role of Chair and Vice Chair

- Role of chair:
 - Serve for the duration of the environmental analysis phase.
 - Lead and facilitate meetings.
 - Report the input of the Community Advisory Committee at Policy Advisory Committee meetings and Technical Advisory Committee meetings as appropriate.
- Role of vice chair:
 - Perform the duties of the chair in their absence.
- Chair and vice chair will be selected at the next meeting. Please email a brief statement of interest to Frank if you would like to serve in either role.



Project Overview

Pre-Project Development Study Process (2014-2017)

- Examined 55 route segments and 7 types of bus and rail transit vehicles.

A diagram showing four steps of a process flow, each represented by a right-pointing arrow of decreasing width and increasing offset from the left. The arrows are dark teal, light blue, yellow, and light yellow, respectively.

Define Project Needs, Goals & Objectives

Develop Alternatives

Evaluate Alternatives

Select Alternative

- 5,200 conversations at over 150 engagement events.

Purpose and Need

- Purpose:
 - Provide transit service that satisfies the long-term regional mobility needs for businesses and the traveling public and supports sustainable development within the study area.
- Needs:
 - Planning for sustainable growth and development.
 - Serving the needs of people who rely on transit.
 - Limited sustainable travel options.
 - Increasing demand for reliable, high-frequency transit.

Project Goals

- Increase transit use.
- Develop an implementable project.
- Improve quality of life.
- Improve sustainable transportation options.
- Enhance regional connectivity.
- Support the local vision for sustainable development.

Locally Preferred Alternative



B R T

- Dedicated guideway BRT.
- Phalen Boulevard and Robert Street into downtown Saint Paul.
- Ramsey County Regional Railroad right-of-way (shared with Bruce Vento Trail).
- Highway 61 north of I-694 into White Bear Lake.
- Explore future connections to the north and other system improvements.



Locally Preferred Alternative

- Run seven days a week from early in the morning to late at night.
- Arrive every 10 minutes during rush hours and every 15 minutes other times.
- Travel time of approximately 30 minutes from Saint Paul Central Business District to Maplewood Mall, 14 minutes from Maplewood Mall to downtown White Bear Lake.
- Serves 14 healthcare institutions.
- Connect to 106,000 jobs within a 10-minute walk of the 20 planned stations.
- Transfer to/from the METRO Green Line at Regions/Green Line station.

Why Dedicated BRT

- High quality service similar to light rail transit.
 - Operates in own lane.
 - Frequent and reliable.
 - Upgraded stations and vehicles.
- Right-sized solution.
 - BRT vehicles can handle peak ridership demand.
 - Less costly to build and operate than light rail transit.



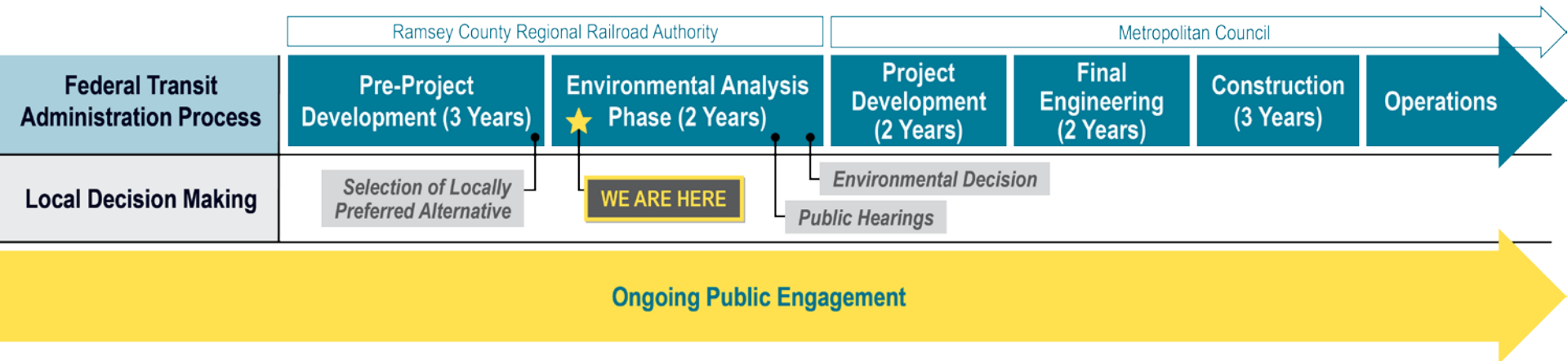
Dedicated BRT Example

[Video: Los Angeles Orange Line BRT Tour](#)

Transitway Development Process



B R T



Environmental Analysis Phase



- 2018 to 2020.
- Four key tasks.
 - Environmental analysis.
 - Preliminary engineering.
 - Station area planning.
 - Public engagement.

Environmental Analysis

- Federal and state environmental review.
 - Federal class of action is an Environmental Assessment.
 - Environmental Assessment Worksheet under state review requirements.
- Based on preliminary engineering.
- Evaluate impacts to transportation, community and social, and physical and environmental resources.

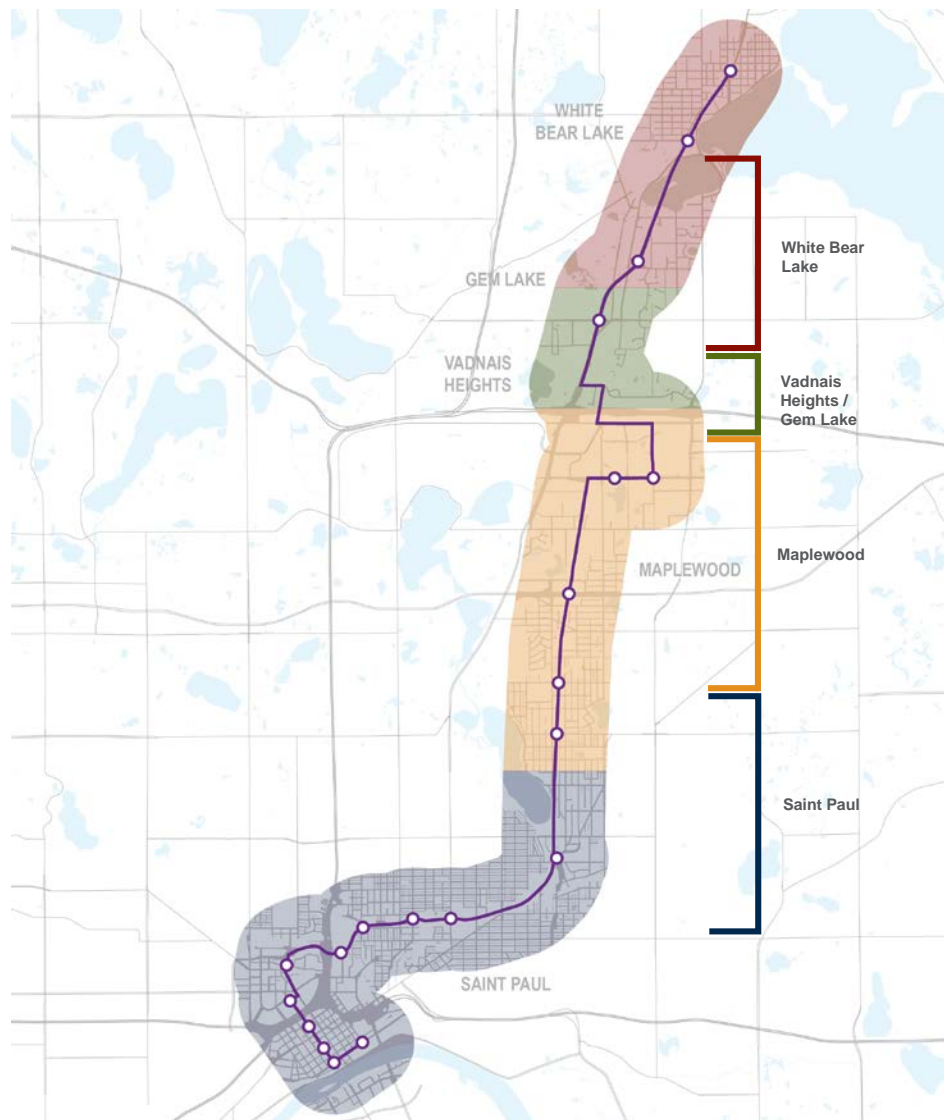
Station Area Planning

- Station placement.
- Station area visioning and station-specific strategies.
- Market assessment.
- Circulation and infrastructure plans.
- Conceptual station area plans.

***Throughout process work closely with Rush Line
BRT Project communities.***

Station Area Planning Working Groups

- Based on geography:
 - Saint Paul.
 - Maplewood.
 - Vadnais Heights and Gem Lake.
 - White Bear Lake.
- 10 to 15 participants including city staff, elected officials, residents, advisory committee members and other key stakeholders as determined through coordination with cities.
- Three meetings over six months:
 - Issue identification.
 - Review draft concepts.
 - Review final concept.



Cities and Station Locations

Downtown White Bear Lake

Marina Triangle

Cedar Avenue

County Road E

Maplewood Mall

St. John's Hospital

Highway 36/English Street

Frost Avenue

Larpenteur Avenue

Phalen Village

Arcade Street

Payne Avenue

Cayuga Street

Olive Street

Mt. Airy

Regions/Green Line

9th/10th Street

5th/6th Street

Kellogg Boulevard

Union Depot

Communications and Public Engagement

- Diverse corridor with regard to race, ethnicity, income and languages spoken.
 - Latino, Hmong, Karen and Somali communities in the corridor.
- Provide project information to communities and use their input to inform project decisions.
 - Station locations.
 - Guideway alignment.
 - Environmental impacts.
 - Trail alignment and features.
 - Pedestrian safety.



Communications and Public Engagement

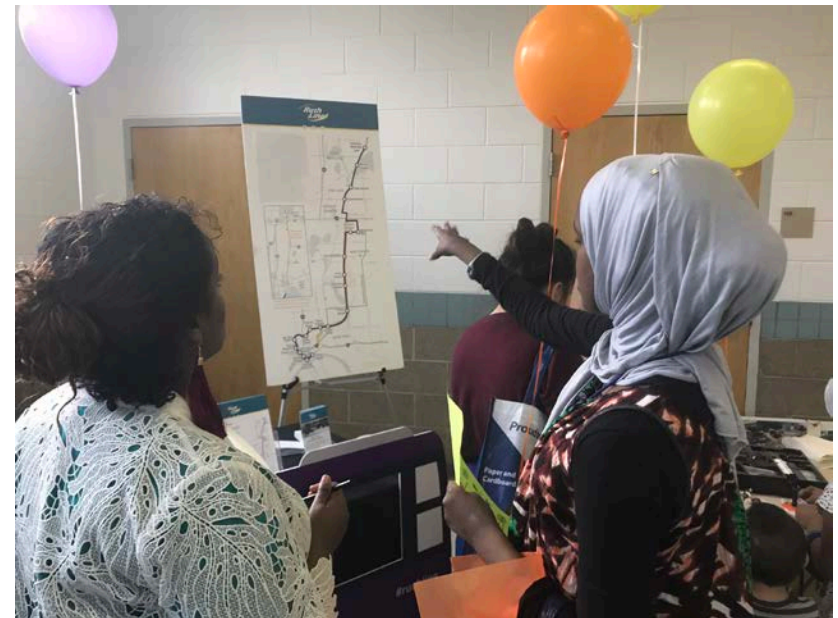
- In-person methods:
 - Pop-up meetings.
 - Event participation.
 - Targeted events.
 - Trail rides/walks.
 - Site visits/tours.
 - Updates/briefings.
 - Public forums.
- Online methods:
 - Email.
 - Web.
 - Social media.
 - Surveys.
 - Interactive mapping.



Ride and Walk event in Maplewood.

Communications and Public Engagement Plan

- Plan describes goals, strategies, decision-making process and schedule.
- Plan will be updated periodically to include schedules, strategies and outreach audiences for supporting key decisions and sharing milestones.



Mt. Airy Homes Spring Event.

Recent Public Engagement Activities

- June 7: Mt. Airy Hi-Rise pop-up.
- June 16: Fun Ride & Walk on the Bruce Vento Trail.
- June 19: Party in the Park at Berwood Park in Vadnais Heights.
- June 20: East Side Employment Center Xchange Career Fair at Merrick Community Center.
- June 20: District Council 2 monthly meeting.
- June 26: Payne-Phalen Neighborhood Association monthly meeting.
- June 28: Maplewood Business Council quarterly meeting.



Party in the Park at Berwood Park in Vadnais Heights.

Public Engagement Input Themes

- Corridor-wide:
 - Winter maintenance.
 - Importance of connecting bus service.
 - Rush Line BRT represents an opportunity to explore different destinations.
- Neighborhood-specific:
 - Maplewood Mall is a popular destination for youth.
 - Hmong Village is a regional destination; locals use the bus to get there.
 - Walking conditions and safety around Mt. Airy present challenges to using local bus service or Rush Line BRT.



Cinco de Mayo festival in Saint Paul.

Upcoming Public Engagement Activities

- July 11-15: Ramsey County Fair.
- July 14: Dragon Festival at Lake Phalen.
- July 17: Gold Line Open House at Grace Lutheran Church.
- July 19, 5:00-7:00 p.m.: Bruce Vento Trail Pop-Up, weather permitting; back-up date: July 25.
- July 26: Marketfest in White Bear Lake.
- Mid-August: Vadnais Heights Heritage Days.



East Side Employment Center Xchange Career Fair at Merrick Community Center.

Small Group Discussion Questions

- Do you have additional ideas of where Rush Line public engagement could take place in your community?
- What destinations are near the stations in your community?
- How would you reach the station nearest you? Is there infrastructure in place to reach it safely and conveniently? If yes, what works? If no, what can be improved?
- What qualities of the BRT service do you find most valuable?

Possible Dates for Next Meeting

- Tuesday, September 18
- Wednesday, September 19
- Thursday, September 20
- Tuesday, September 25

Time will be 6-8 p.m.



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Thank you!

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