



*Rush  
Line*

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July 26, 2018

# POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PHASE



## Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Overview of project activities.
3. Community Advisory Committee update.
4. Public engagement update.
5. Schedule review.
6. Environmental review update.
7. Highlights from issue resolution teams and station area planning.
8. Public comment.
9. Next Policy Advisory Committee meeting.



## Recap of May Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

- May 31 meeting:
  - Approved Community Advisory Committee members.
  - Reviewed refined purpose and need and draft Communication and Public Engagement Plan.
  - Public engagement update.
  - Project walk through.



## Overview of Project Activities

- Federal Transit Administration.
  - June 11, June 14 and July 9 calls on environmental review process and cultural resources work.
- Minnesota Department of Transportation.
  - May 31 coordination meeting.
- Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit.
  - June 1 ridership meeting.
  - June 28 service planning meeting.



## Community Advisory Committee Update

- First meeting held on Thursday, July 12, at the East Side Enterprise Center.
- Agenda included:
  - Icebreaker introductions.
  - Community Advisory Committee charter and committee role.
  - Project overview including schedule, tasks, purpose and need, geography and BRT characteristics.
  - Small group discussions about public engagement, access to stations, key destinations and attributes of BRT service.
- Next meeting scheduled for September 18.



Community Advisory Committee meeting.



## Public Engagement Activities in June

- June 2: Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District WaterFest.
- 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: District Council 5 monthly meeting.
- June 28: Maplewood Business Council quarterly meeting.



Party in the Park at Berwood Park in Vadnais Heights.



## Public Engagement Activities in July and August

- July 11-15: Ramsey County Fair.
- July 14: Dragon Festival at Lake Phalen.
- July 26: MarketFest in White Bear Lake.
- August 7: National Night Out at Roosevelt Homes.
- Mid-August: Vadnais Heights Heritage Days.
- Late August: Walk-and-engage with residents and businesses at Arcade Street and Payne Avenue.



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



## What Are We Hearing?

- Employers interested in improved transit to attract and retain employees.
- Interest by current non-transit users in project.
- Districts 2 and 5 see the need to improve transit options on the East Side.
- Connecting bus service is important in suburban and Saint Paul communities.
- Engagement activities are relationship-building.
- Safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and people waiting at stations must be a priority.



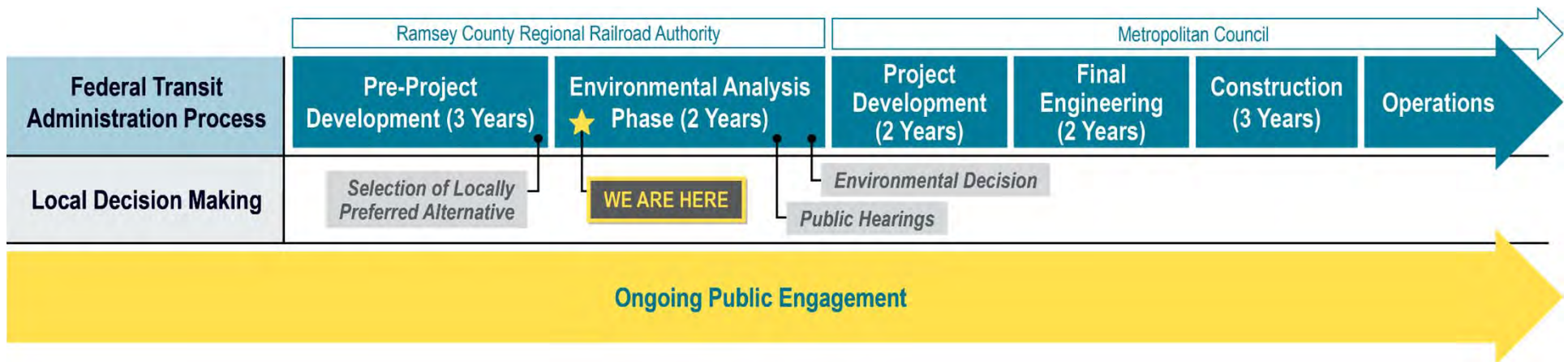
Dragon Festival at Lake Phalen.



# Transitway Development Process



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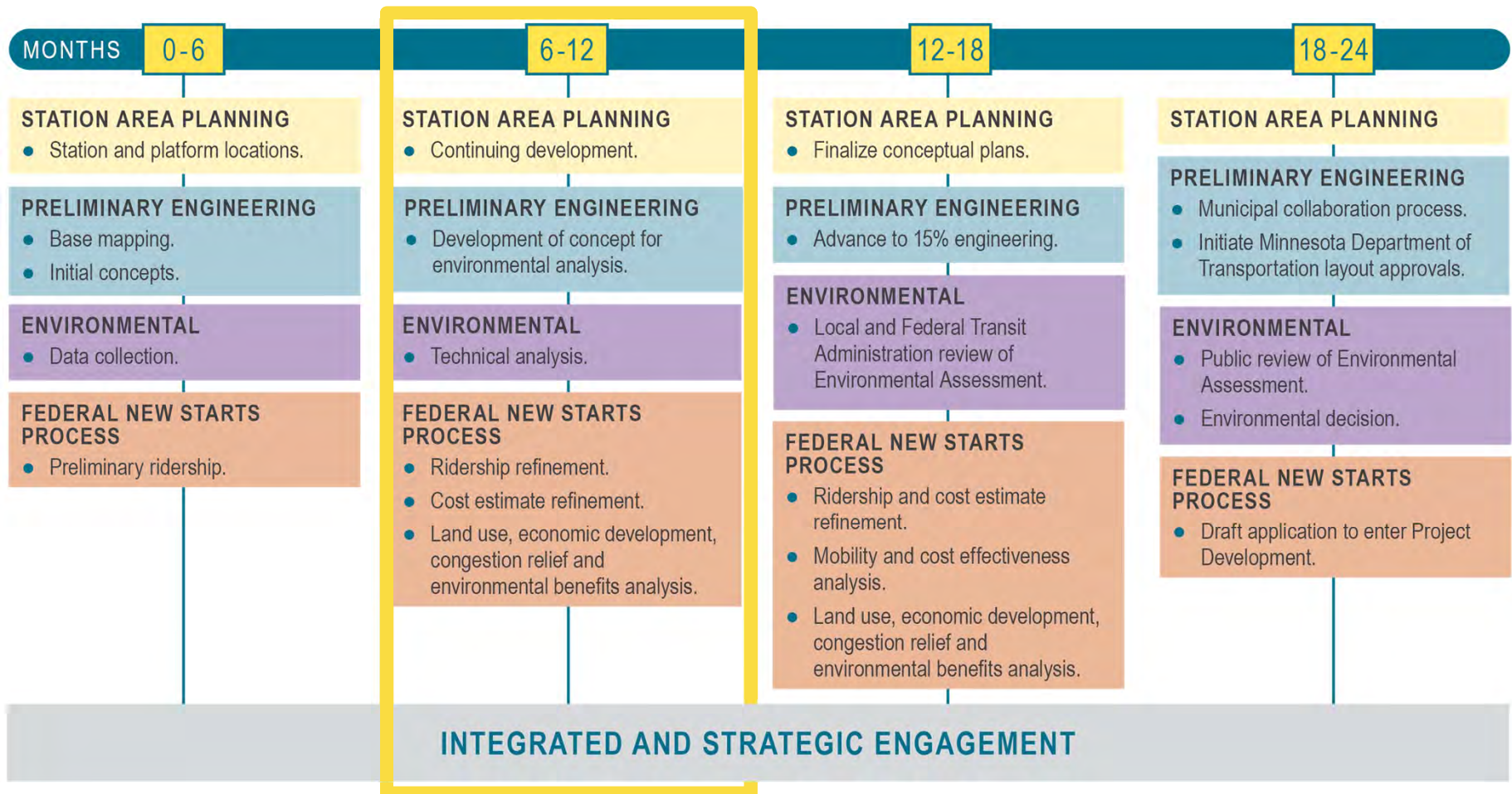




# Environmental Analysis Phase Schedule



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## Key Policy Advisory Committee Dates

Activity	Timeframe
Review and confirm project definition for more detailed engineering and environmental analysis	September 27, 2018
Review 15 percent concept design prior to submittal to project area cities	May 2019
Review key findings from environmental analysis and project definition in the Environmental Assessment	Late fall 2019



## **Municipal Collaboration During Environmental Analysis Phase**

- Coordination throughout process in development of 15 percent concept design.
- Following Policy Advisory Committee review, submittal to Rush Line BRT Project cities in summer 2019 (15 percent concept design).
- 30-day review and comment period.
- Cities encouraged to pass resolutions supporting project's concept design, which will affirm the project scope in subsequent phases.
  - Anticipated in summer 2019.



## **Municipal Collaboration After Environmental Analysis Phase**

- Trunk Highway and County State Aid Highway municipal consent approvals, where applicable – 30 percent design.
- Design review by project partners during engineering stage – 60 and 90 percent design.



## Environmental Review Update

- Field review activities.
  - Completed:
    - Survey and aerial mapping.
    - Tree inventory.
    - Traffic counts.
    - Phase I Environmental Site Assessment site reconnaissance.
    - Noise measurements.
  - Current:
    - Architecture/history survey.
  - Upcoming:
    - Additional traffic counts, as needed.



## Environmental Review Update

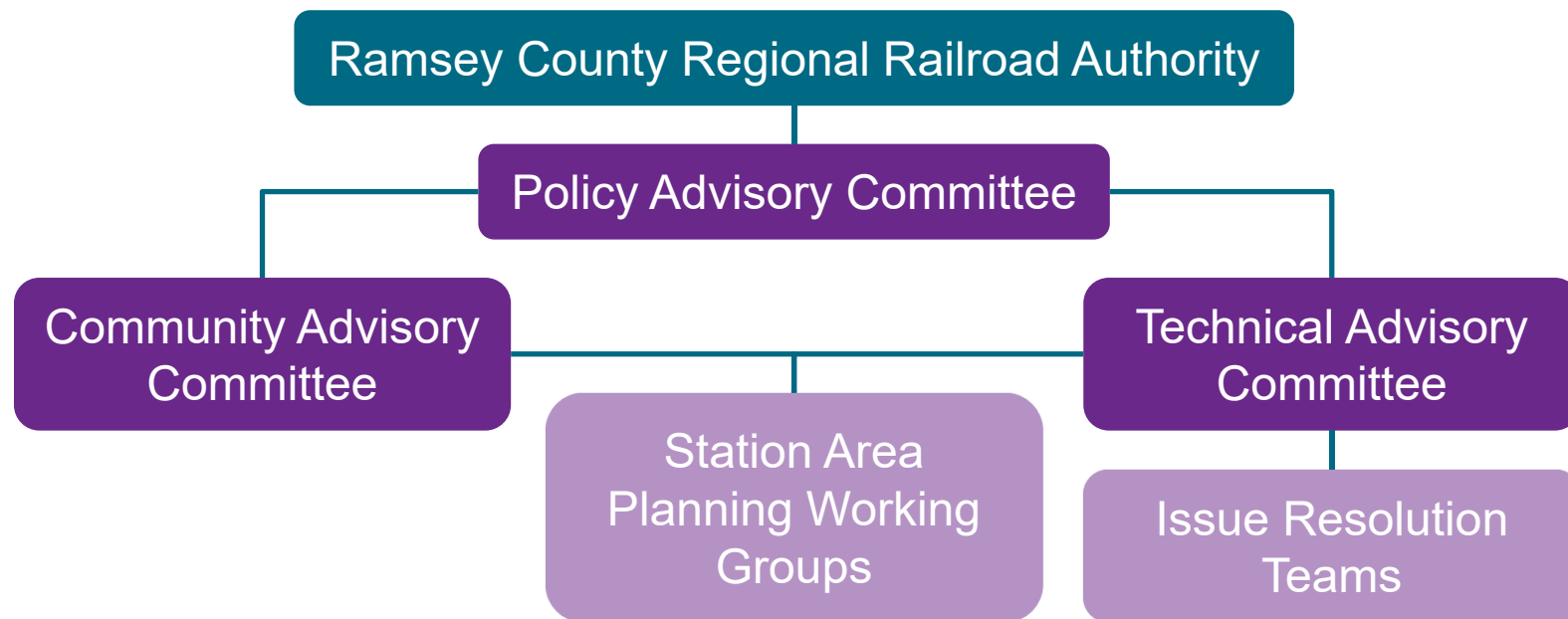
- Field review process.
  - Activities are being conducted from public right-of-way.
  - Will follow a right of entry process if access to private property is needed.



# Environmental Analysis Phase Decision-Making Structure



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## Highlights from Review Processes

- Selected project elements have been defined through:
  - Station area planning activities.
  - Issue resolution team meetings.
  - Technical analysis.
  - Public engagement activities.
- Full Rush Line BRT Project definition review and recommendation for further engineering and environmental advancement at September Technical and Policy Advisory Committee meetings.



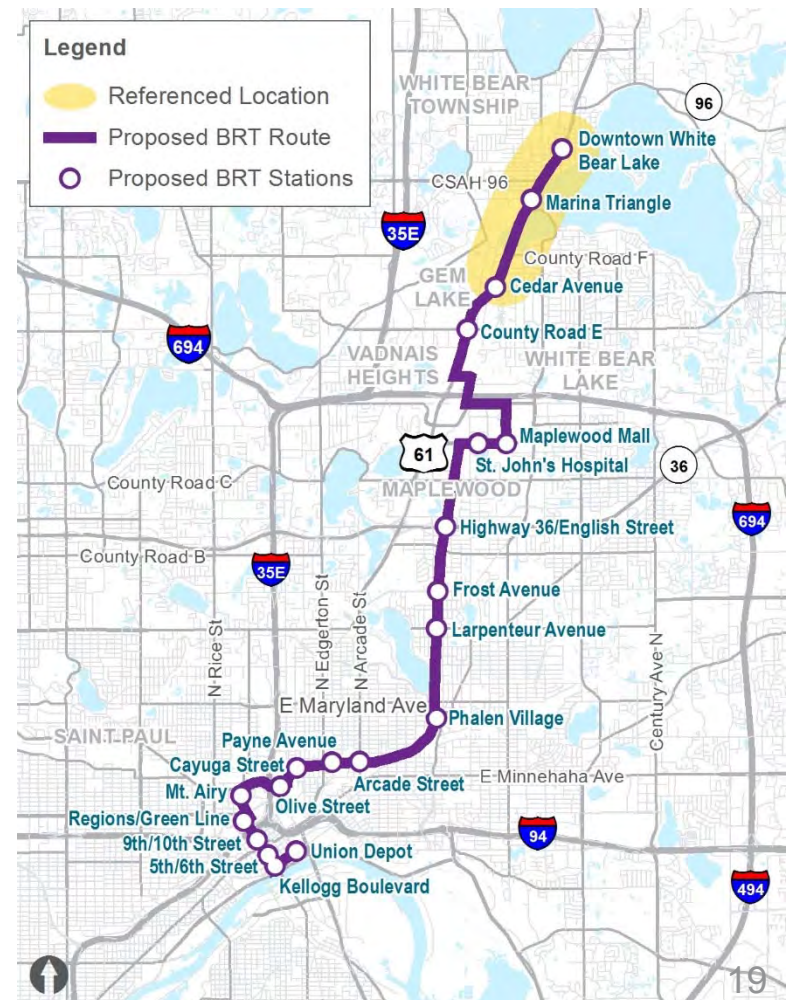
## Issue Resolution Team Meeting Summary

Issue Resolution Team	Meetings Since May 31, 2018
Highway 61	June 22
Maplewood	June 21, July 19
Saint Paul	June 14, July 12



## White Bear Lake Station Area Planning Activities

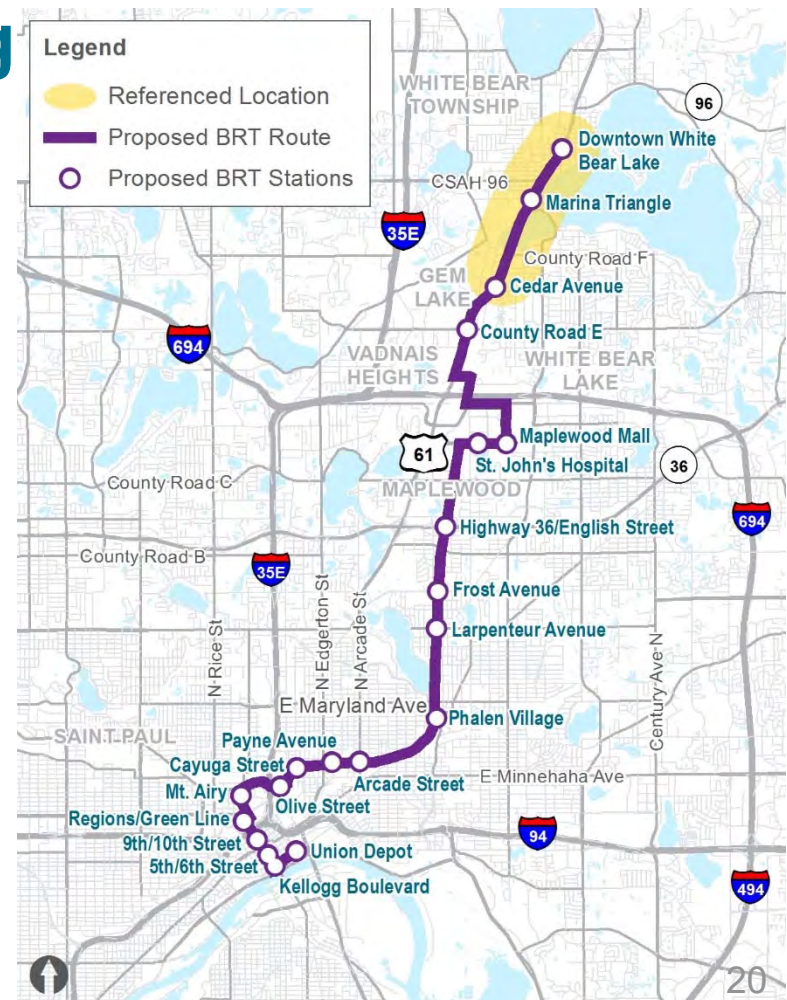
- Since May 31 Policy Advisory Committee meeting:
  - Downtown White Bear Lake working group meeting.
  - Stakeholder meeting with Kowalski's at Marina Triangle.
- Upcoming meetings:
  - Stakeholder meeting with White Bear Shopping Center at Marina Triangle.
  - Working group meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 6:30-9 p.m.
    - Focusing on Marina Triangle and Cedar Avenue stations.





# Key Themes from White Bear Lake Station Area Planning

- White Bear Lake working group expressed a preference for the Downtown White Bear Lake station to be located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Clark Avenue.
- Kowalski's expressed support for transit-oriented redevelopment at Marina Triangle.





# Downtown White Bear Lake Park-and-Ride Options Evaluated



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## Less Optimal Site:

- Isolated site significantly limits ground floor retail viability
- Difficult bus and auto access to/from Highway 61

## Less Optimal Site:

- Parcel is too narrow for a parking structure
- Difficult bus access to/from Highway 61

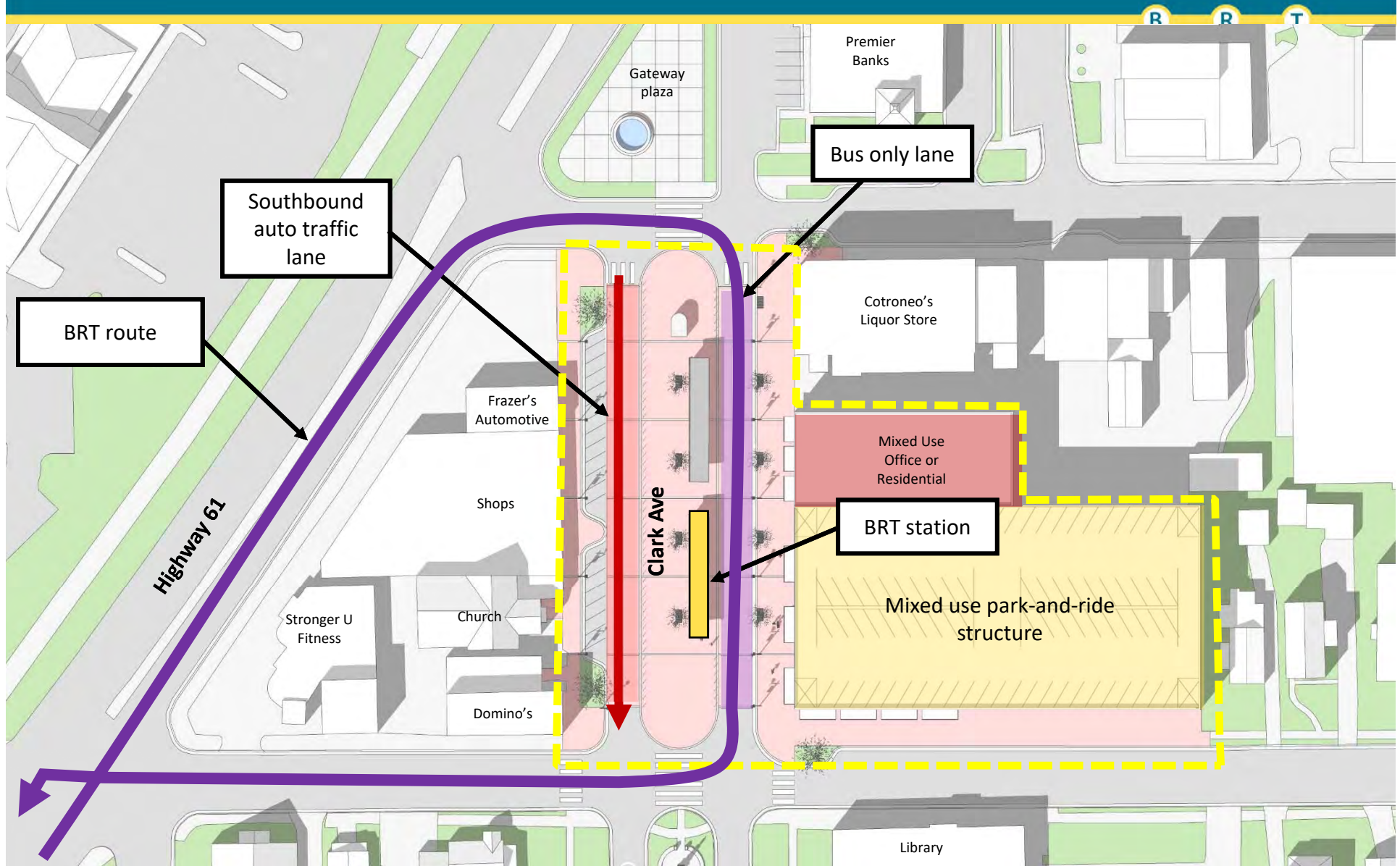
## Less Optimal Site:

- To accommodate 100 park-and-ride spaces, maintain existing parking spaces, and provide for new mixed use retail, height requirements would be exceeded



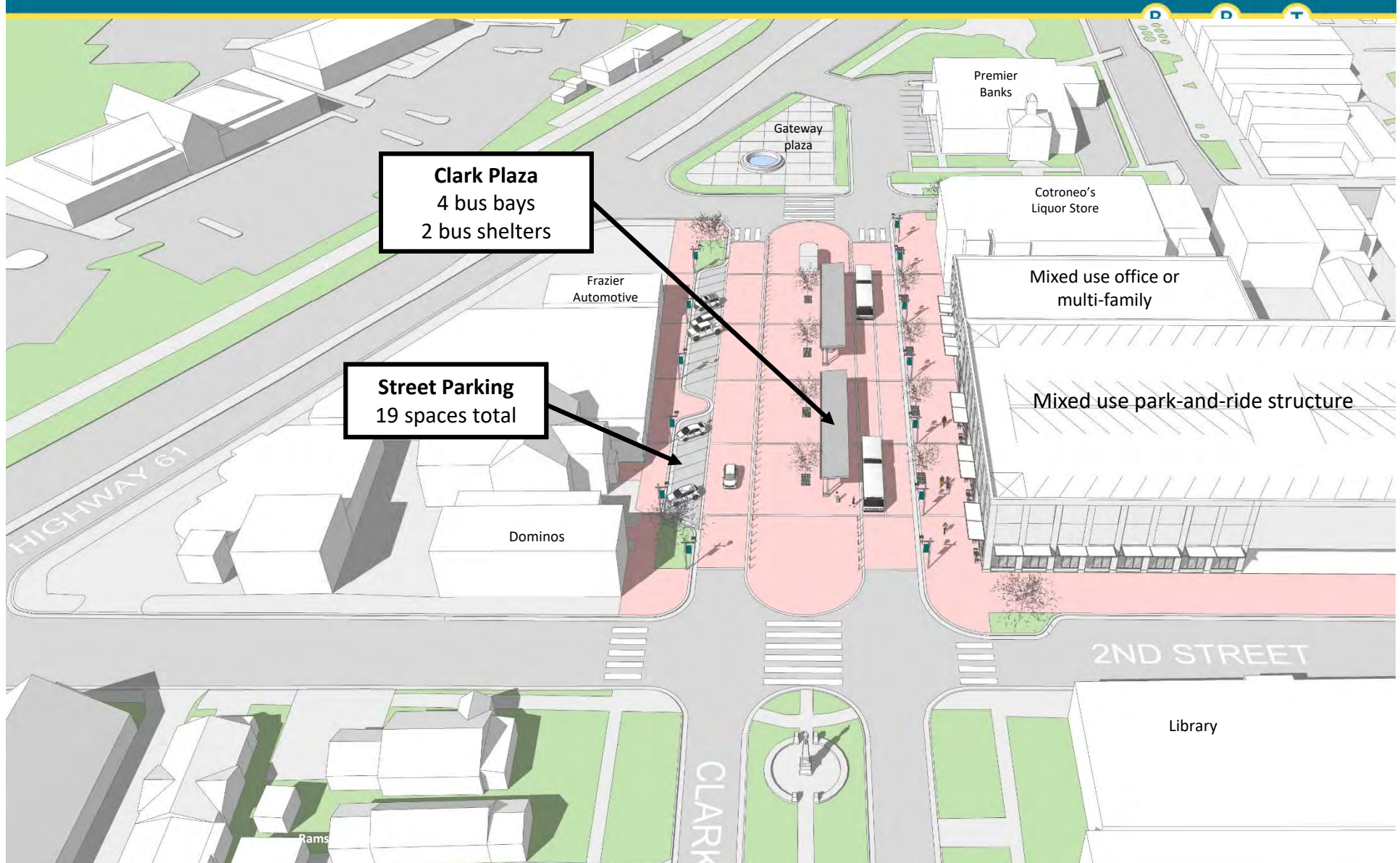


# Downtown White Bear Lake Option 1: Station Platform





# Downtown White Bear Lake Option 1: Station Platform



**Clark Plaza**  
4 bus bays  
2 bus shelters

**Street Parking**  
19 spaces total

Premier  
Banks

Cotroneo's  
Liquor Store

Mixed use office or  
multi-family

Mixed use park-and-ride structure

Frazier  
Automotive

Dominos

2ND STREET

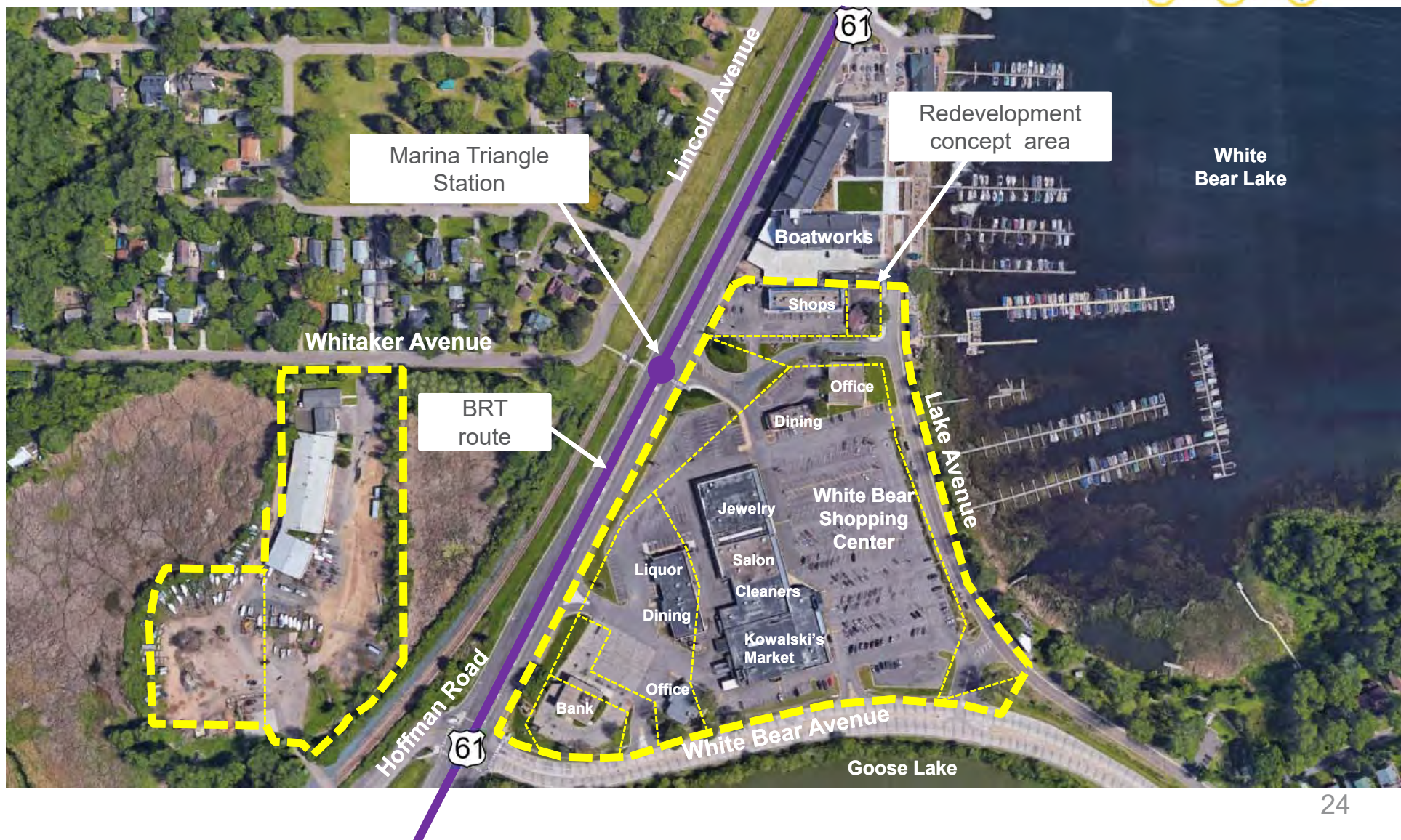
Library

CLARK

Rams



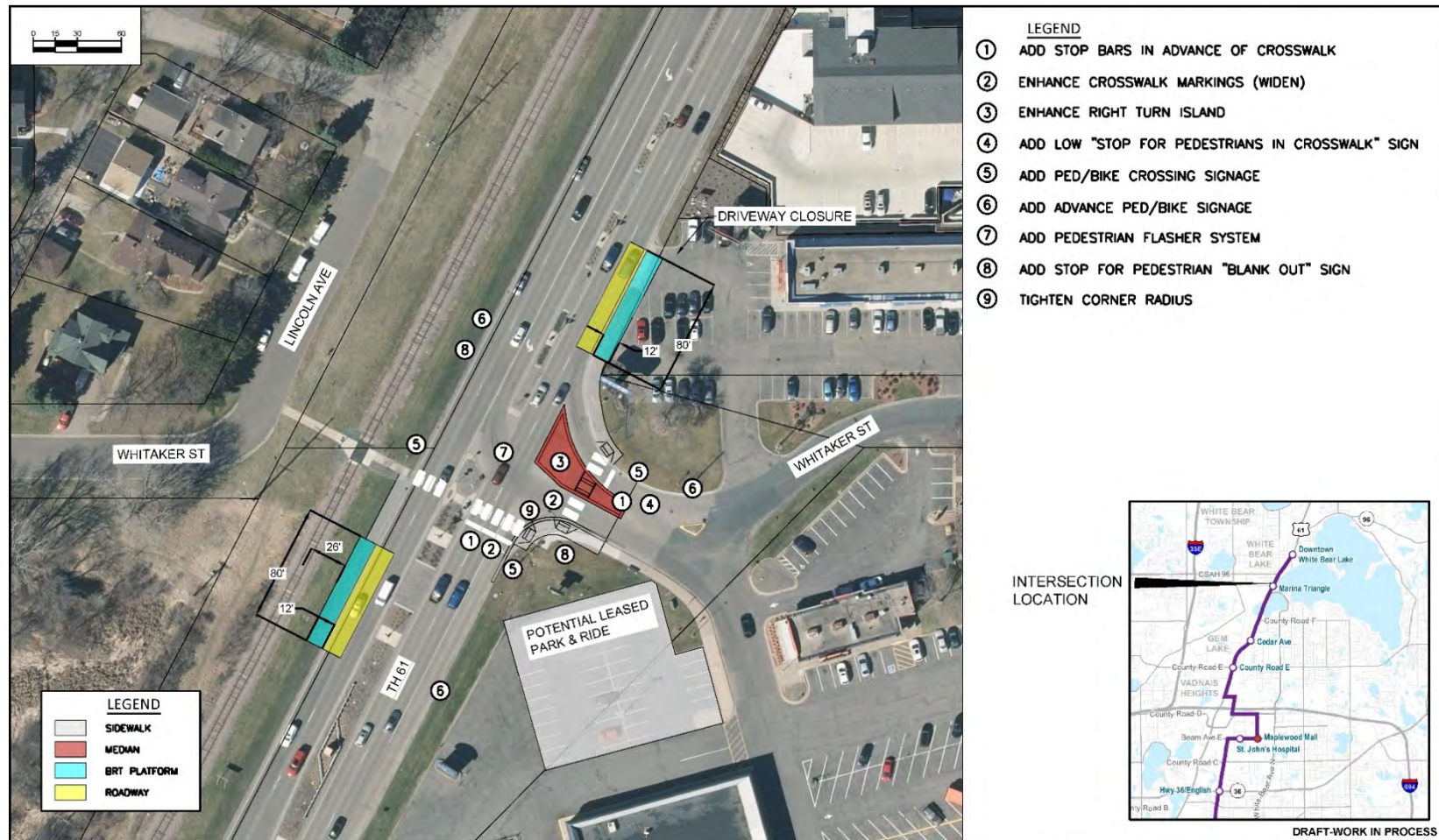
# Marina Triangle Station Area Under Evaluation





# Highway 61 and Whitaker Street Intersection Improvements Under Evaluation

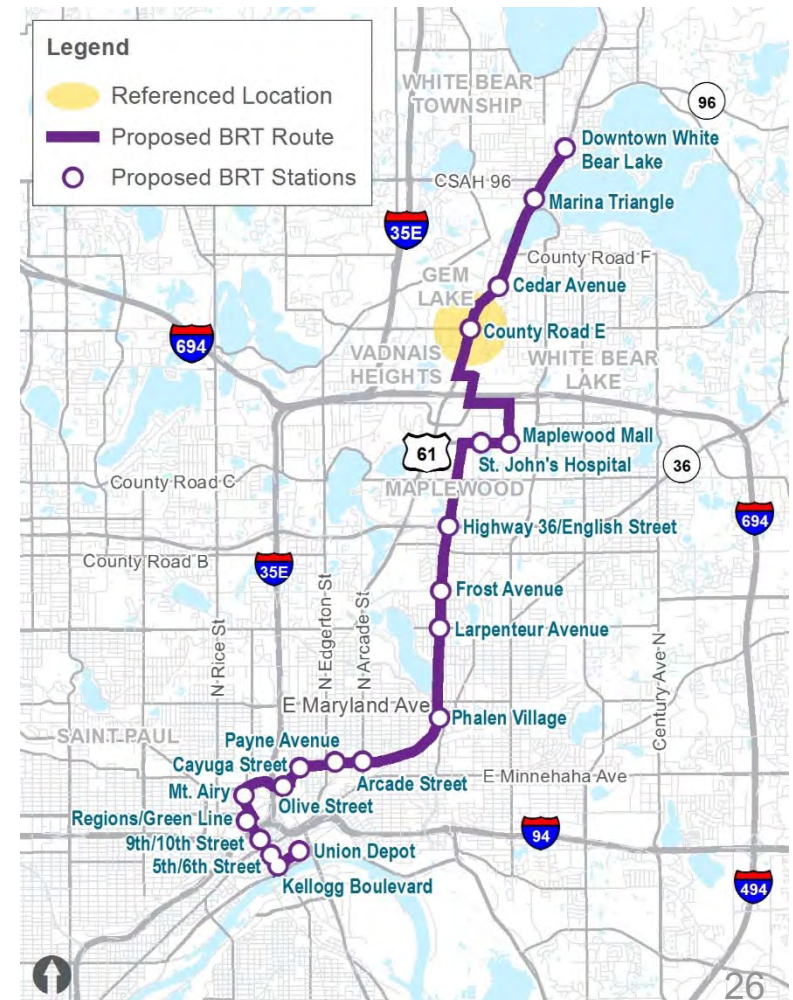
- Reviewing potential improvements at Highway 61 and Whitaker Street (Marina Triangle station) to improve pedestrian accessibility.





# County Road E Station Area Planning Activities

- Working group meetings:
  - Meeting #1 – May 22.
- Key themes:
  - Crossing Highway 61 to access platforms is a concern.
  - Consideration of a Buerkle Road station should be reviewed.
  - Additional outreach to businesses is needed.
- Next working group meeting:
  - Tuesday, August 14, 3-5 p.m.



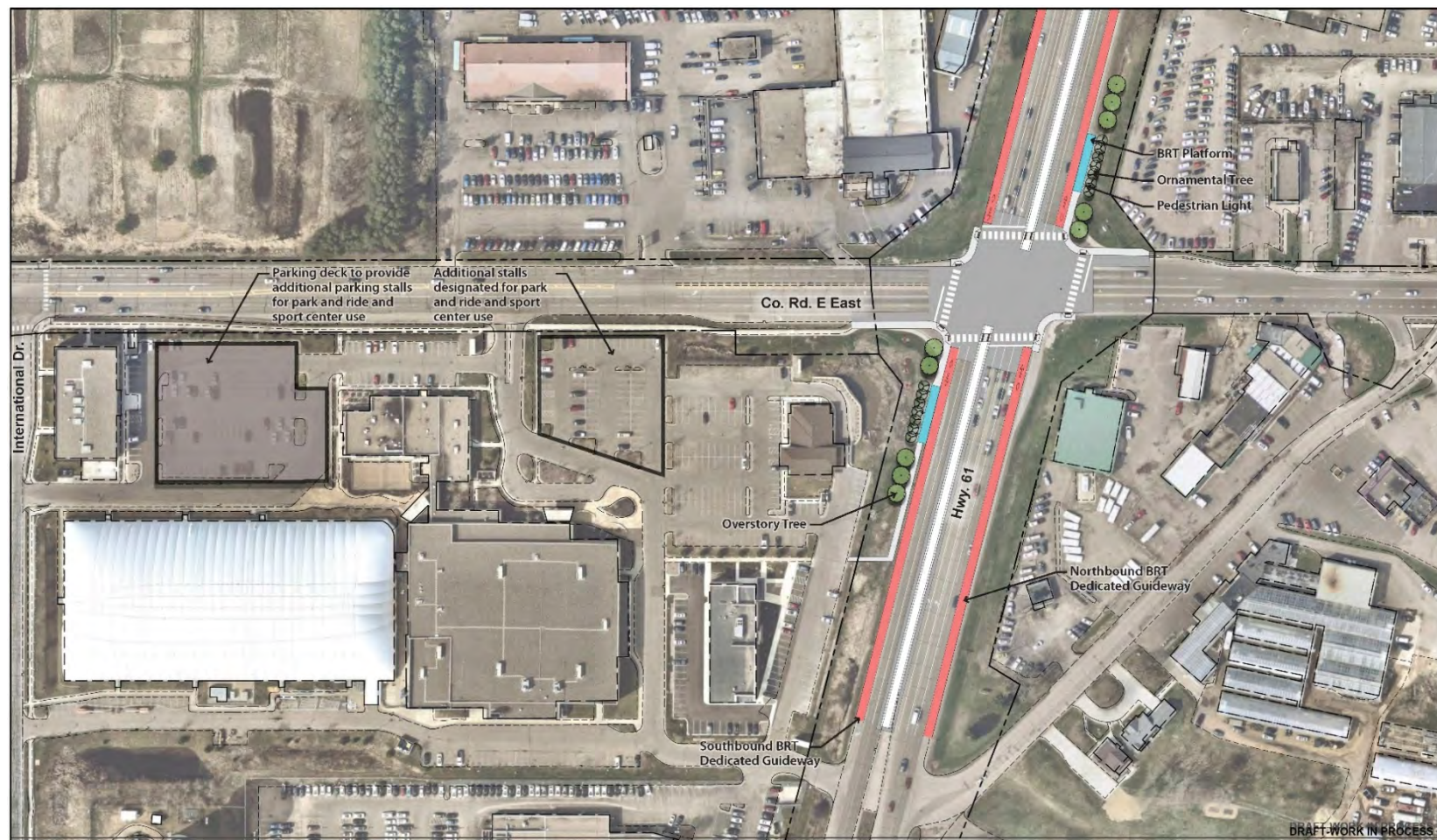


# County Road E Station At-Grade Improvements



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- Reviewing design elements at County Road E and Highway 61 intersection to improve pedestrian accessibility.





# County Road E Station At-Grade Improvements



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# I-694 Crossing Option

- Evaluated options to potentially avoid impact to BNSF Railway right-of-way.
- Evaluating addition of potential new station at Buerkle Road.





# Highway 61 and Buerkle Road

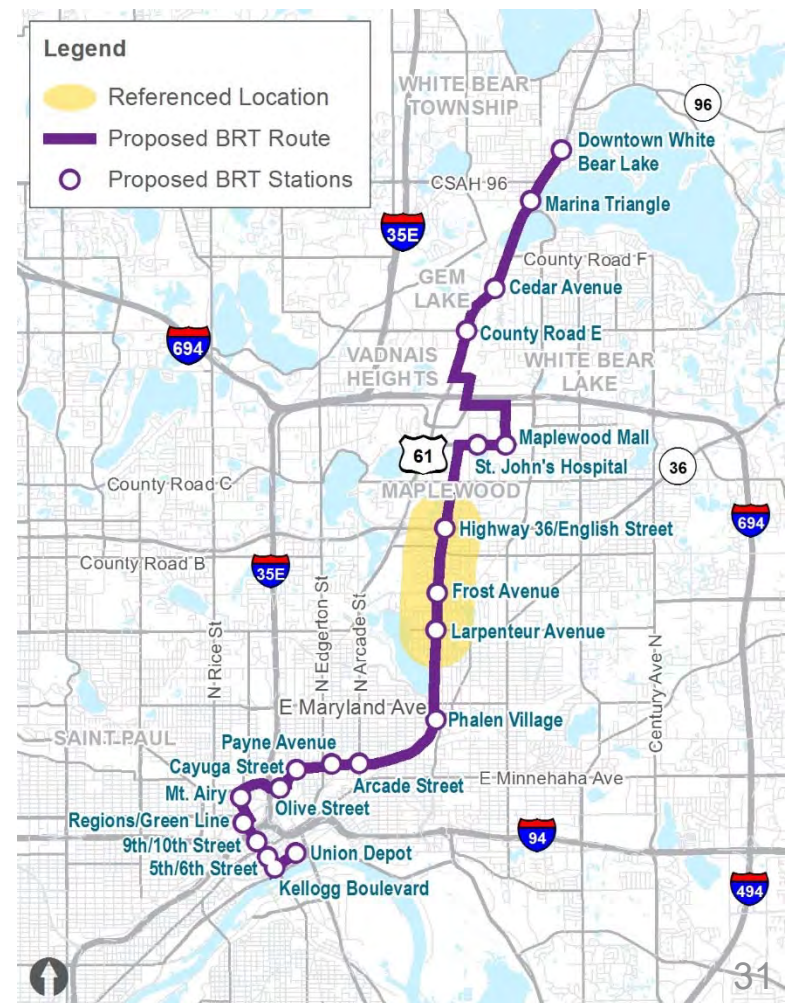
- Buerkle Road traffic operations identified as concern.
- Analysis indicated that with roadway design modifications and adjustment to signal timing, traffic could operate at an acceptable level.





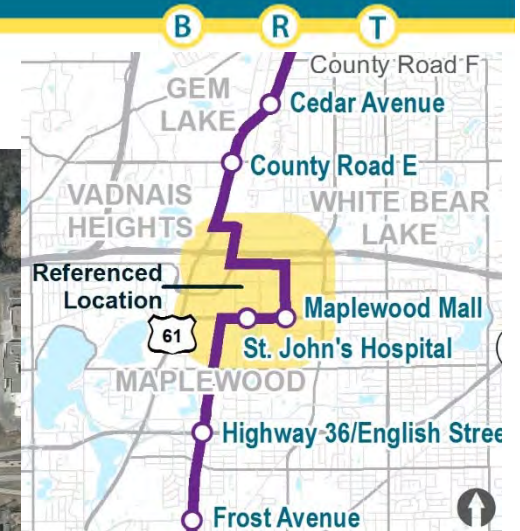
## Maplewood Station Area Planning Activities

- Larpenteur Avenue, Frost Avenue and Highway 36/English Street station working group meetings:
  - May 2018.
  - Next meeting: Tuesday, July 31, 6-8 p.m.
- Input received to date:
  - Potential for transformative development at the Frost Avenue station.
  - Highway 36/English Street station could combine park-and-ride with transit-oriented development.
  - Potential to access community gardens in the area.





# St. John's Hospital and Maplewood Mall Area Route Modification





## Route Modification Benefits

- Improved access to front door of St. John's Hospital.
- Improved access to existing Maplewood Mall Transit Center.
- Consistent with the city of Maplewood's future vision for the area.
- Route benefits outweigh slight in-vehicle travel time increase.



## Saint Paul Station Area Planning Activities

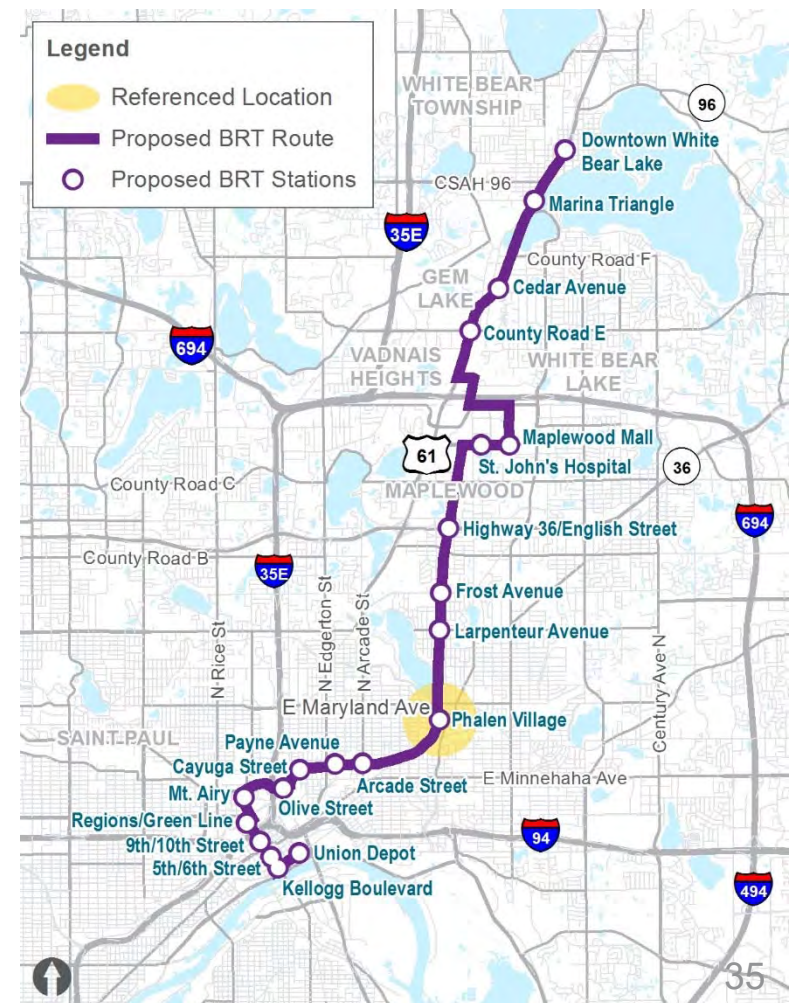
- Since May 31 Policy Advisory Committee meeting:
  - Working group meetings:
    - Phalen Village station.
    - Payne Avenue and Arcade Street stations.
  - Stakeholder meetings:
    - East Side Area Business Association.
    - Roosevelt Homes.
    - CBRE (broker for Seeger Square).
    - Cub Foods at Phalen Village.
    - Hmong Village.
- Upcoming meetings:
  - Phalen Village, Payne Avenue and Arcade Street combined working group meeting #2.





# Key Themes from Saint Paul Station Area Planning

- Phalen Village station:
  - Potential benefits to both a Johnson Parkway or Maryland Avenue station location.
  - Pedestrian crossings of Phalen Boulevard, Johnson Parkway and Maryland Avenue require consideration.
  - Rush Line will provide high benefit to area residents.





# Phalen Village Station Options Under Evaluation



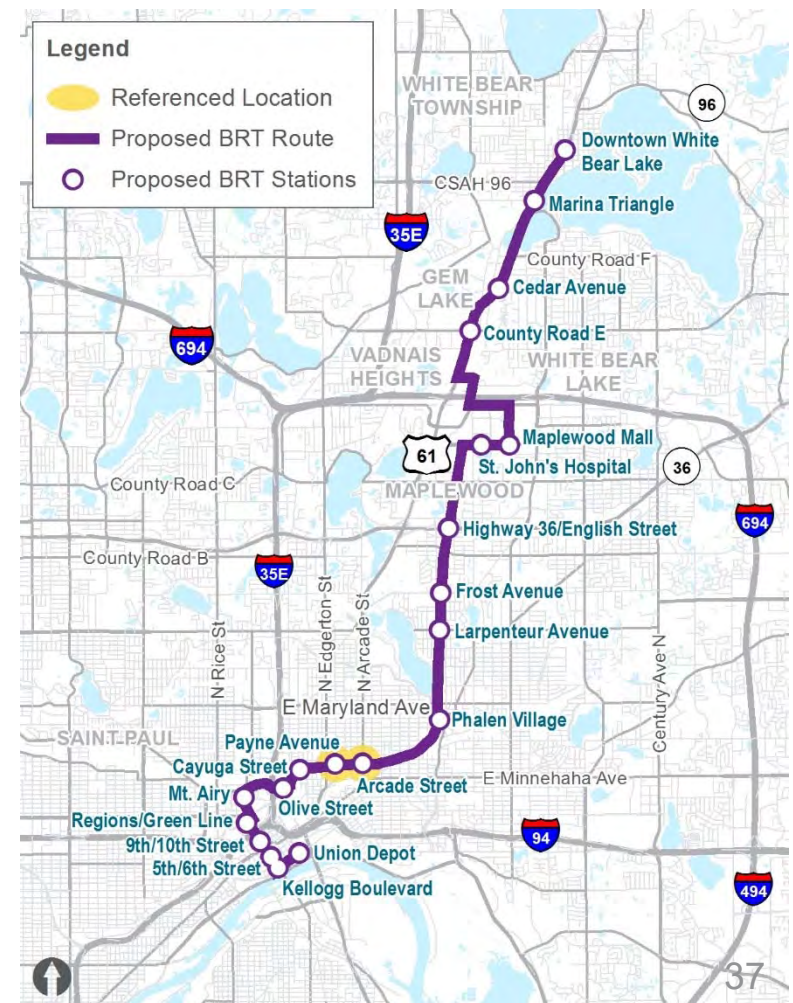
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## Key Themes from Saint Paul Station Area Planning

- Payne Avenue and Arcade Street working group:
  - Expressed a preference for the Arcade Street station to be located at the Neid Lane/Arcade Street intersection (Option C).
  - Agreed with station siting at Payne Avenue.

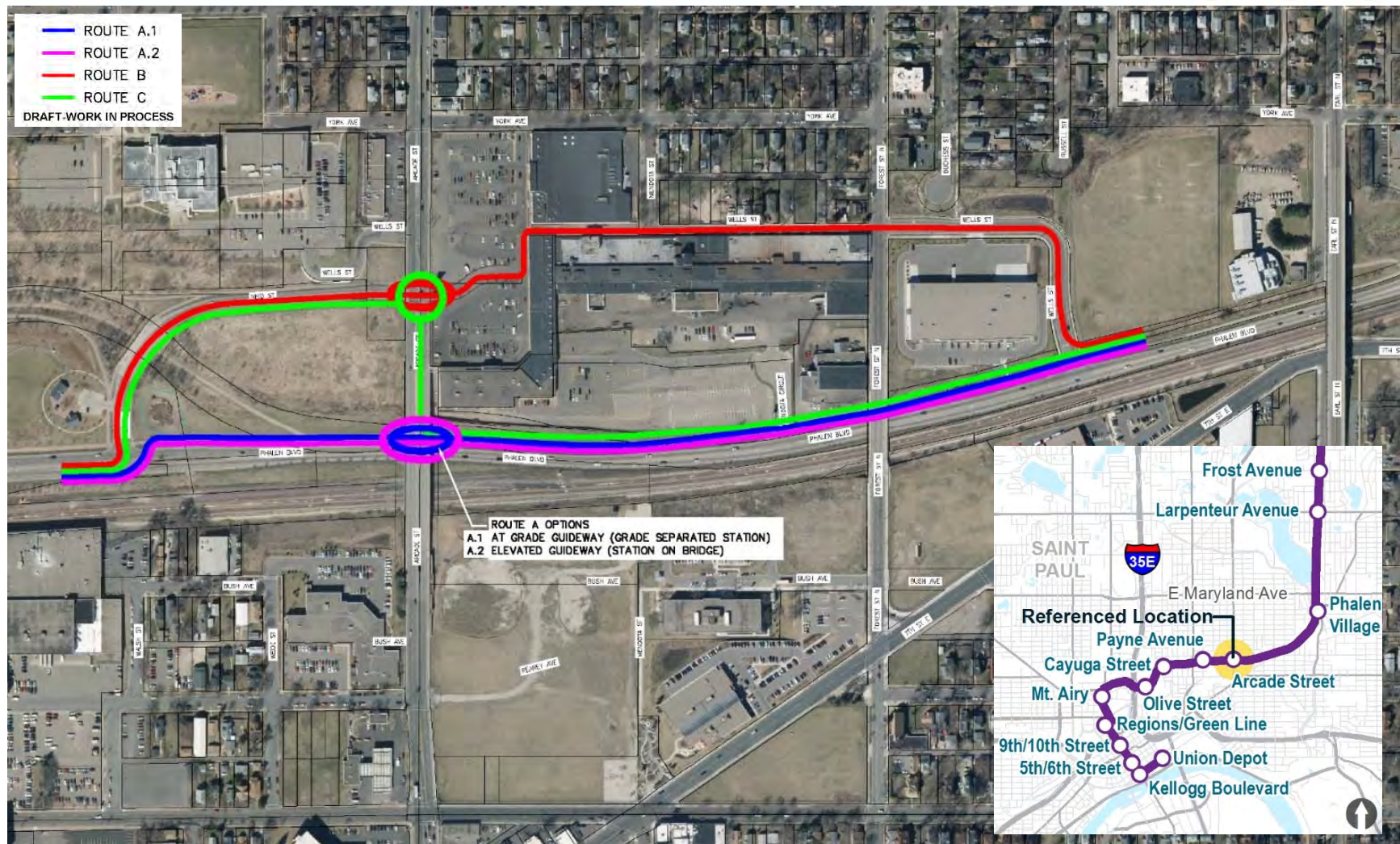




# Arcade Route Options Evaluated



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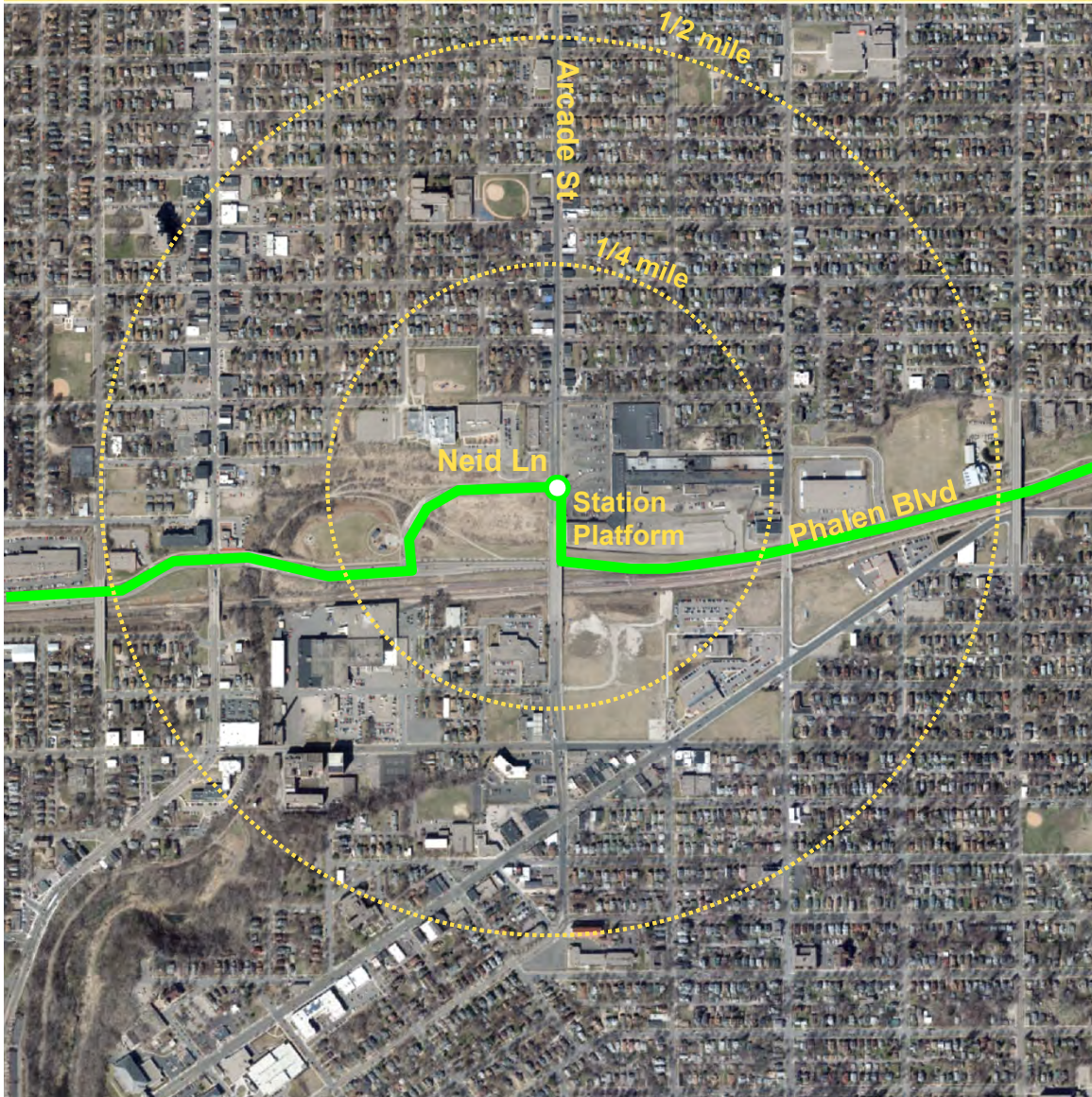




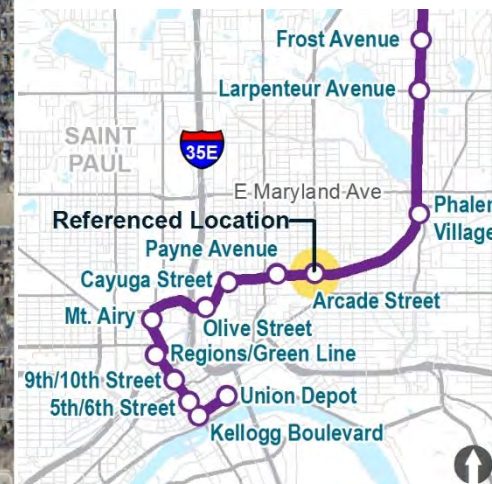
# Arcade Street Station Area – Recommended Option



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- Station at Arcade Street and Neid Lane recommended option.
  - Connection to Seeger Square area.
  - Route 54 connection.
  - Does not require vertical circulation.





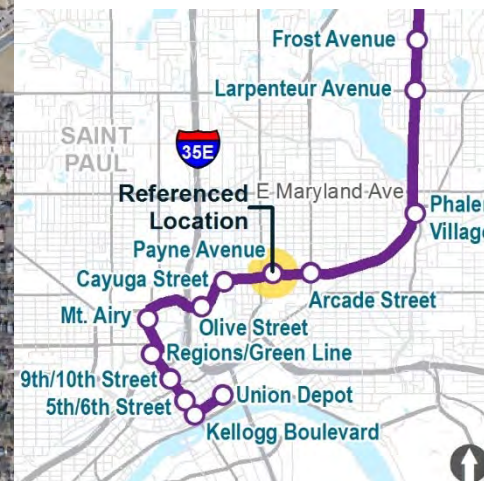
# Payne Avenue – Redevelopment Opportunities



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- Exhibit reflective of information shared at station area planning working group meetings regarding redevelopment opportunities near proposed stations.



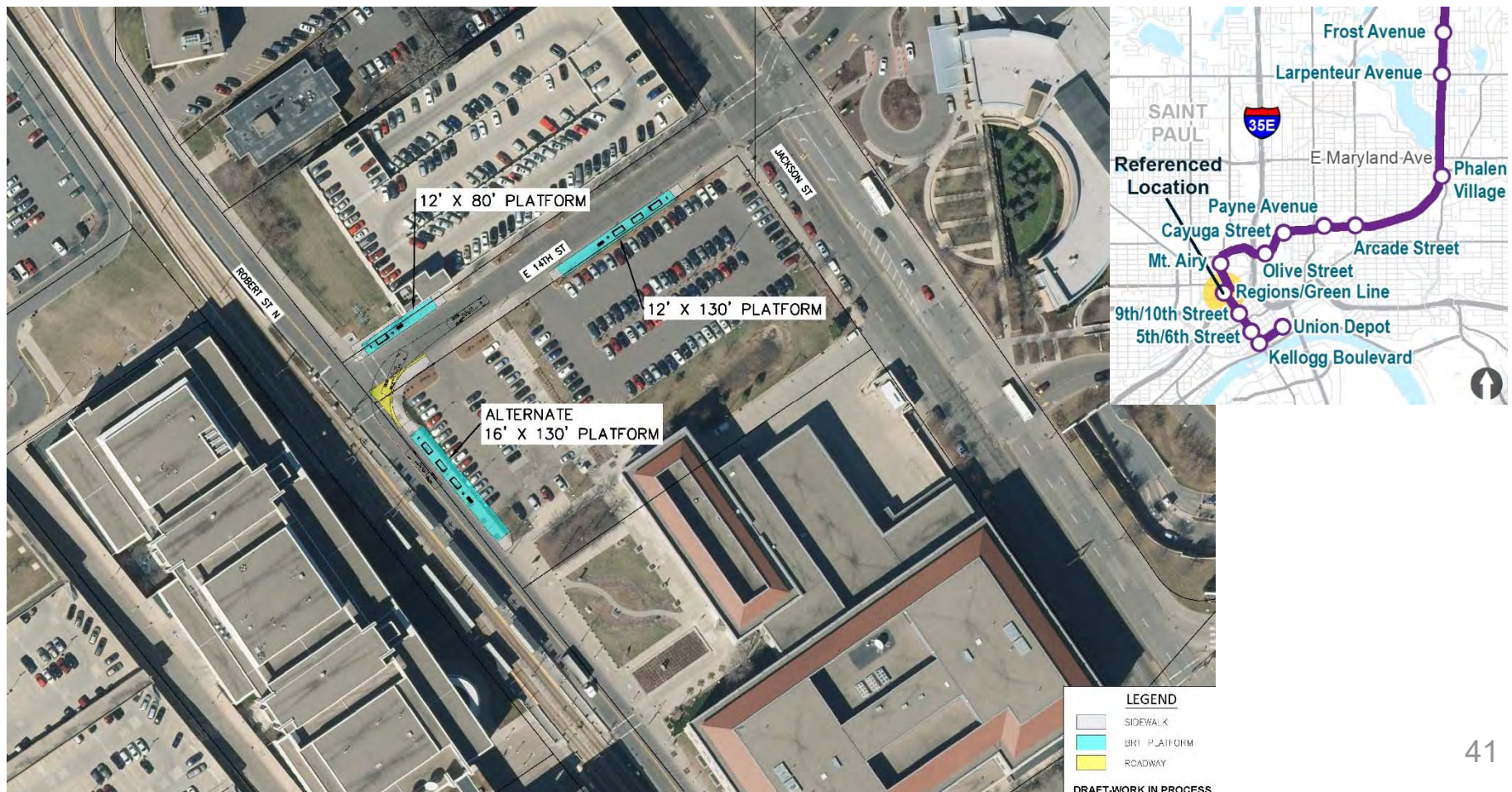


# Regions/Green Line Station Platform Options



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- Alternative platform locations evaluated.
- Recommended platforms on 14<sup>th</sup> Street.





## Next Steps

- Continue to advance design refinement and station location definition through:
  - Station area planning activities.
  - Issue resolution team meetings.
  - Technical analysis.
  - Public engagement activities.
- Full Rush Line BRT Project definition review and recommendation for further engineering and environmental advancement at September Technical and Policy Advisory Committee meetings.



## Public Comment

- When commenting, please:
  - Be respectful.
  - Be brief. Limit comments to three minutes to give others an opportunity to speak.
- Public comments will be included in the Policy Advisory Committee meeting summary.
- The Chair reserves the right to limit an individual's comments if they become redundant, disrespectful or are not relevant to the Rush Line BRT Project.



## Next Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

- Thursday, September 27.
- 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Maplewood Community Center – Banquet Room C.





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A background image showing a street scene. On the left, a building has a vertical sign that says 'AVALON'. Below it, there are signs for 'AUTO GLASS SERVICE', 'EXPERIENCE PRESS', 'SELECT VINTAGE', 'CUTTING EDGE', 'A BEAUTIFUL PLACE', and 'David's Station'. On the right, a building is labeled 'UNION DEPOT' with the number '240' above the entrance. Several cars are parked along the street.

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# Thank you!



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