



September 18, 2018

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING #2

Agenda

1. Recap of July 12 meeting.
2. Chair and Vice Chair overview and election.
3. Project updates.
4. Upcoming project activities.
5. Engineering (roll plot review).
6. Next Community Advisory Committee meeting.



Recap of July 12 Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Project 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.



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.



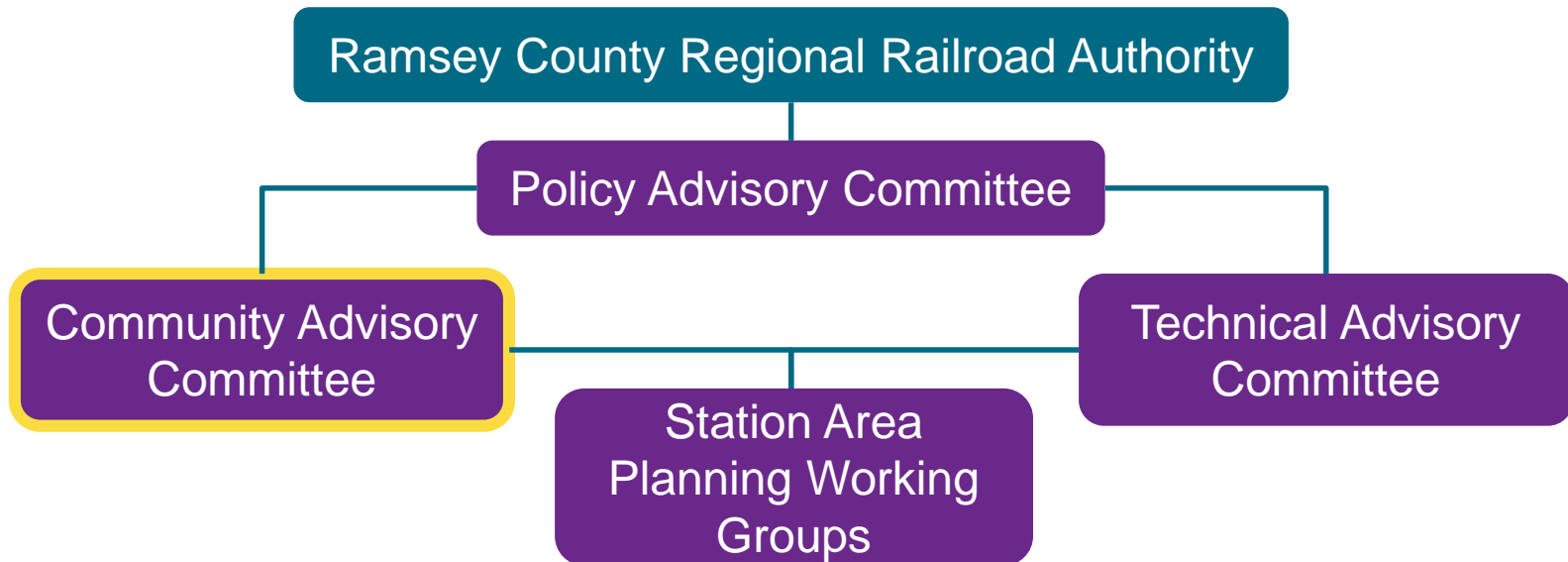
Role of the Community Advisory Committee

- 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



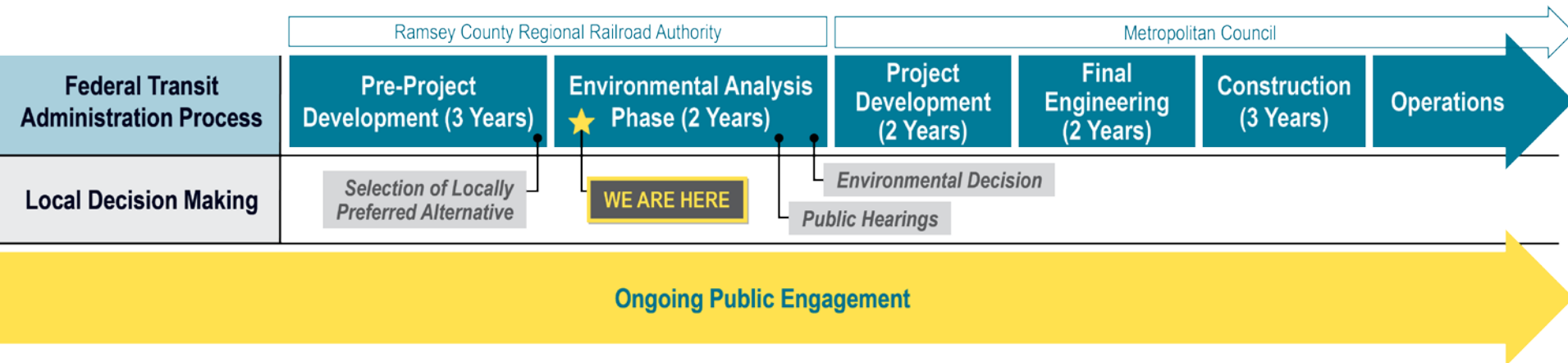
B R T



Environmental Analysis Phase Schedule



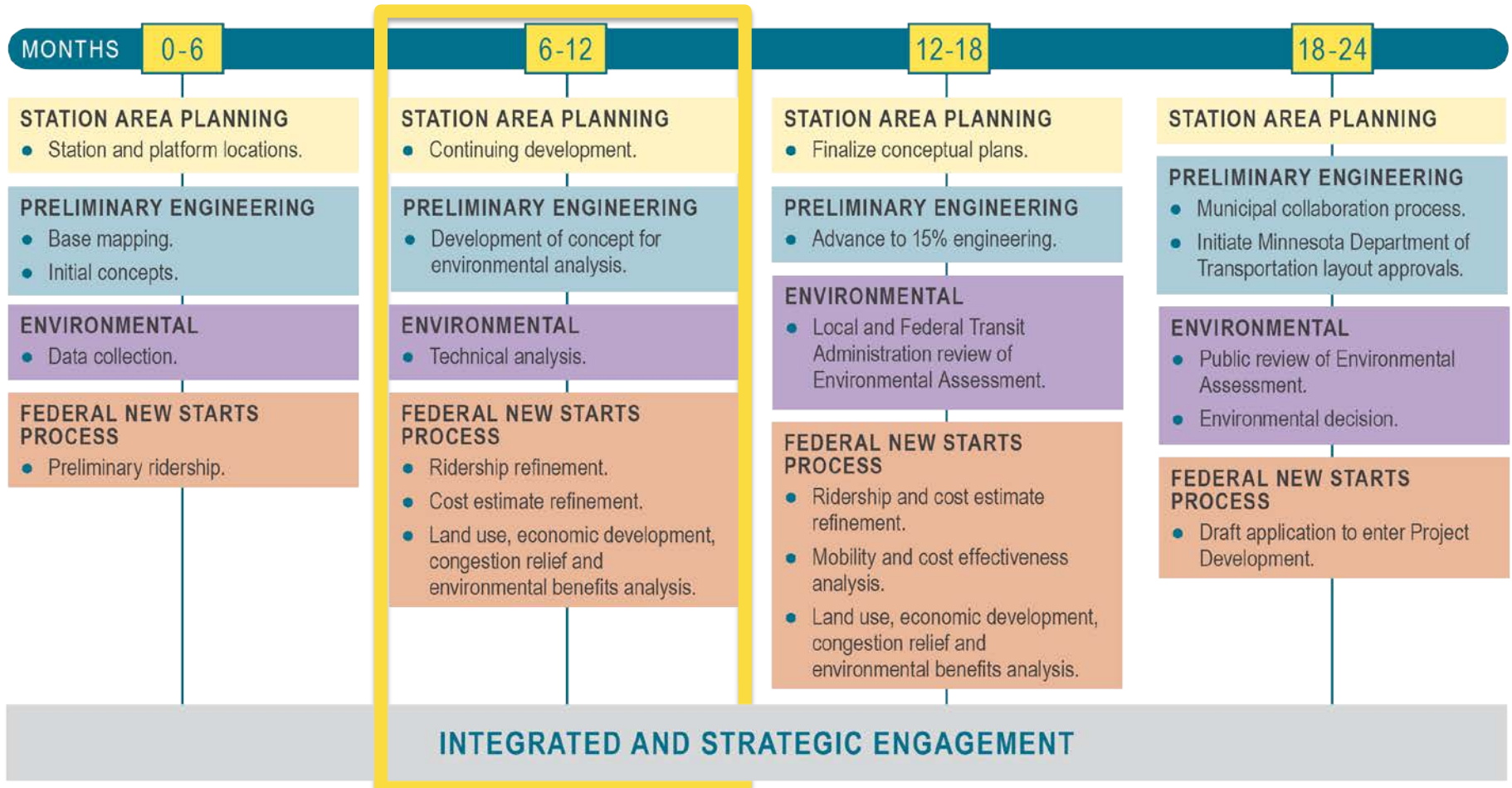
B R T



Environmental Analysis Phase Schedule



B R T





Chair and Vice Chair

Election 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.



Project Updates

Recent Public Engagement Activities

- July 26: MarketFest.
- August 7: National Night Out at Roosevelt Homes and Hmong American Partnership.
- August 16: MSS Block Party.
- August 16: Clean Fleets for Healthy Neighborhoods.
- August 18: CLUES Fiesta Latina.



CLUES Fiesta Latina in Saint Paul

Recent Public Engagement Activities

- August 19: Vadnais Heights Heritage Days.
- August 21: North End Study Kickoff.
- August 22: End of Summer Celebration.
- August 28: Women on Bikes Bruce Vento Trail Ride.
- September 8: White Bear Township Day.*

*Activity suggested by members of the Community Advisory Committee.



Move Minnesota Bruce Vento Trail + Rush Line Ride

Public Engagement

- Goals:
 - Inform a diverse public.
 - Collect input from a diverse public.
 - Use public input to shape the project.
- From March through September 2018:
 - Conducted or staffed 76 events.
 - Engaged with over 1,100 community members, business owners and other stakeholders.
 - Recorded over 600 comments.

Public Engagement

- Main themes from engagement to date:
 - Support from transit users and non-transit users alike.
 - Usefulness and value to residents, employees and visitors of the corridor.
 - Accessibility of the Rush Line BRT.
 - Connectivity to stations by bus, walking and biking in Saint Paul neighborhoods and suburban communities.
- Notable topics of interest:
 - Changes to the Bruce Vento Trail.
 - Safety.
 - Vehicle choice.

Public Engagement

- Examples of how input is being used to shape the project:
 - Refinement of station locations.
 - Design of guideway and Bruce Vento Trail in Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority right-of-way.
 - Refined routing to better serve the Maplewood Mall Transit Center and St. John's Hospital.
 - Consideration of additional stations at Cook Avenue and Buerkle Road.

What We've Been Hearing



- For the Bruce Vento Trail, people would like to see seating, wayfinding and bike fix-it stations as well as good lighting and bike racks.
- Native planting is the most popular landscape option.
- People would like to be sure that stations and vehicles are accessible to people with disabilities.

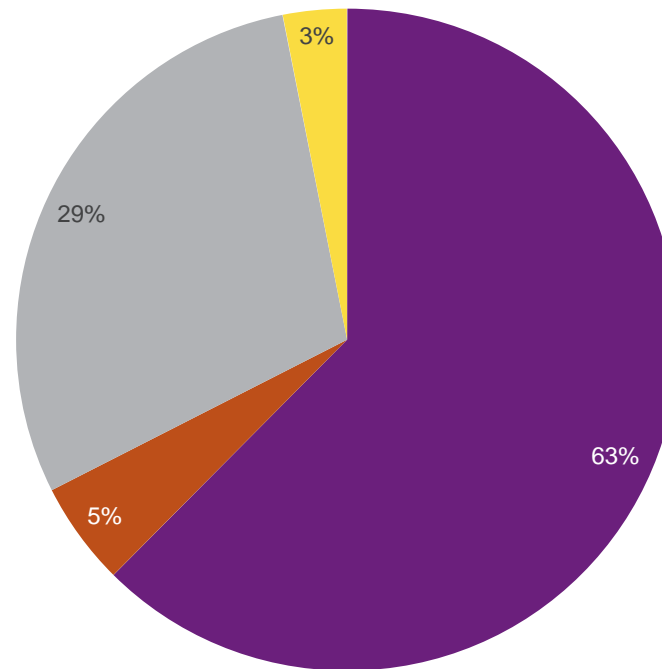
What We've Been Hearing

- Many people are looking forward to having better options for getting to downtown Saint Paul and transferring to other transit routes.
- People are excited about the span and frequency of service.



What We've Been Hearing

- Feedback has been positive overall.



■ Percent Positive Comments
■ Percent Neutral Comments

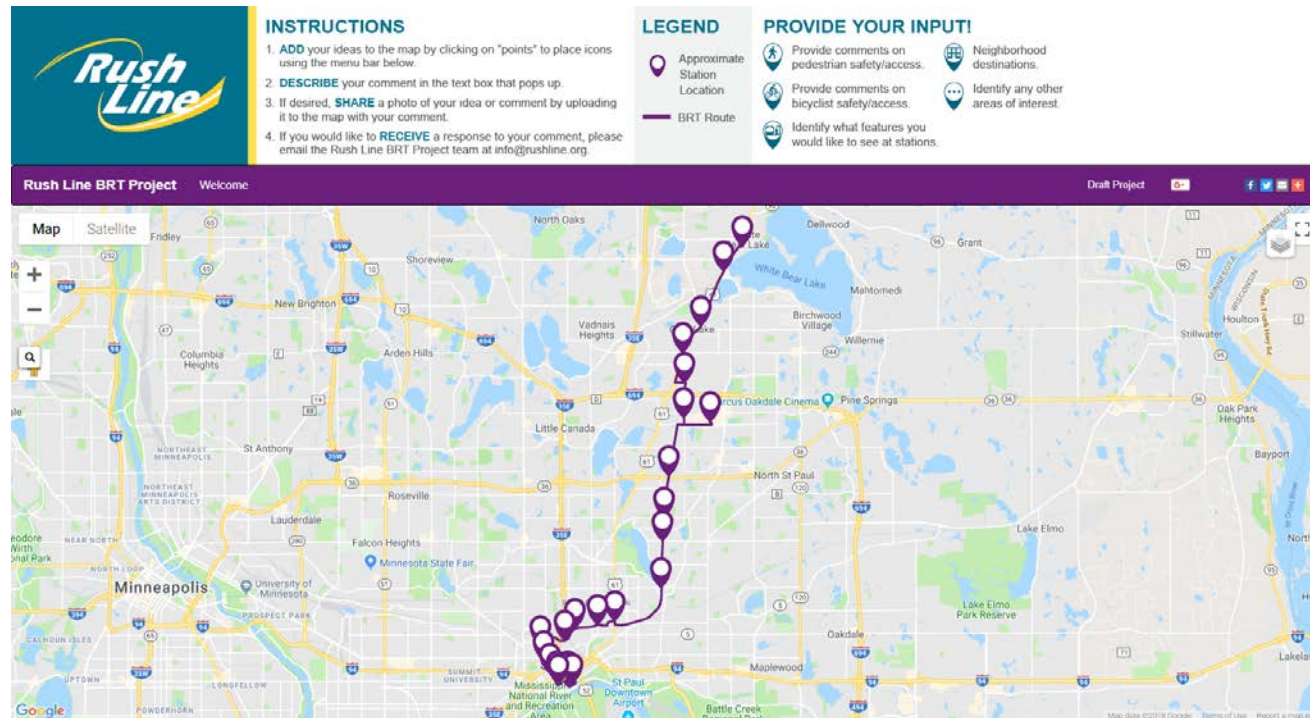
■ Percent Negative Comments
■ Percent Comments with Mixed Attitude

Upcoming Public Engagement Activities

- September 22: Payne Arcade Harvest Festival.*
- September/October: Corridor-wide business engagement.
- September 27: Release of online “WikiMap”.
- October 25: Railroad Island Task Force.*
- October: Duluth and Case Recreation Center Pop-Up.*
- October/November: St. John’s Hospital.

*Activity suggested by members of the Community Advisory Committee.

Online Engagement



- *Community Advisory Committee members: Provide feedback by September 25, before Wikimap goes live.*

Station Area Planning



Ten station area planning working group meetings have been held in Saint Paul, Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Lake, plus interviews with stakeholders regarding station locations.

Upcoming Project Activities

- Environmental Assessment.
 - Part of a required federal environmental process.
 - Evaluates the project's potential impact to the natural and built environments and identifies measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate those impacts.
 - Public engagement will include presentations to stakeholders, targeted gatherings and targeted online input opportunities.
 - Anticipated to be published for public comment in the second half of 2019.

Upcoming Project Activities

- Health Impact Assessment.
 - Identifies health indicators potentially affected by the project.
 - Workshop to be scheduled for late October or early November; Community Advisory Committee members will be notified and are encouraged to participate.
- Route tour to be scheduled for November; Community Advisory Committee members encouraged to participate.



Engineering

Route Walk Through Purpose

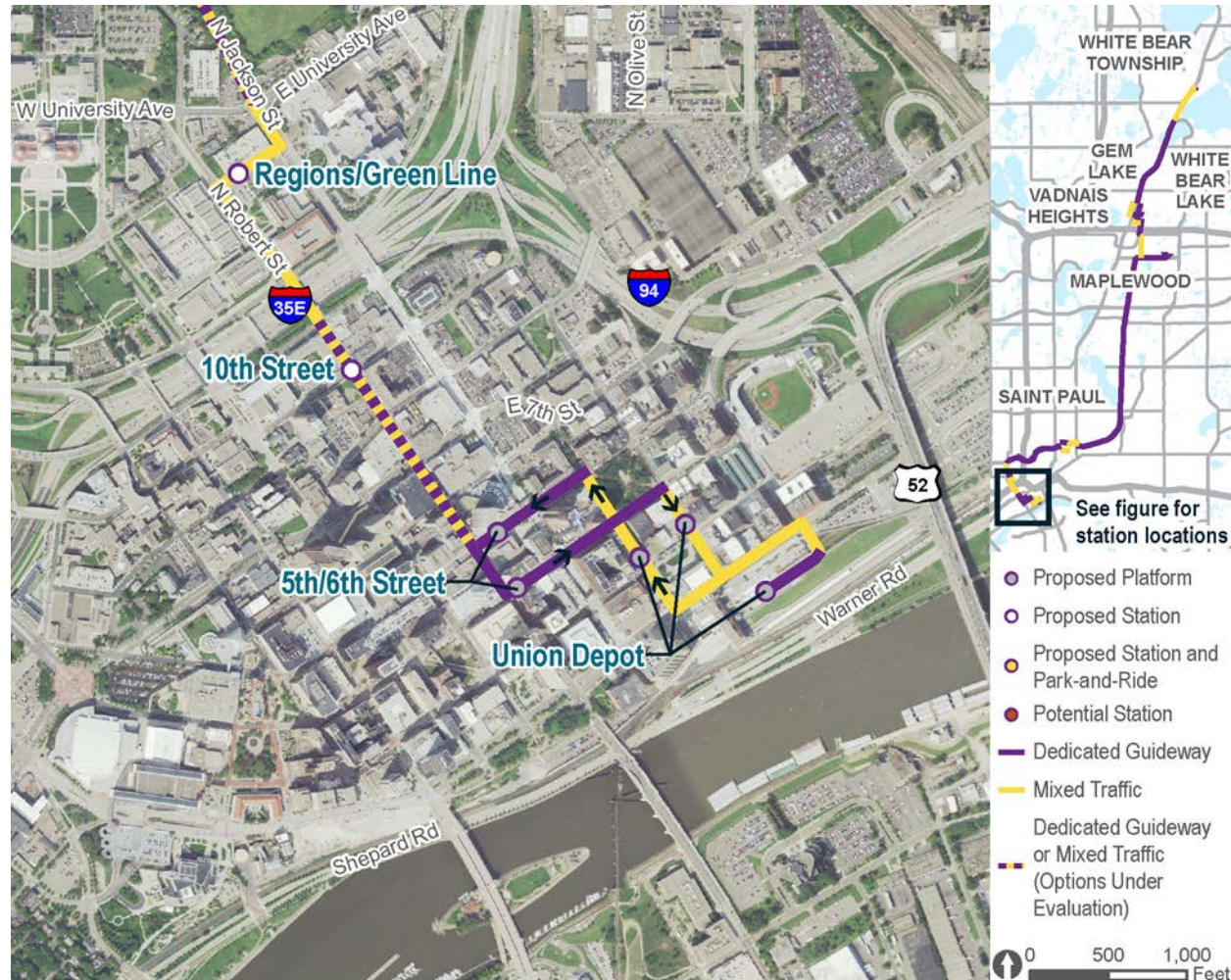
- Review the project elements to be studied in the Environmental Assessment, which reflect input obtained from the project advisory committees and public engagement efforts. Please consider:
 - Locations of stations and platforms.
 - Location of the BRT guideway.
 - The position of the Bruce Vento Trail relative to the BRT guideway.
- Next steps include Policy Advisory Committee approval of the project definition and advancement of environmental analysis and engineering.

Route Walk Through



B R T

- Refined downtown routing.
- Three potential platforms for Union Depot.
- Ongoing Robert Street coordination with Minnesota Department of Transportation.
- Additional traffic analysis for dedicated transit lanes needed.

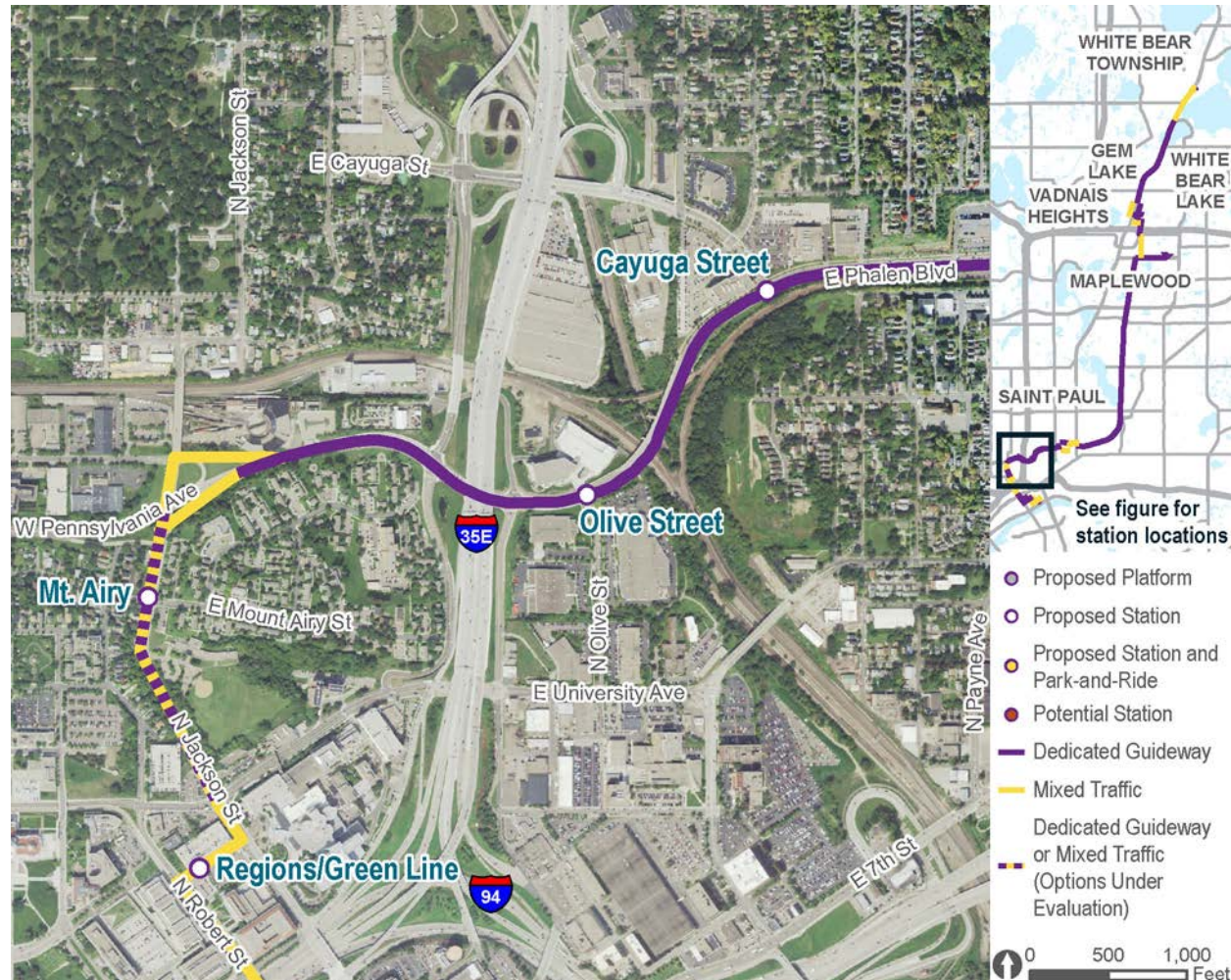


Route Walk Through



B R T

- Regions/Green Line station location.
- Dedicated and mixed traffic options on Jackson Street.
- Further refinement of transit advantage options on Phalen Boulevard.

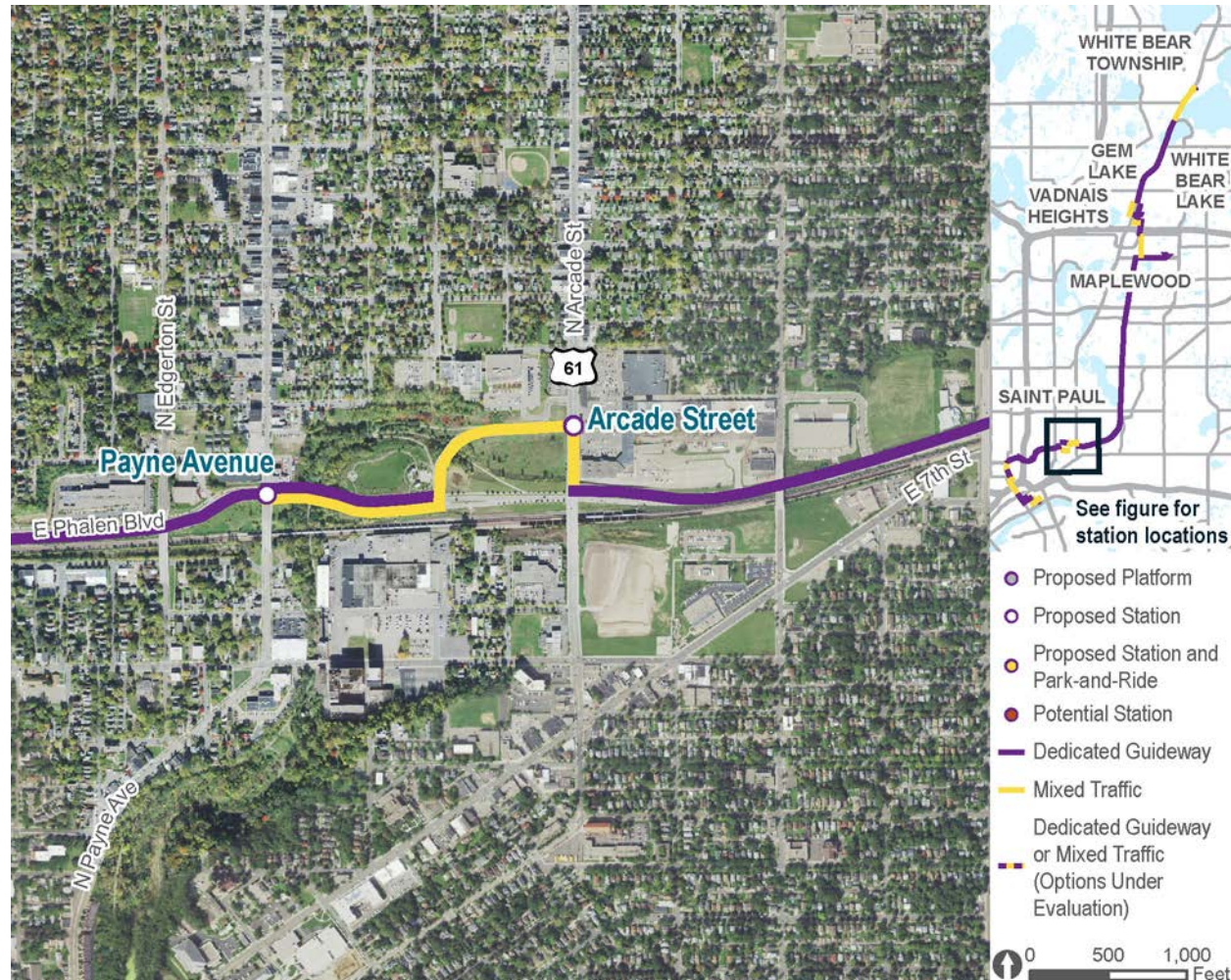


Route Walk Through

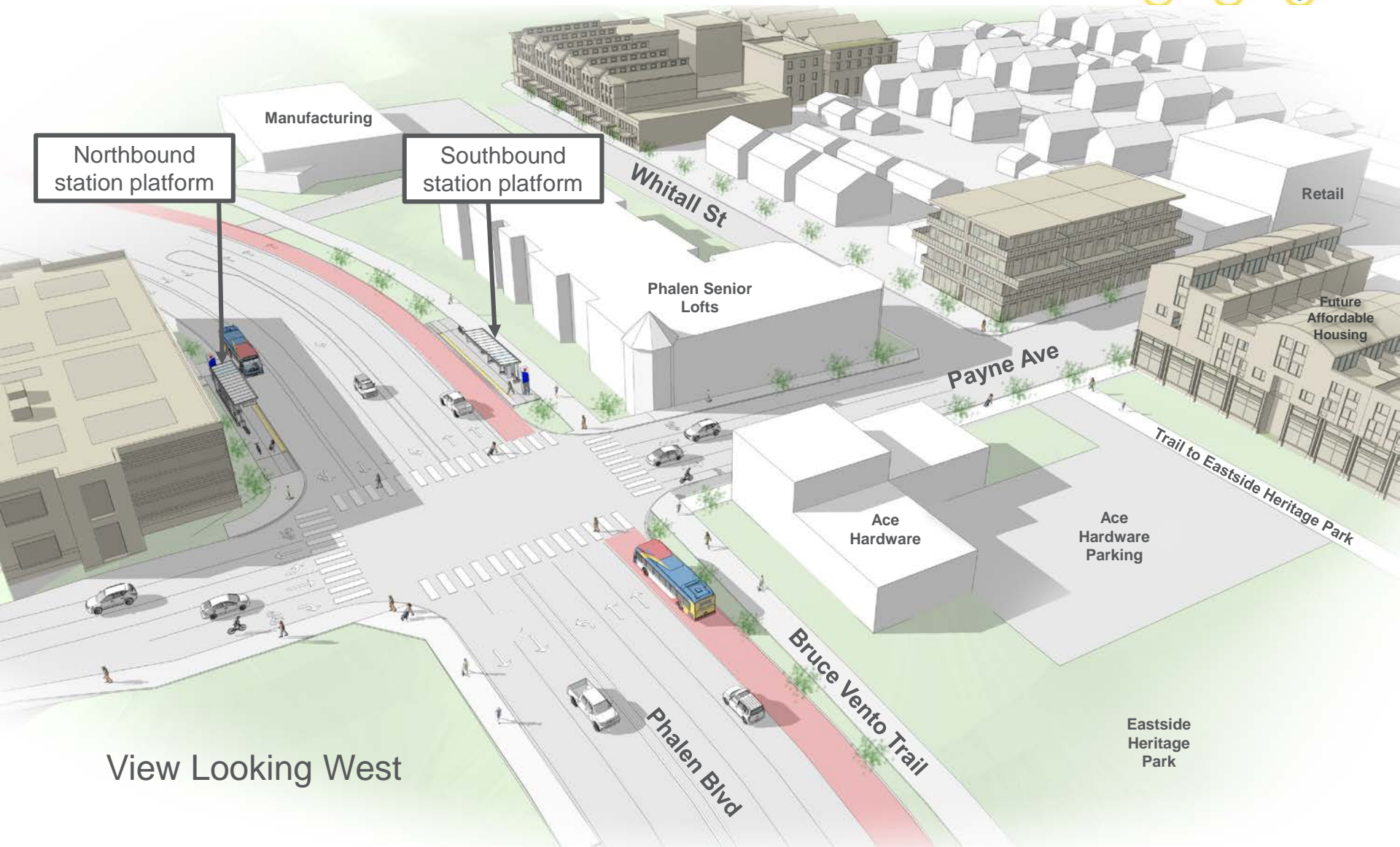


B R T

- Payne Avenue intersection improvements.
- Arcade Street station location at Neid Lane.
- Refined routing including new bridge.

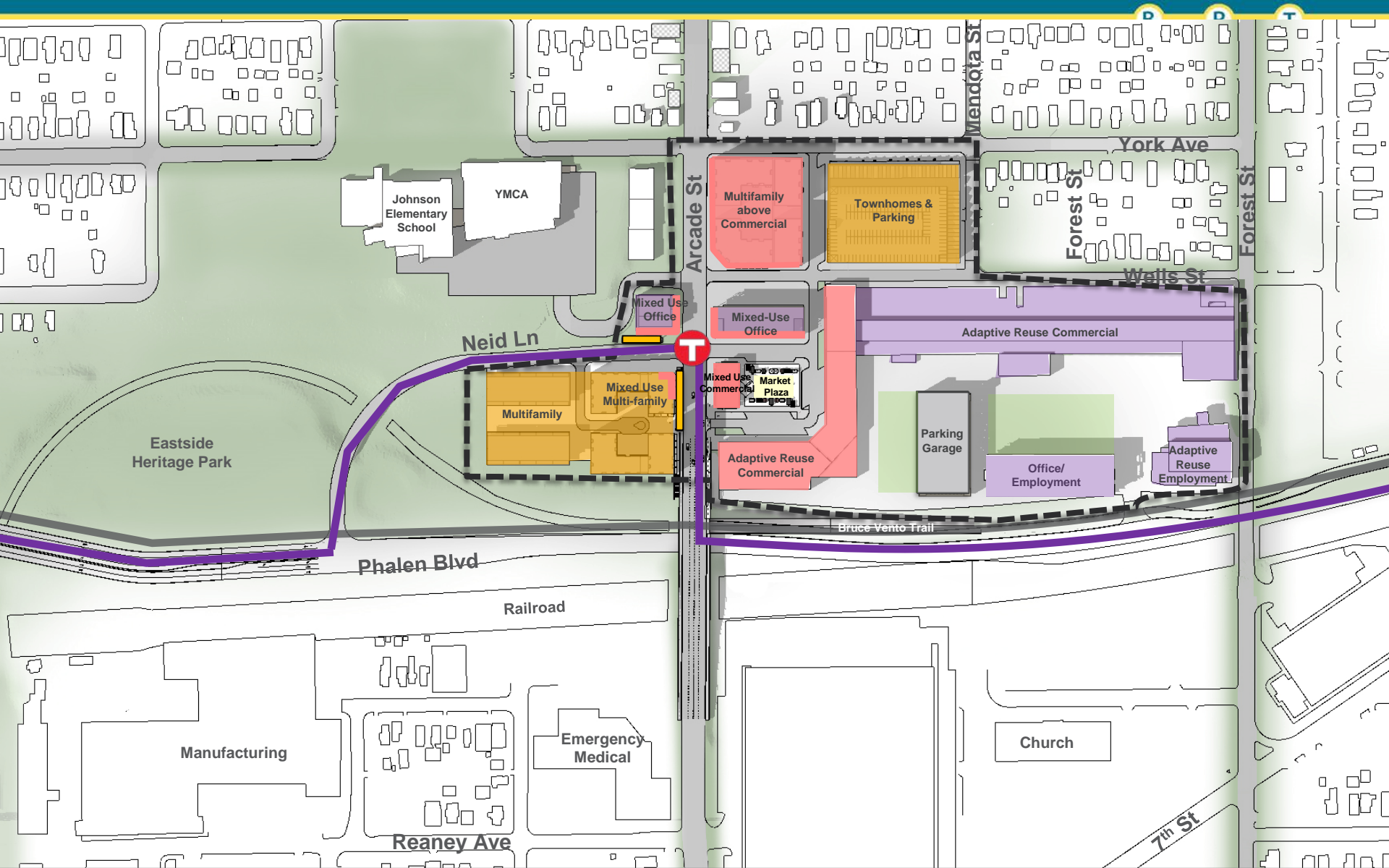


Station Location and Environment



View Looking West

Land Use Concept



Route Walk Through



B R T

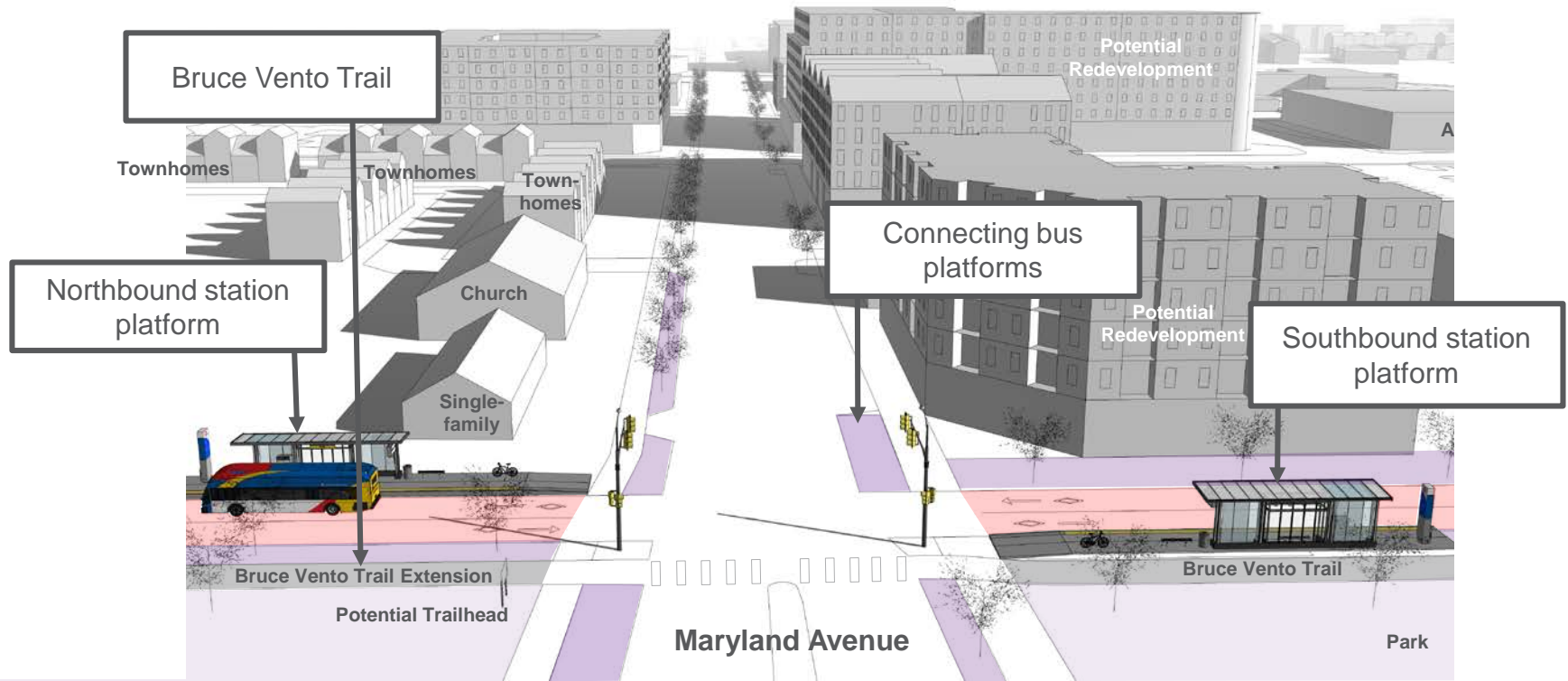
- Potential Cook Avenue station.
- Maryland Avenue station.
- New bridge over Johnson Parkway.
- New trail connection.



Station Location and Environment

B R T

Maryland Avenue – Looking East

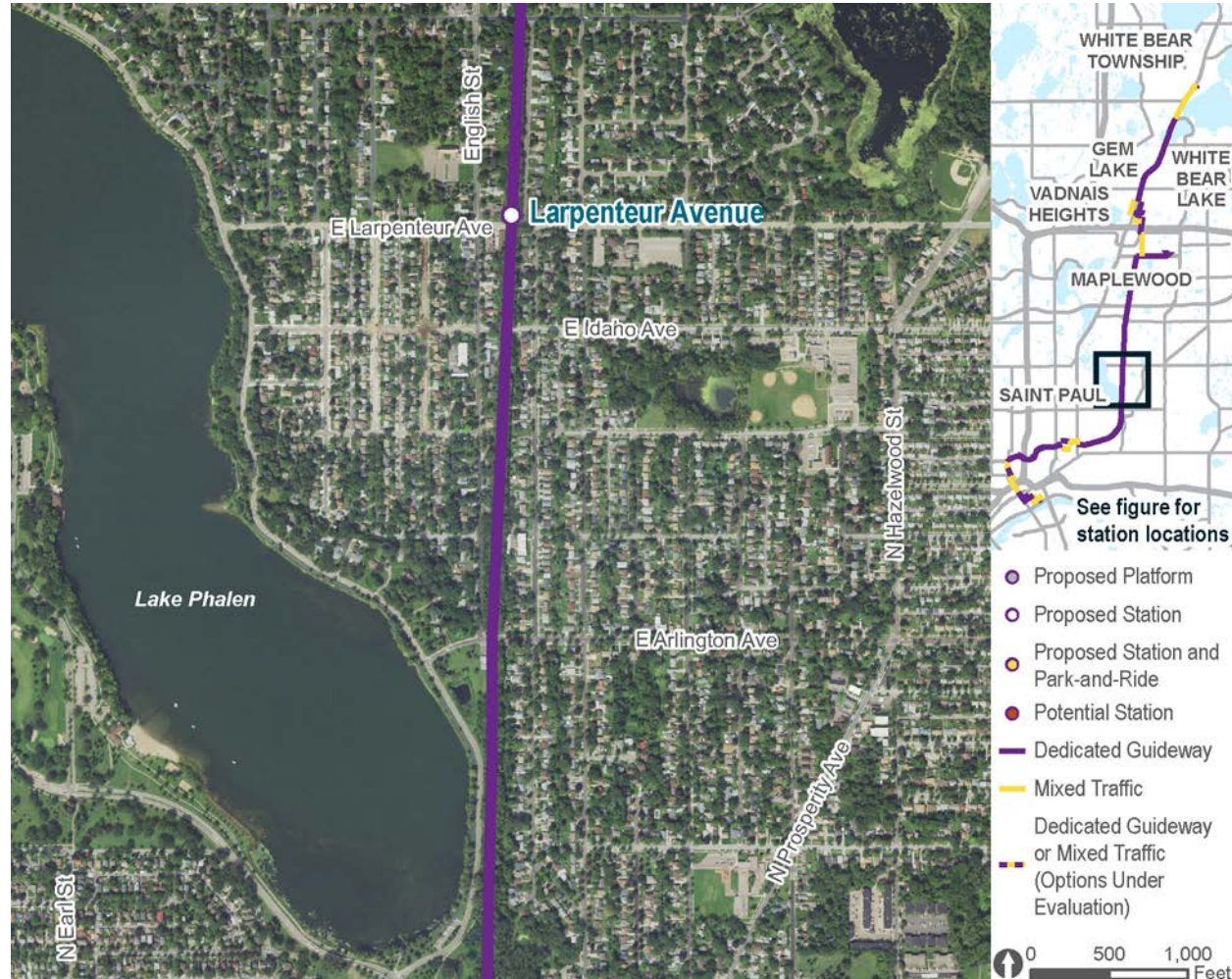


Route Walk Through



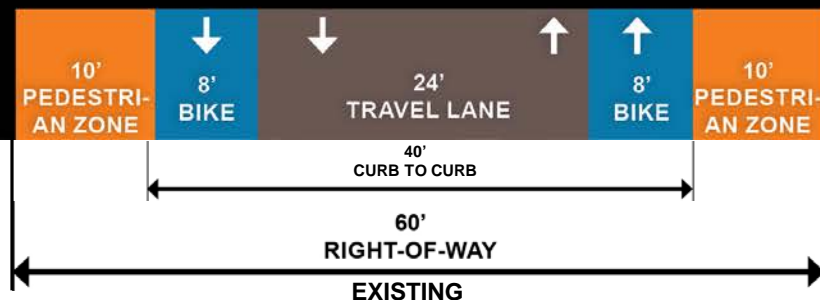
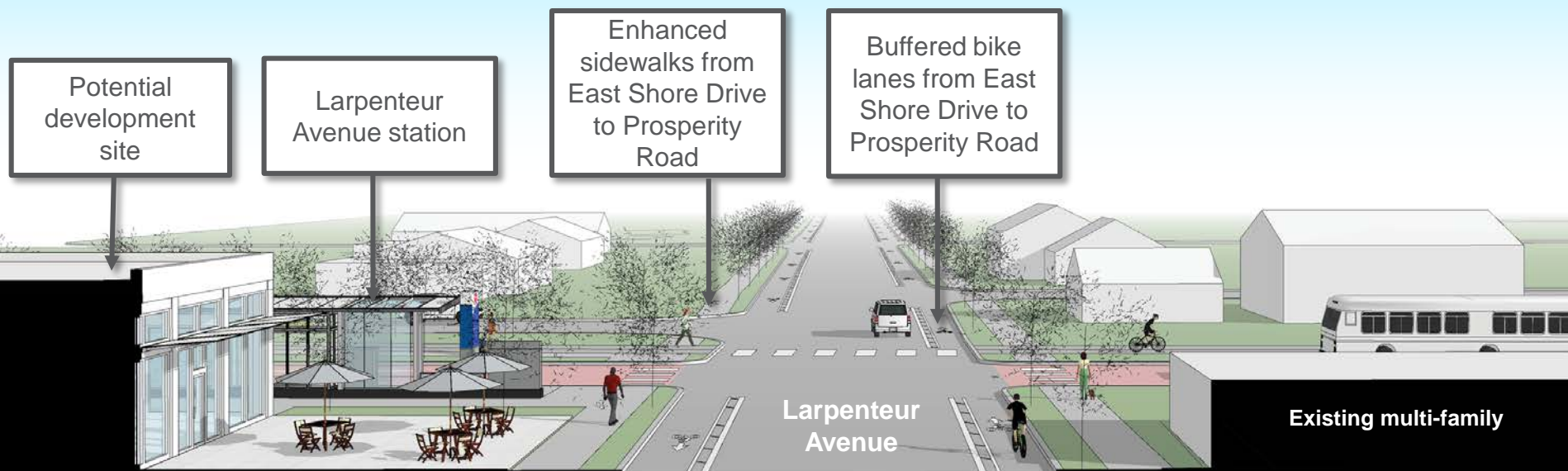
B R T

- Reconstructed Bruce Vento Trail.
- Potential underpass closure south of Arlington Avenue.
- Further evaluation of crossing at Idaho Avenue.
- Pedestrian improvements on Larpenteur Avenue.



Station Access Concept

B R T

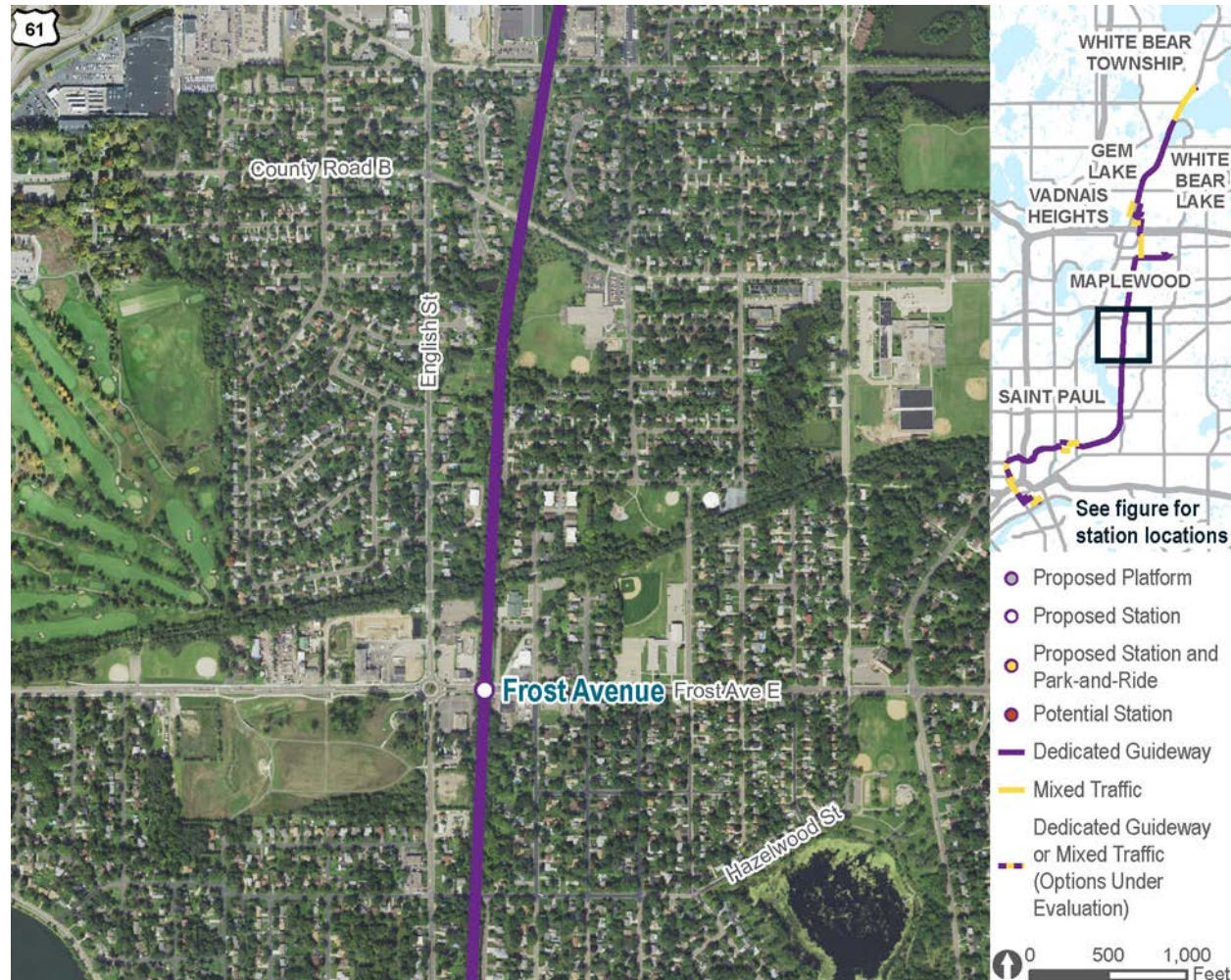


Route Walk Through



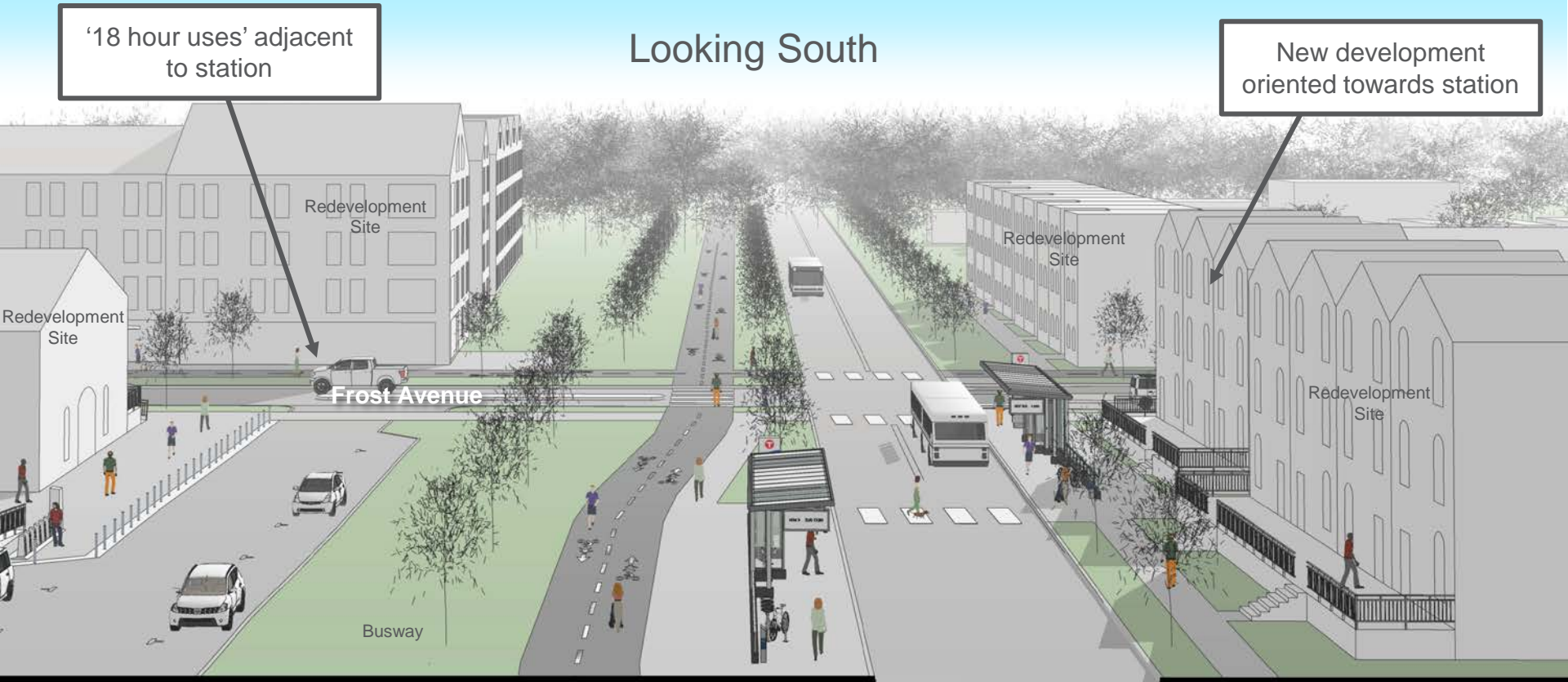
B R T

- Crossing of Gateway State Trail.
- Weaver Elementary School crossing – considering grade separation.



Station Location and Environment

R R T

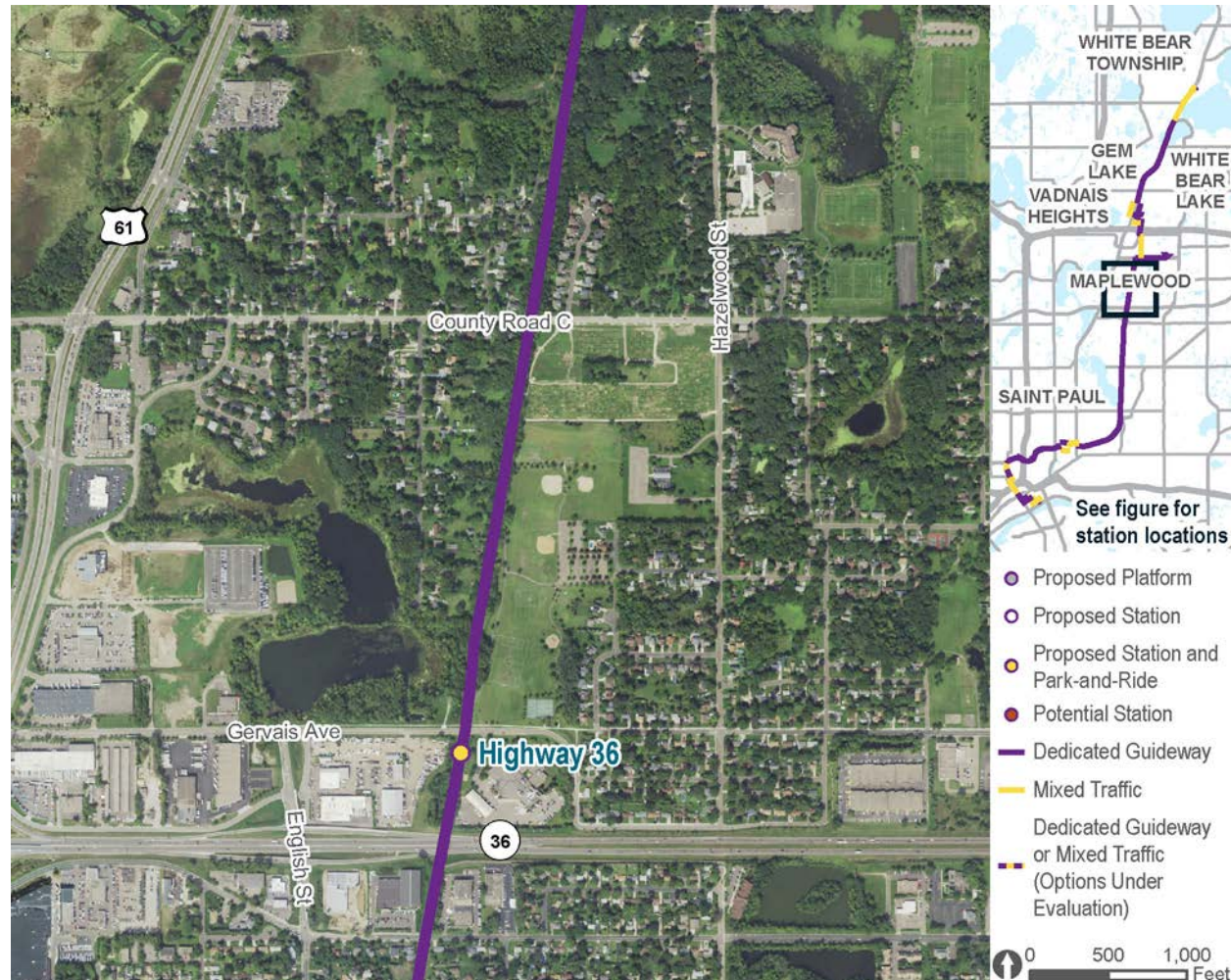


Route Walk Through



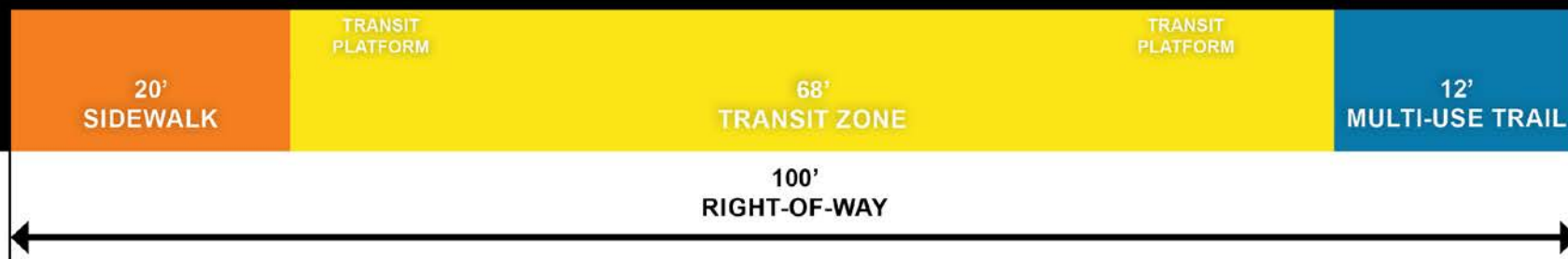
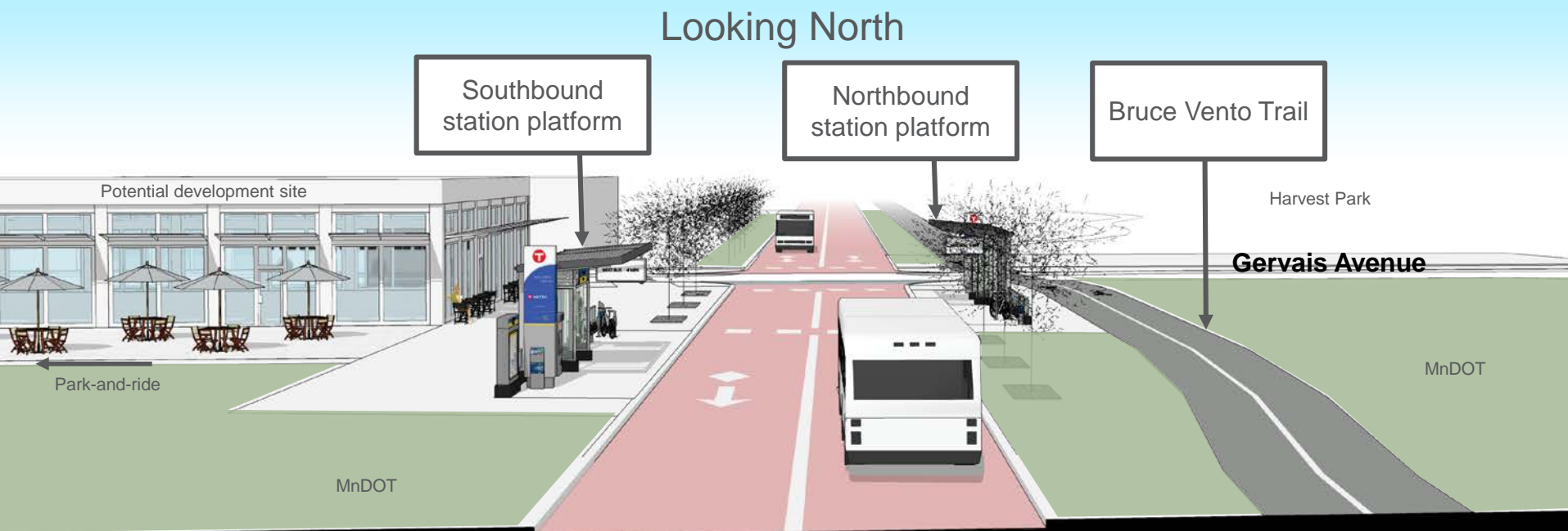
B R T

- Park-and-ride location under evaluation.
- Trail crossing north of County Road C.



Station Access Concept

B R T

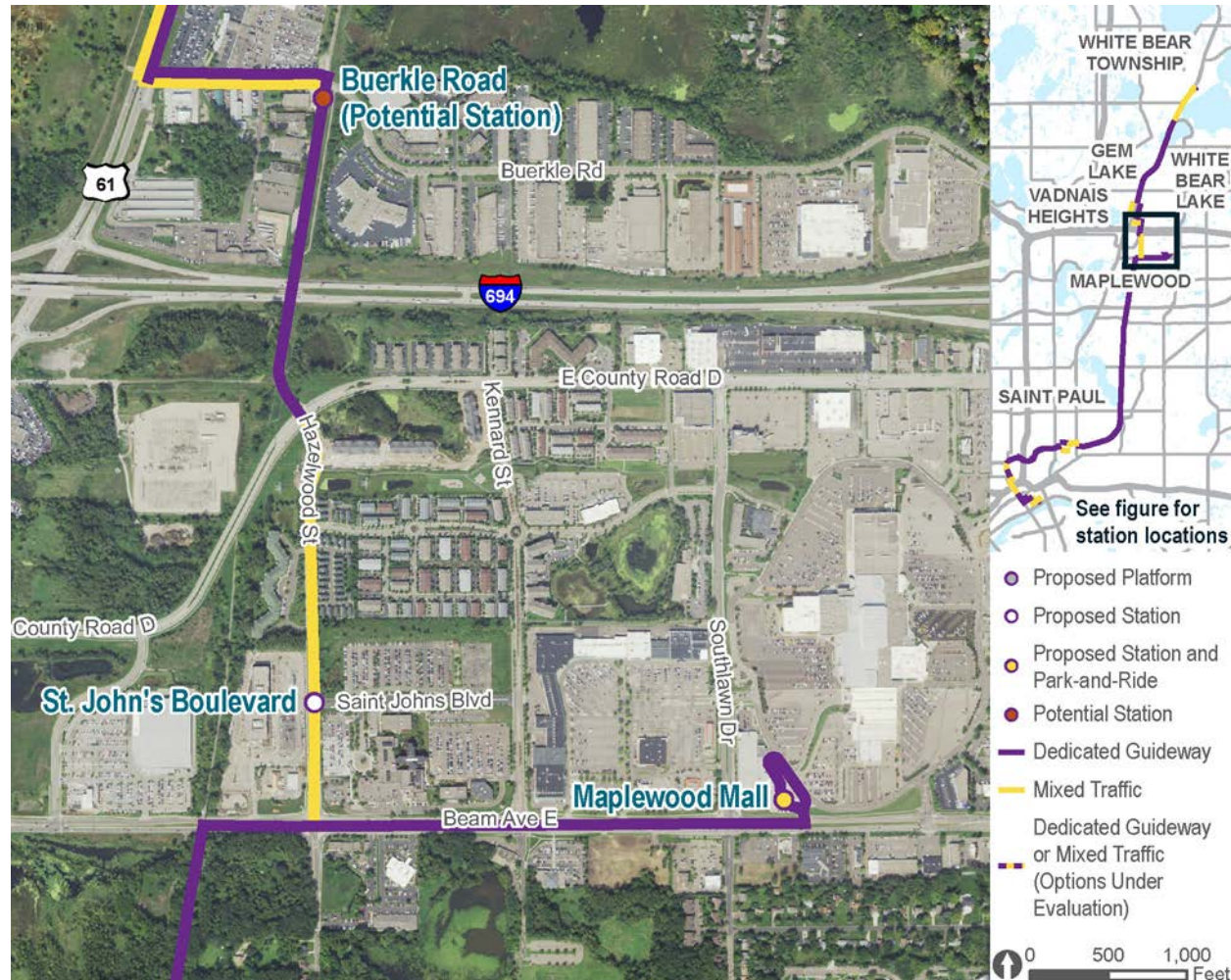


Route Walk Through



B R T

- Refined routing.
- Maplewood Mall and St. John's Boulevard station locations.
- I-694 crossing options.
- Potential Buerkle Road station and pedestrian improvements.
- Improvements to intersection operations at Buerkle Road and Highway 61.

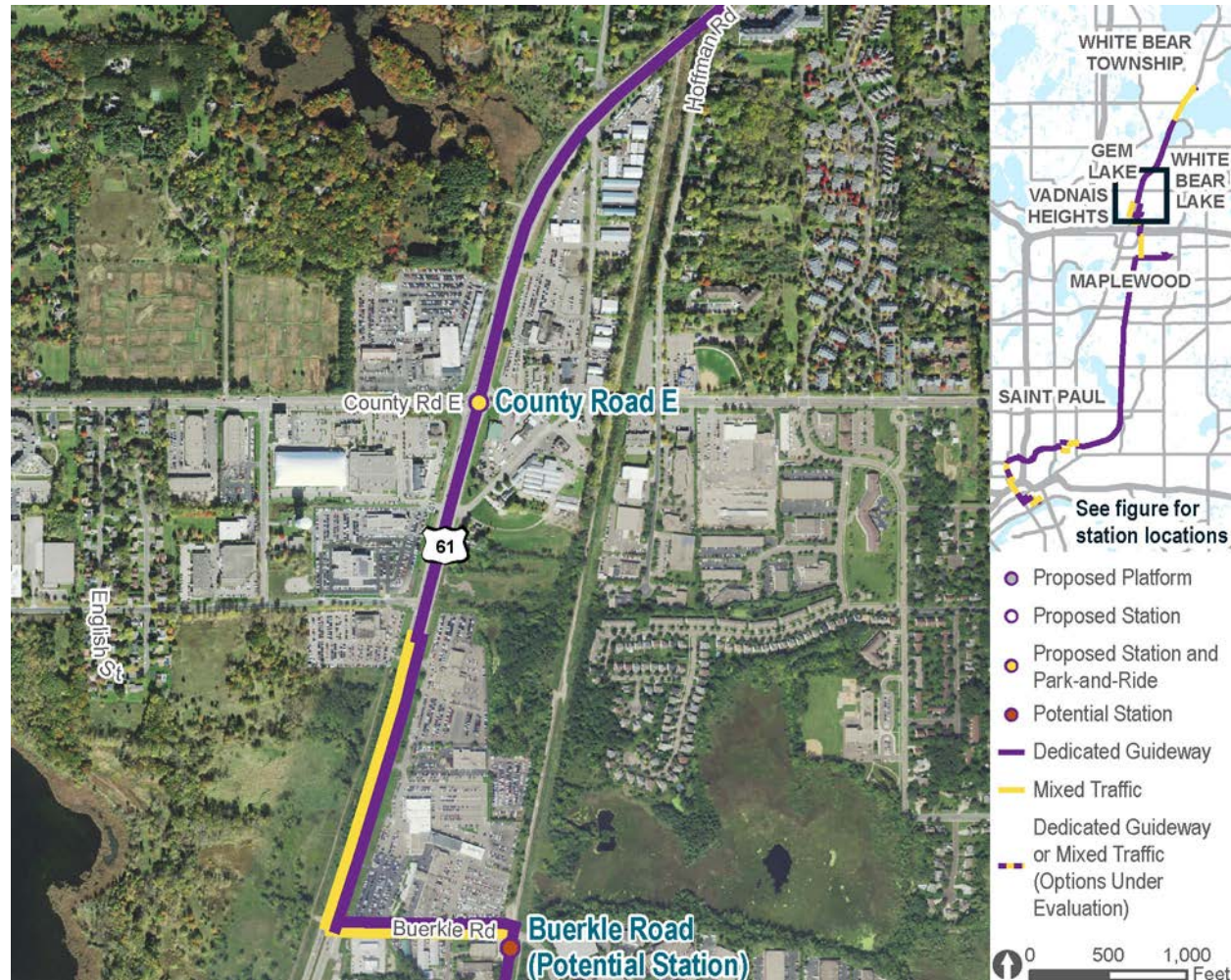


Route Walk Through

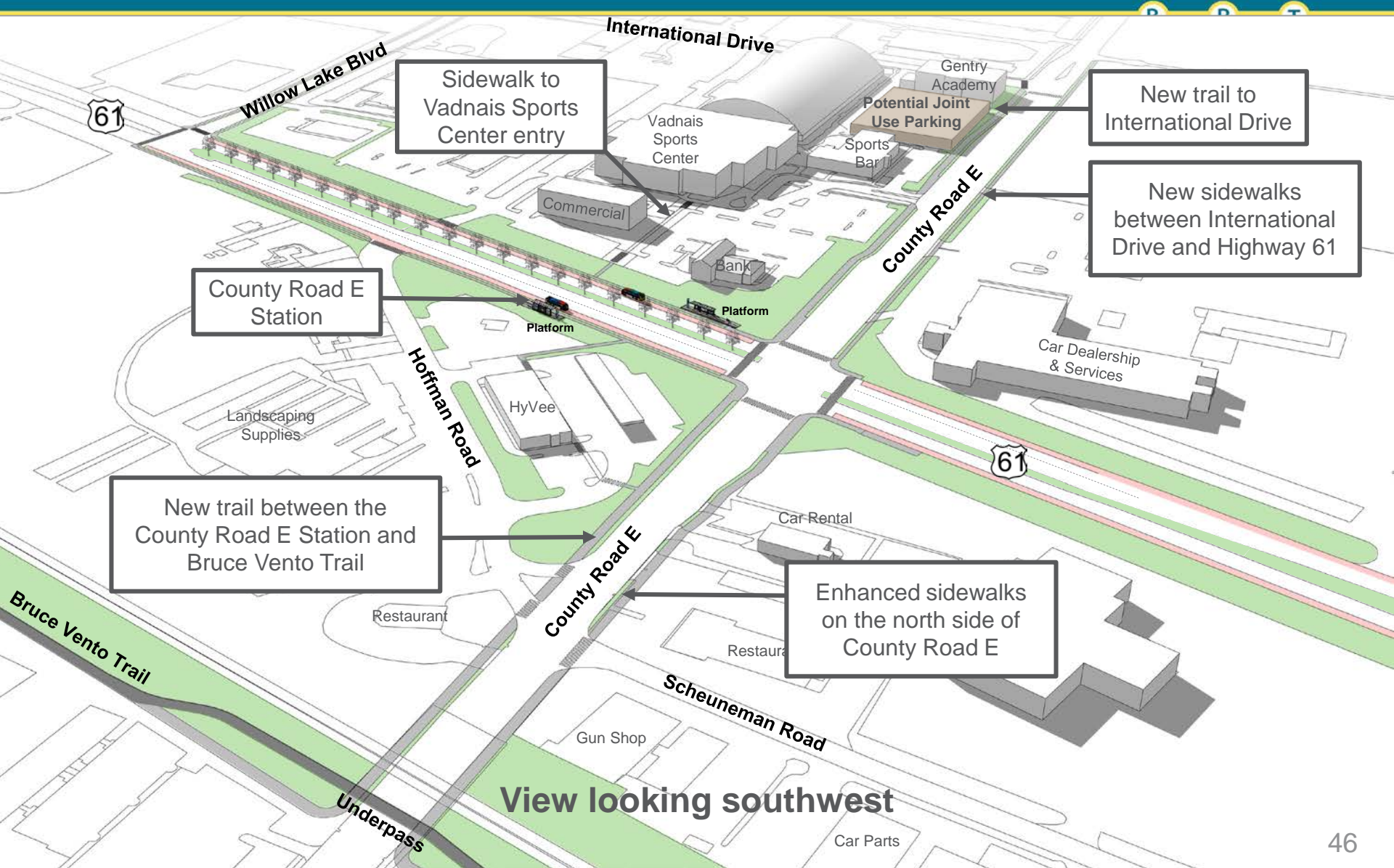


B R T

- Joint use parking facility at Vadnais Sports Center under evaluation.
- County Road E platforms on south side.
- Pedestrian improvements at Highway 61 and County Road E crossings.
- Additional traffic analysis for dedicated lanes on Highway 61.



Station Access Concept



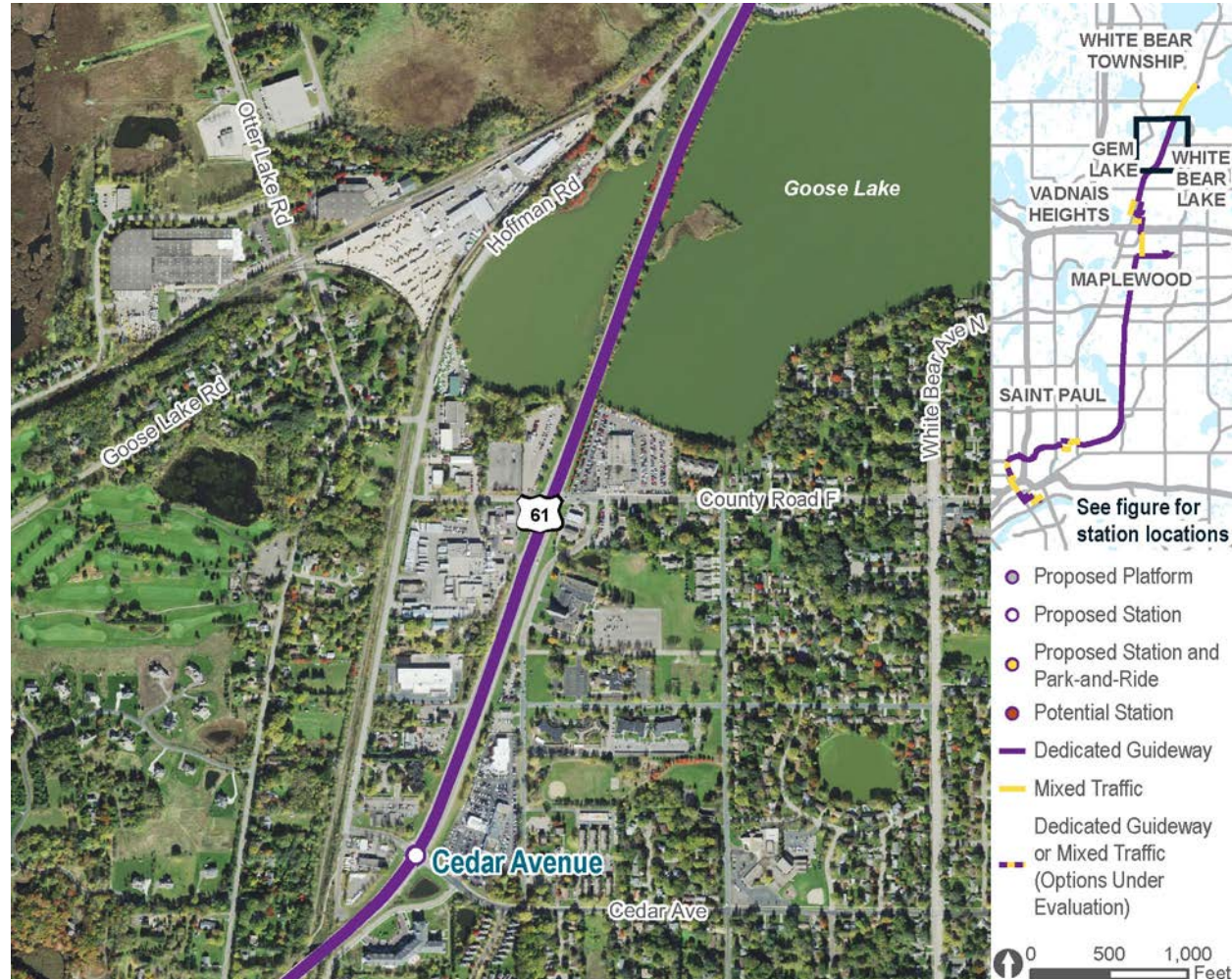
View looking southwest

Route Walk Through

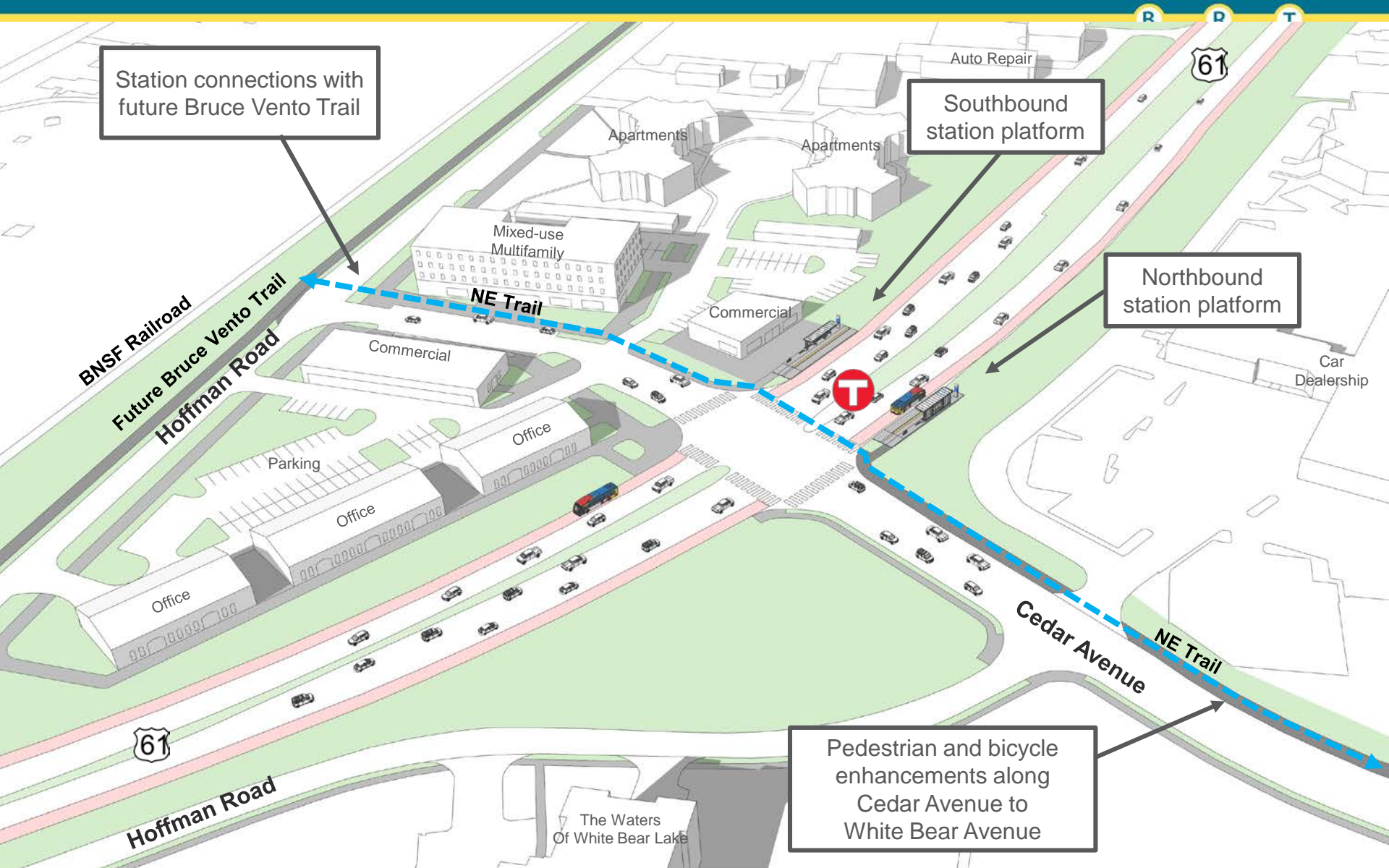


B R T

- Cedar Avenue station platforms on north side.
- Pedestrian improvements to future Bruce Vento Trail extension.



Station Access Concept

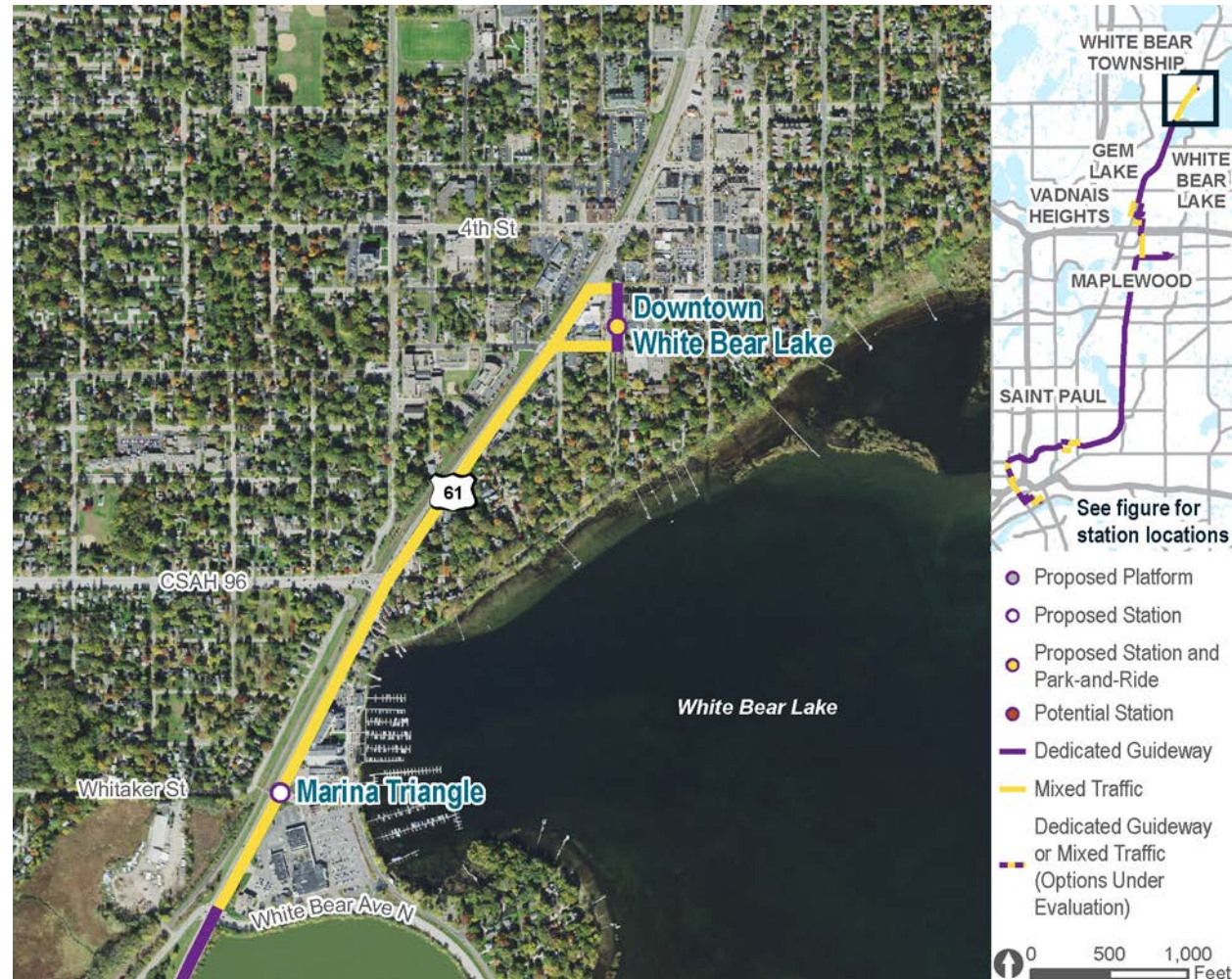


Route Walk Through

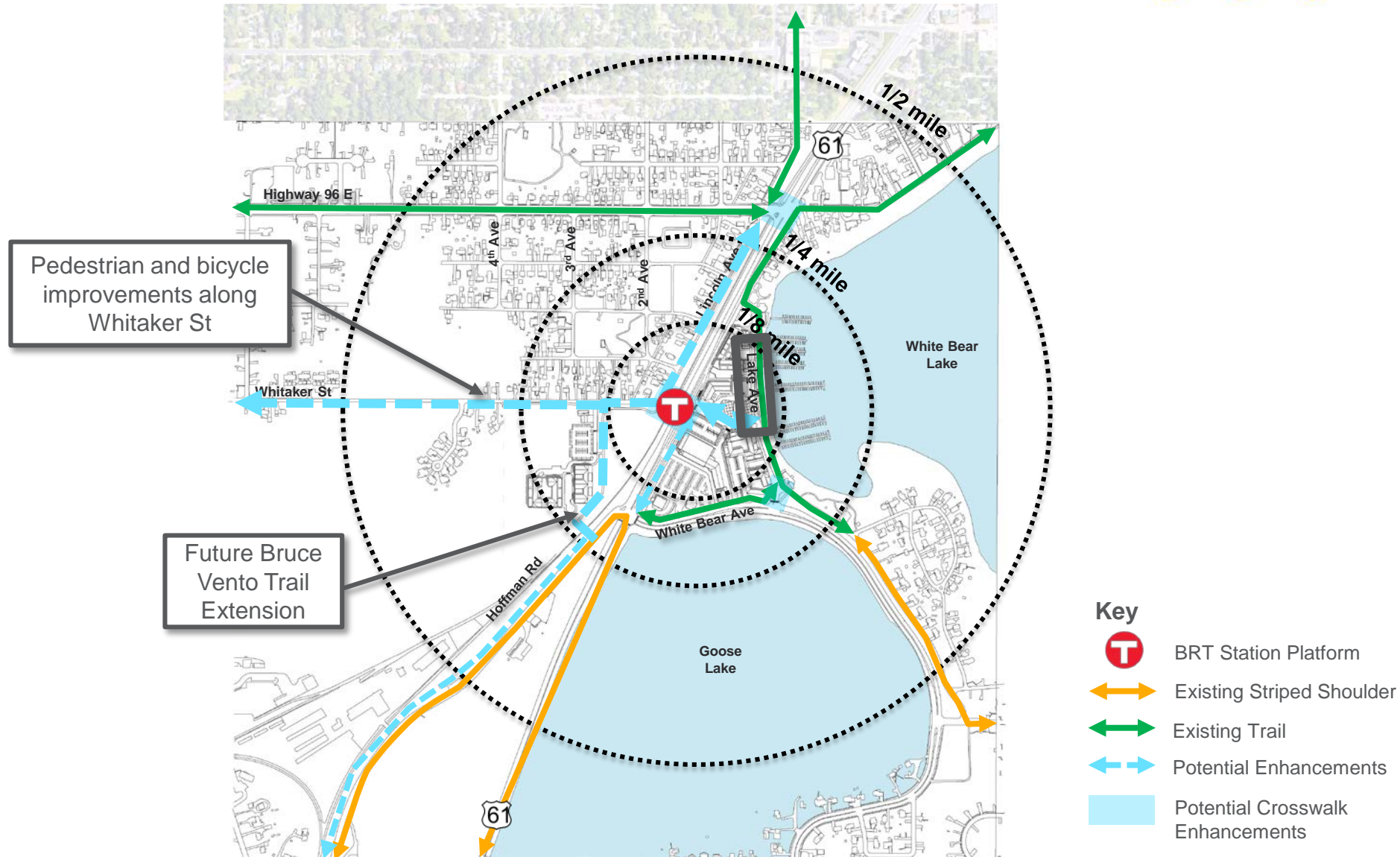


B R T

- Roadway improvements at Marina Triangle station.
- Pedestrian improvements at Whitaker Street and 2nd Street crossings.
- Explore full signal at Whitaker Street as a local project.
- Downtown White Bear Lake station at Clark Street and joint use parking facility under evaluation.

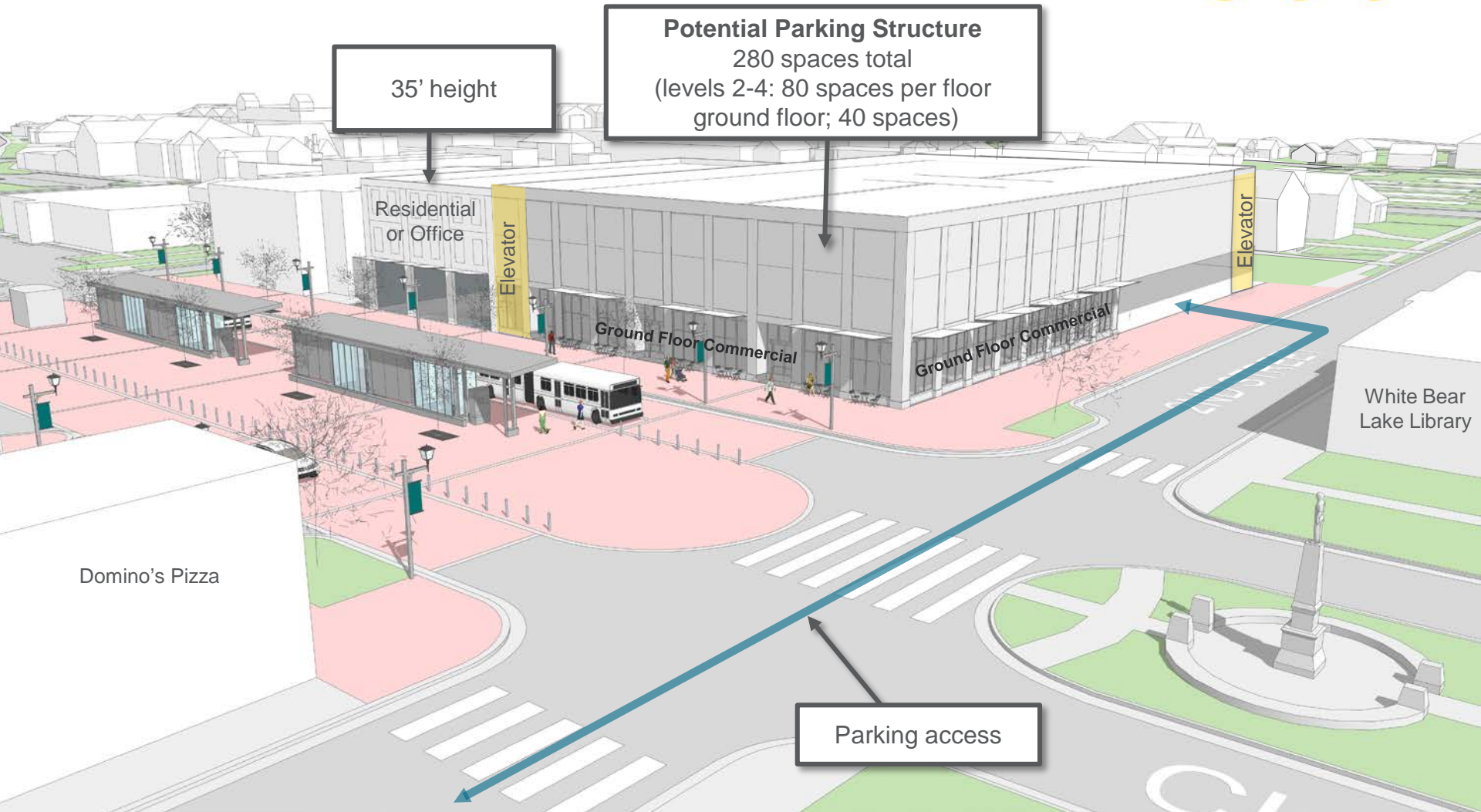


Bike and Pedestrian Access Concept



Station Concept

B R T



Next Meeting

- Route tour and Health Impacts Assessment will be scheduled for October/November and Community Advisory Committee will be notified as soon as dates are set.
- Next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled for January.



Thank you!



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