



July 17, 2019

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING #5

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Project updates.
3. Visioning Framework.
4. Environmental Assessment.



***Rush
Line***

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Project Updates

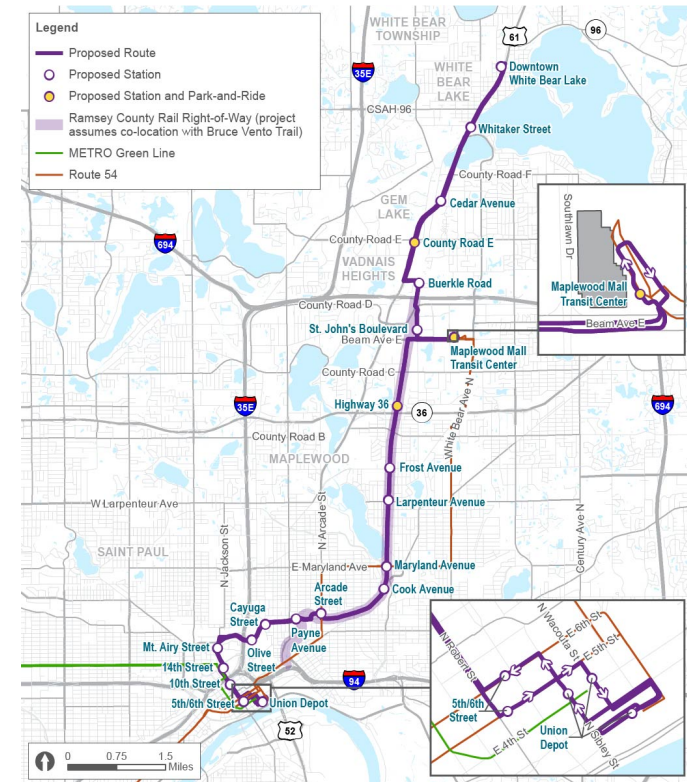
Field Activities

- April: Noise measurements taken.
- April-present: Architectural/history survey throughout corridor.
- June-July: Harvest Park parking counts.



15 Percent Design Plan

- Created in coordination with staff from cities, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metro Transit, as well as project advisory committees.
- Includes:
 - Guideway.
 - Station locations.
 - Site improvements (pedestrian, traffic signal and local bus improvements; park-and-ride facilities; and bus charging infrastructure).
 - Retaining wall and bridge locations.
 - Potential stormwater treatment facility locations.
 - Traffic signal locations.
- Briefings with city/township councils underway.



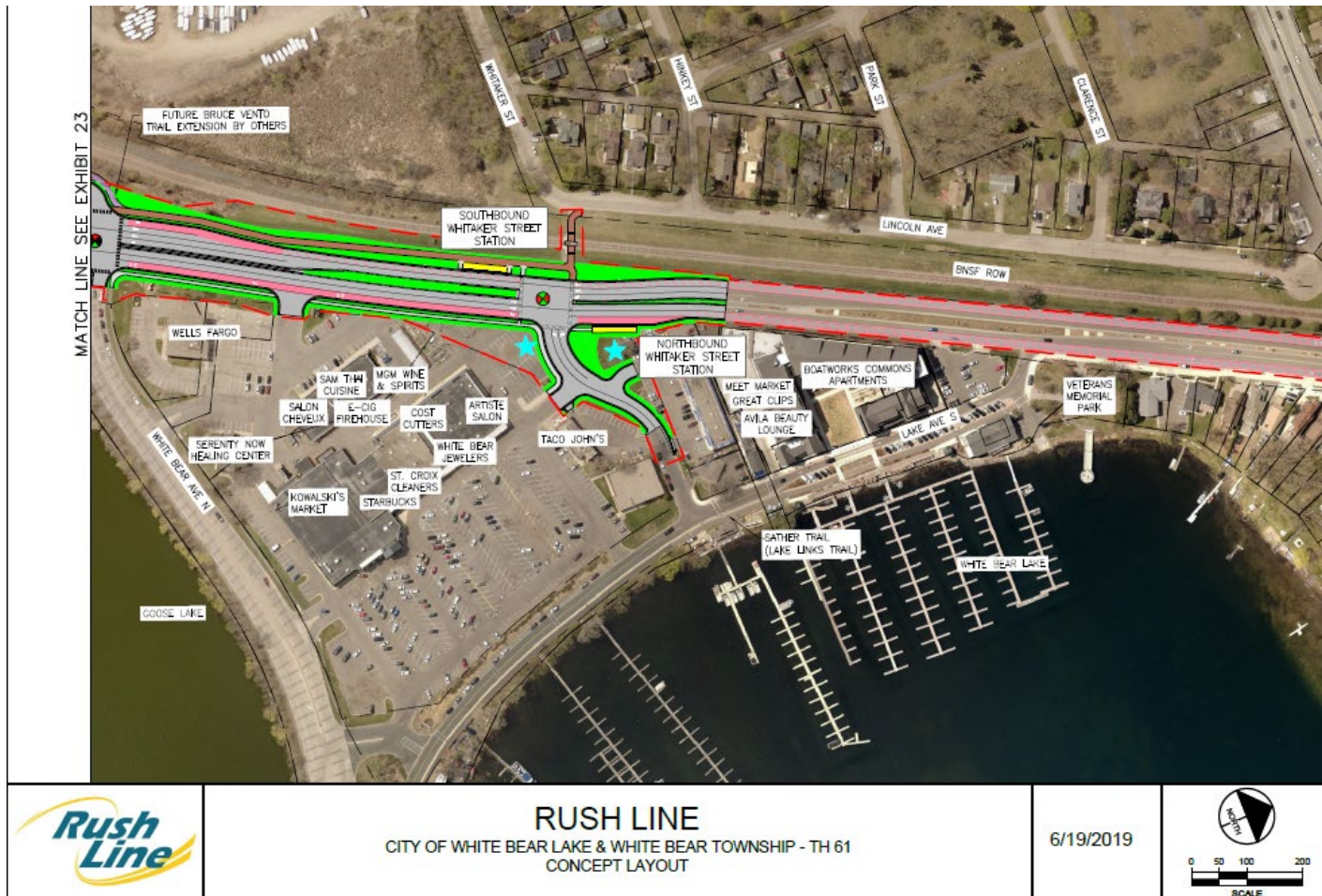
Key Refinements in 15 Percent Design

- Addition of signal at intersection of Whitaker Street and Highway 61.
- Potential reconfiguration of Highway 36 park-and-ride.
- Coordination to determine where daylighting of Phalen Creek could be accommodated.
- Shift in northbound Arcade Street station platform location to Neid Lane.
- Recommendation to move 10th Street station southbound platform from far side to near side.

Whitaker Street Signal



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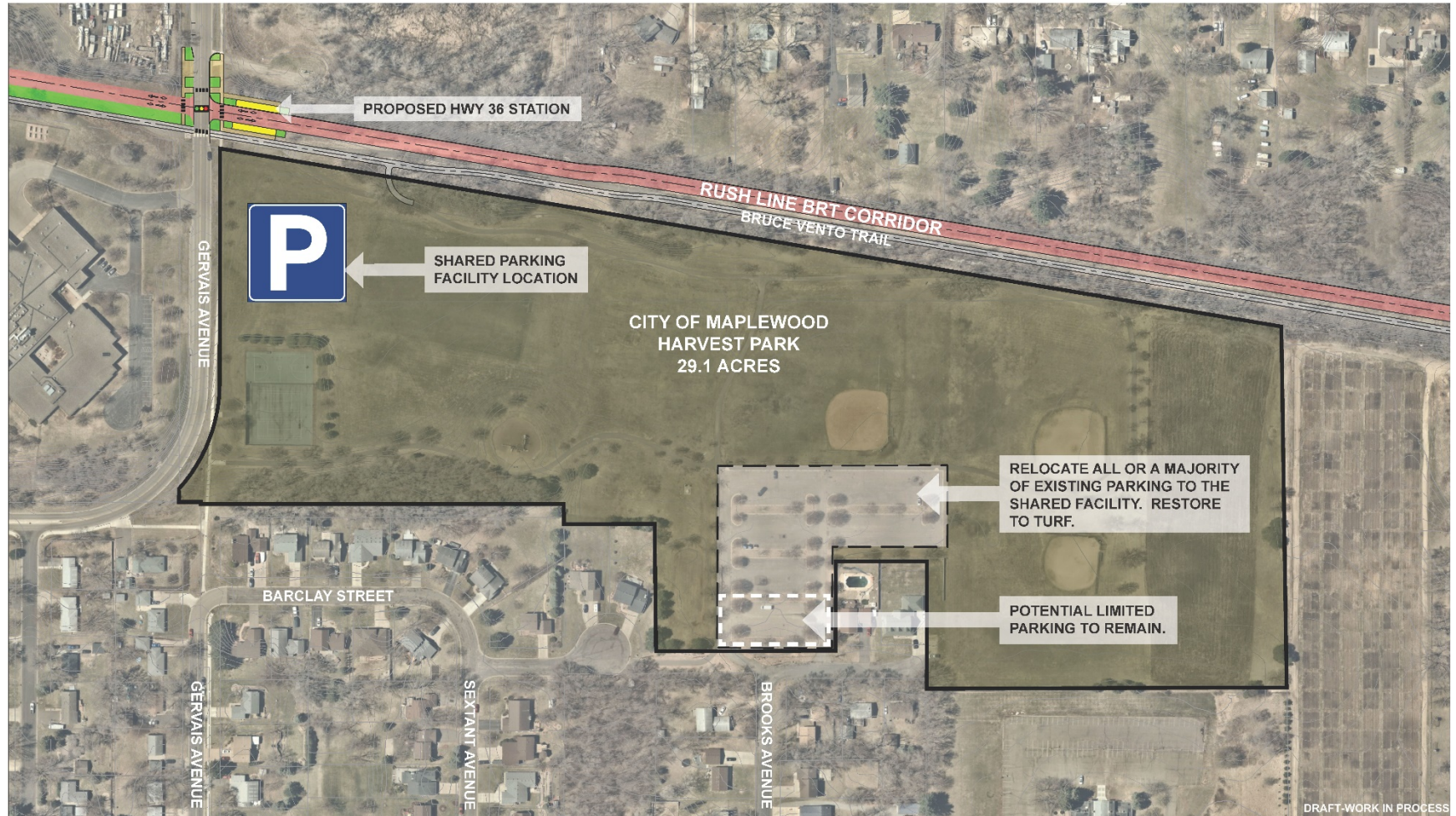


- Signal added at Whitaker Street to enhance pedestrian safety.

Highway 36 Park-and-Ride Concept

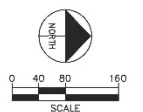


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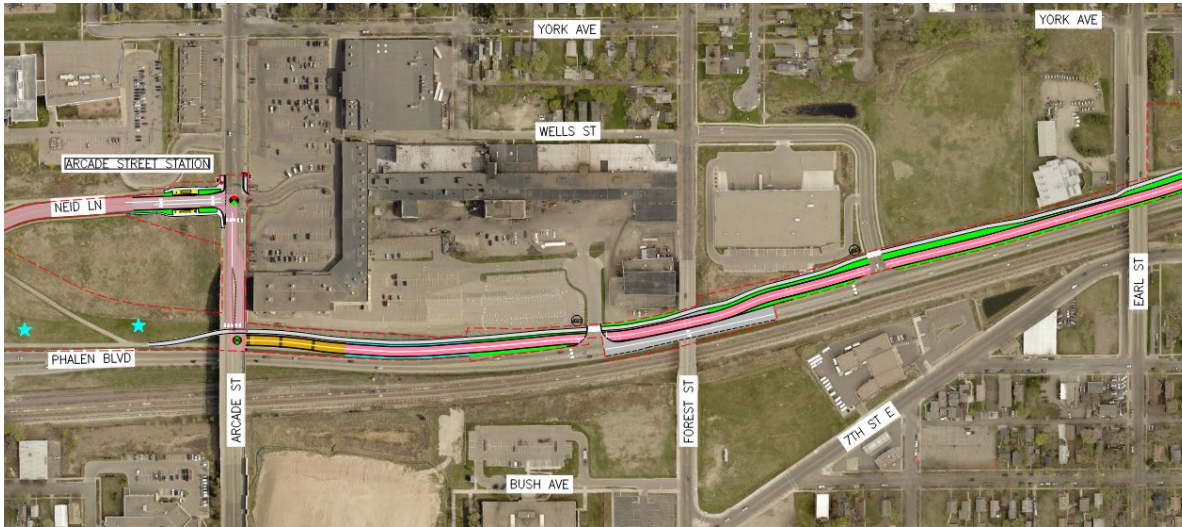


Highway 36 Station
Harvest Park Site Diagram

06/25/2019

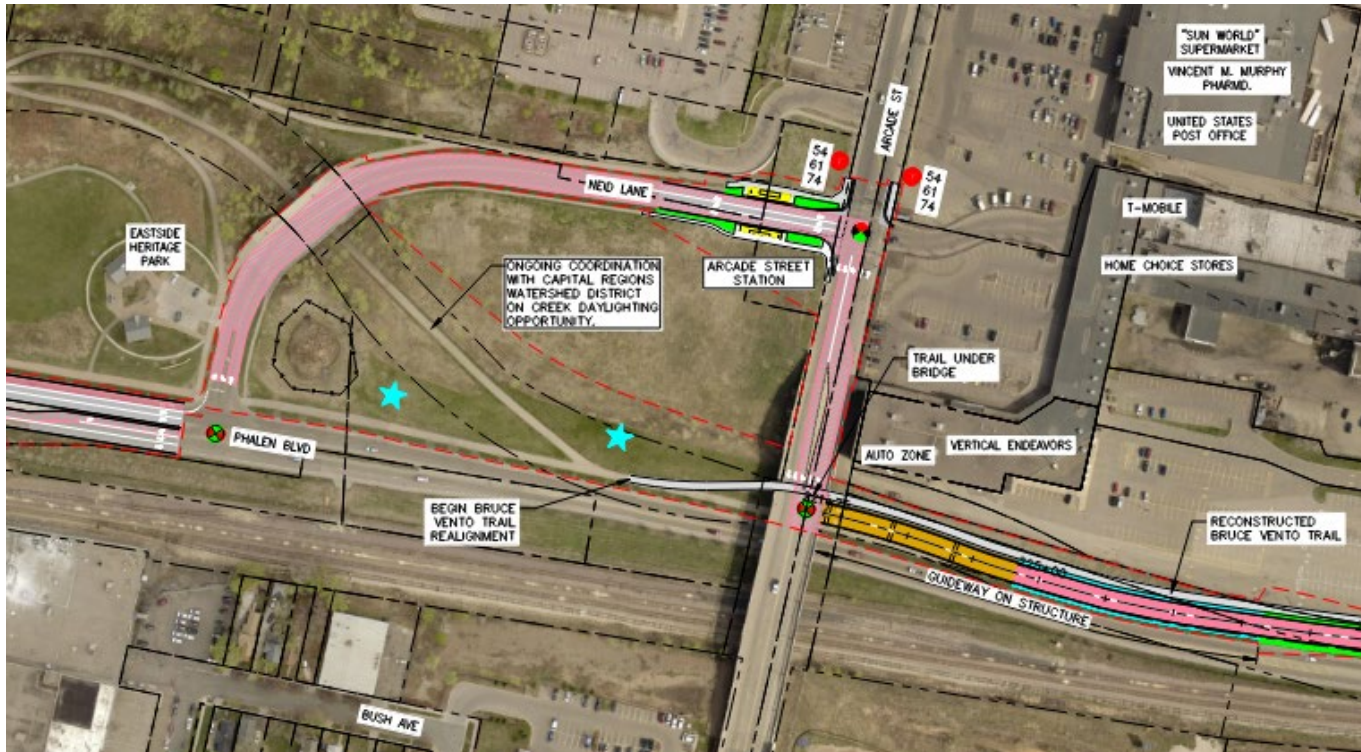


Lower Phalen Creek



- Lower Phalen Creek Project and Capitol Region Watershed District.
 - Potential accommodations of creek daylighting proposal:
 - Provide infrastructure to convey Lower Phalen Creek water between Arcade and Earl Streets.
 - Construct the Lower Phalen Creek channel between Arcade Street and Neid Lane.
 - Construct stormwater treatment facilities between Earl Street and Frank Street that complement the Lower Phalen Creek Project.

Arcade Street Station

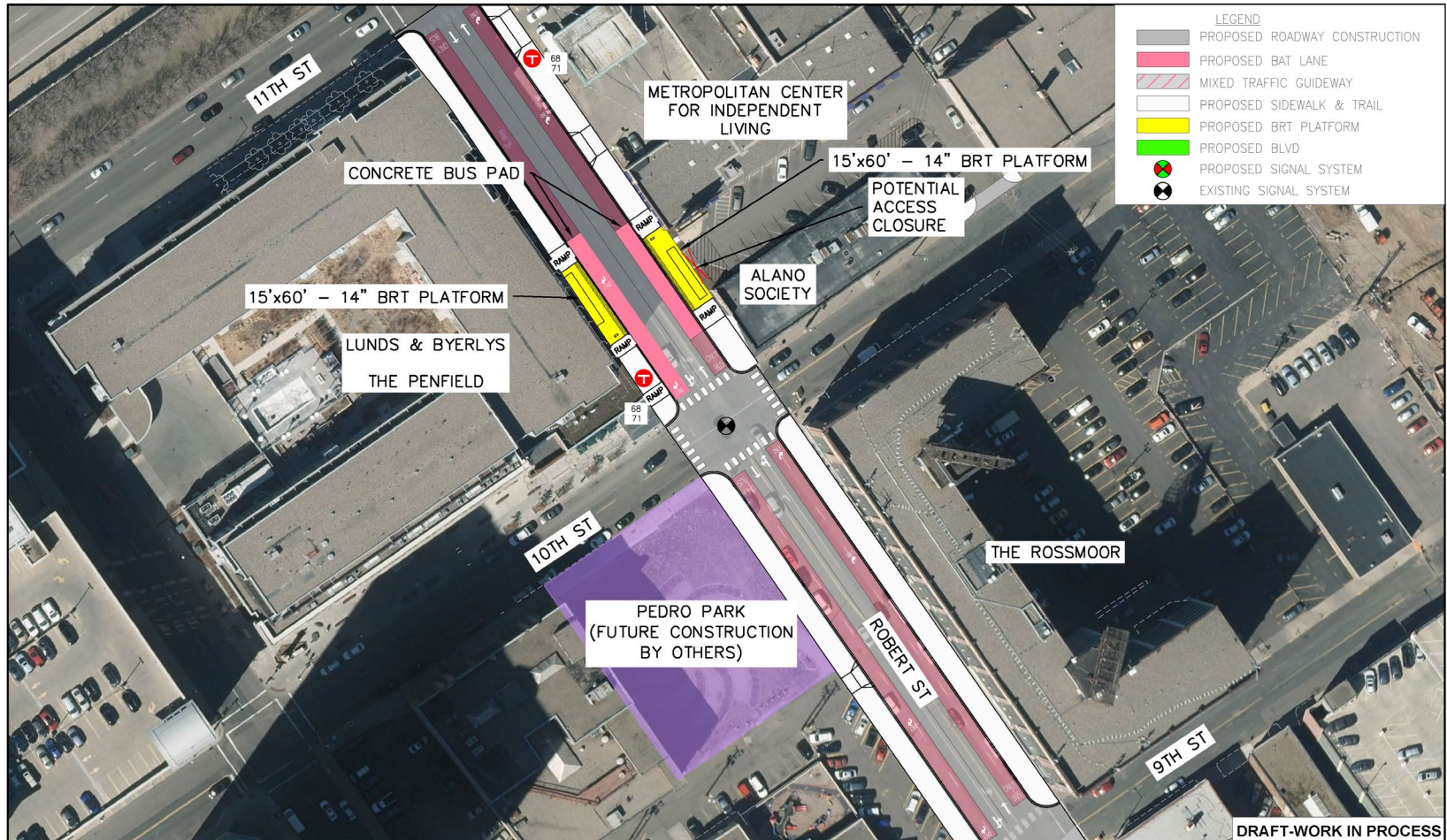


- Northbound platform shifted onto Neid Lane to improve BRT operations and customer experience.
- Continued coordination with Lower Phalen Creek Project and Capitol Region Watershed District.

10th Street Station Recommendation



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- Near side southbound platform recommended by Saint Paul Issue Resolution Team and Technical Advisory Committee.

Next Steps

- Technical Advisory Committee review of draft plans until July 17.
- Technical Advisory Committee recommended that Policy Advisory Committee advance the 15% plans for:
 - Evaluation in the Environmental Assessment.
 - Staff review by city/township staff, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metro Transit in August/September.



Public Engagement Updates

Public Engagement Overview



Tuesdays on the Trail, June 25

- Nearly 140 pop-up meetings, community events, targeted meetings and other public engagement events since March 2018.
- More than 1,200 conversations and comments recorded.
- Three online surveys conducted.
- Addition of two stations and adjustment of several more in response to public input.

Recent Public Engagement Activities

- May 13: Maplewood City Council workshop.
- May 14: Maplewood Bike Rodeo.
- May 16: Realife Cooperative discussion.
- May 17: Mt. Airy Homes Spring Event.
- May 24 and 28: One-on-one meetings with representatives from Penfield Apartments, Alano Society and Lunds & Byerlys.
- May 29: North End Vision open house.
- June 1: Train Day.
- June 1: WaterFest at Phalen Regional Park.



Maplewood Bike Rodeo, May 14

Recent Public Engagement Activities

- June 4, 13, 18 and 25: Tuesdays on the Trail.
- June 6: Pop-up at Sun Foods.
- June 15: Pop-up at Hmong Village.
- June 20: MnDOT Lab presentation.
- June 26: Meeting with Cardinal Pointe residents.
- June 26: Hmong community gathering.
- July 10: Pop-up at Vadnais Heights farmers' market.
- July 13: Dragon Festival at Phalen Regional Park.
- Ongoing online survey.



WaterFest, June 1

Public Engagement Themes: 10th Street Station



10th Street Station Drop-In Discussion, May 9

- Drop-in discussions.
 - Some attendees expressed concerns that a transit station would negatively affect the environment of the park and surrounding neighborhood.
- One-on-one stakeholder meetings.
 - Nearby service organizations believe increased transit service would be beneficial to many of their clients and employees.
 - Apartment management see enhanced transit as a way to recruit and retain tenants.
 - Questions about potential Business Access and Transit (BAT) lanes on Robert Street.

Other Public Engagement Themes



- Maplewood North End coordination.
 - Some residents of Cardinal Pointe expressed concerns about BRT operations on Hazelwood Street and a preference for Rush Line to operate on alternative routes that avoid passing Cardinal Pointe.
 - St. John's Hospital and other nearby residents have expressed support for routing and station on Hazelwood Street.
- Mt. Airy Homes.
 - Excitement for improved transit options serving the area.
 - Some concern about steep grade to access station.

Upcoming Public Engagement

- July 25: Environmental Resource Expo at White Bear Lake MarketFest.
- August 6: National Night Out with Hmong American Partnership.
- August 10: CLUES Fiesta Latina.
- Other events to be scheduled:
 - Pop-up at Regions Hospital.
 - Pop-up at METRO Green Line Robert Street station.
 - Outreach with public housing residents.
- Additional public engagement when draft Visioning Framework is available.

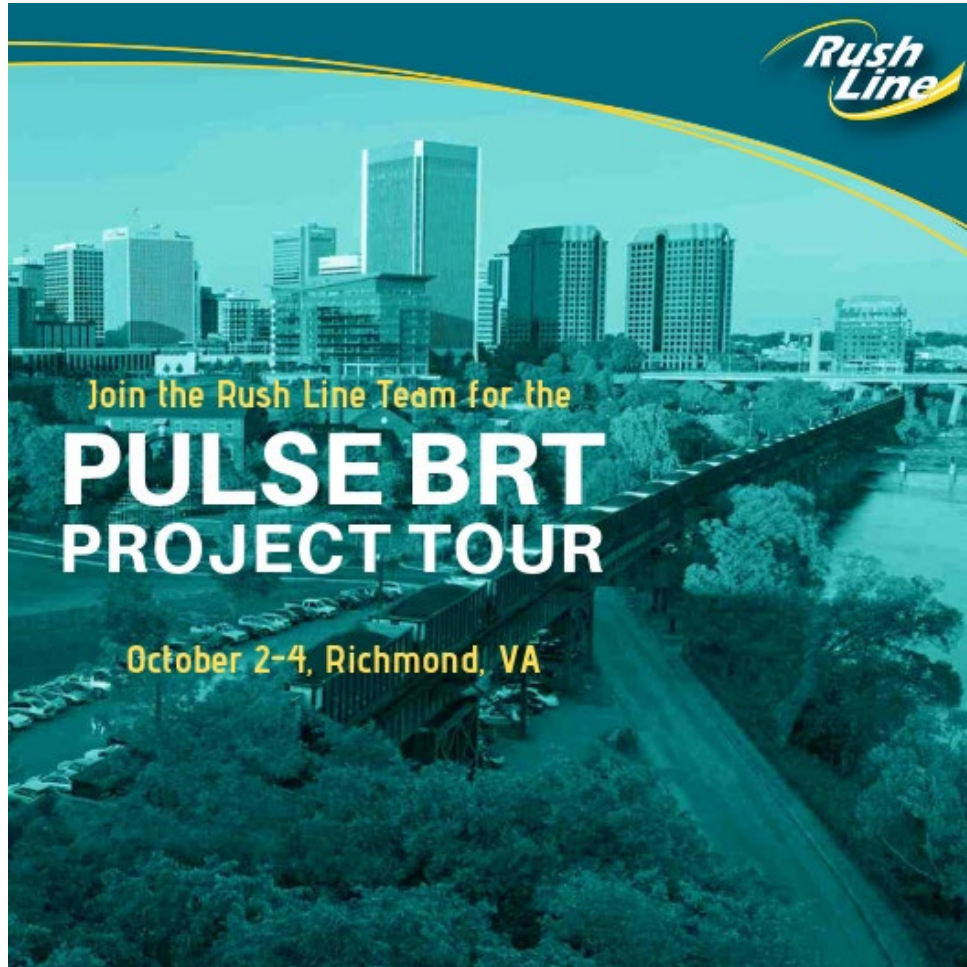


MarketFest in downtown White Bear Lake, 2018

Pulse BRT Peer System Visit



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- October 2-4
(Wednesday-Friday).
- 7.6 mile route (3 miles
dedicated) opened in
2018.
- Connects:
 - Suburban
communities.
 - Healthcare providers.
 - Urban neighborhoods.
 - The State Capitol.
 - Downtown business
district.

Pulse BRT Peer System Visit



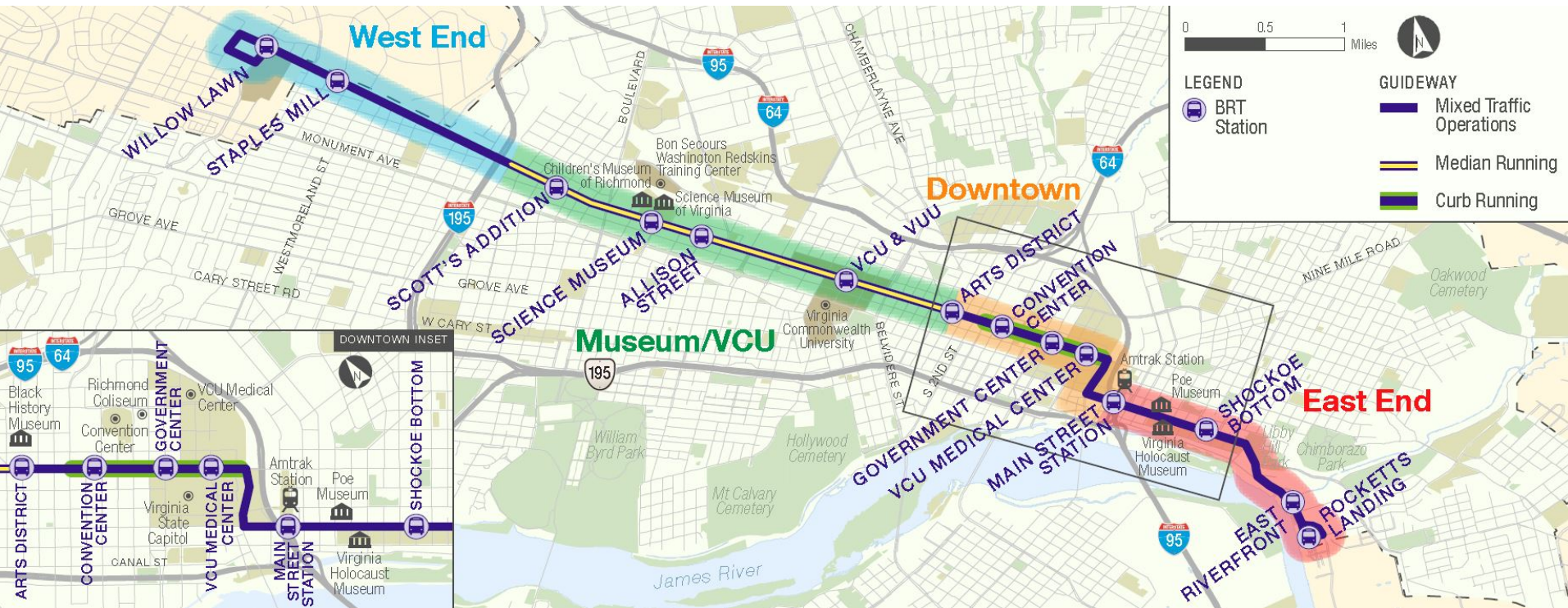
- Learn from local leaders and stakeholders.
- Firsthand experience with BRT construction, operations, maintenance and associated economic development.



Pulse BRT Peer System Visit



B R T



- Runs in mixed traffic, dedicated lanes and BAT lanes.
- Daily boardings more than double weekday ridership goal

Pulse BRT Peer System Visit



Pulse BRT Peer System Visit



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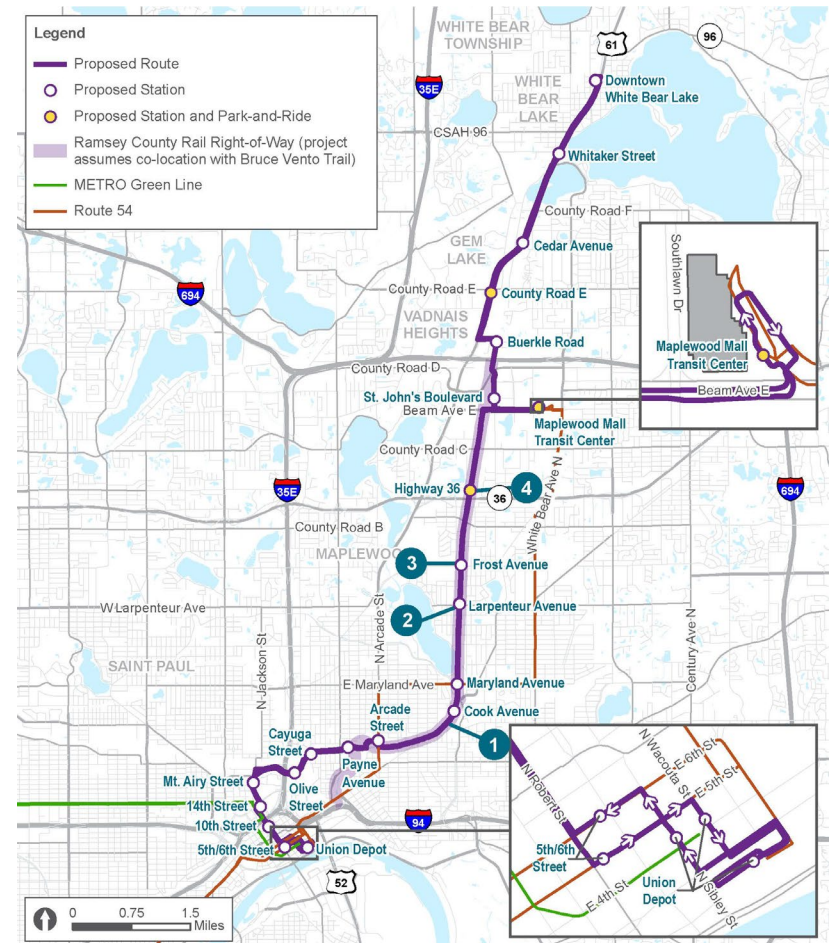
- Ramsey County offering stipends to help cover travel costs.
- Attendees responsible for reserving their own flight/hotel.
- Invites and more information coming shortly!



Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way Visioning Framework

Visioning Framework

- Document that will guide the design of the Ramsey County rail right-of-way and the Bruce Vento Trail area.
- Goal: to develop a safe and context-sensitive BRT guideway and shared-use trail plan incorporating relevant user, stakeholder and public guidance within the Ramsey County rail right-of-way.



Public Engagement: Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way

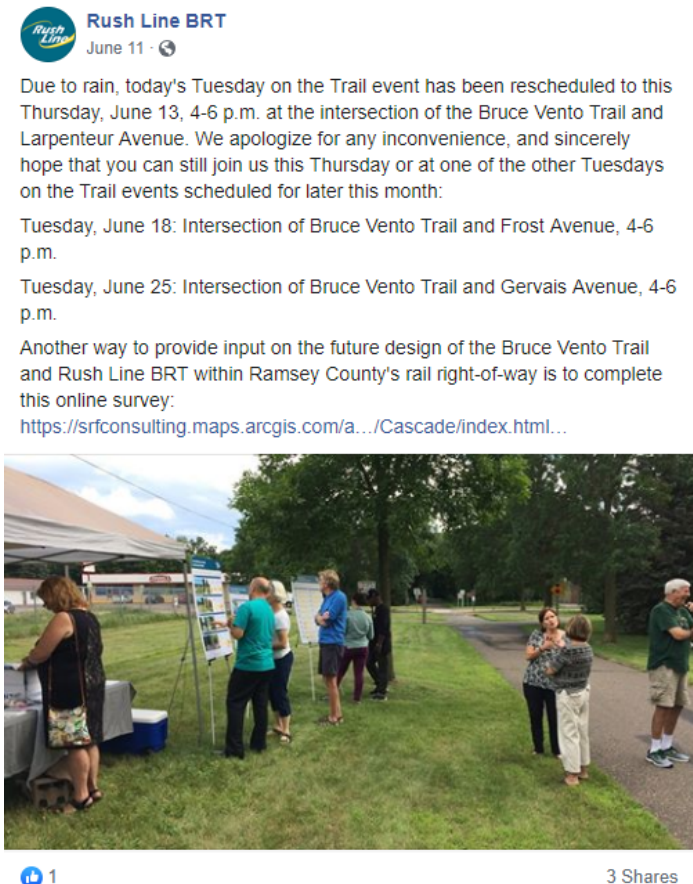


Tuesdays on the Trail, June 13

- Input sought based on feedback from March 27 workshop:
 - Priority right-of-way elements including safety and security of users, design and accessibility.
 - How people plan to use the Ramsey County rail right-of-way after Rush Line BRT is constructed.
 - Design of the Bruce Vento Trail and BRT guideway.
 - Trail amenities.

Public Input

- Opportunities for input:
 - Tuesdays on the Trail, Hmong Community Gathering and pop-up meetings.
 - Online survey.
- Event promotion.
 - Tuesdays on the Trail promoted on social media, newsletter and county website.
 - Residents near right-of-way invited to events through targeted mailings.
 - Flyers distributed at other nearby pop-ups.



Promotional Facebook post, June 11

Public Engagement Themes: Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way



Tuesdays on the Trail, June 18

- Top priorities:
 - Maintaining natural, shaded atmosphere of the trail.
 - Promoting safety and security for users.

Right-of-Way Elements



Emergency phone pylon (Seattle Transit Blog)



Example wayfinding signage (Midtown Greenway Coalition)

- Project staff asked people which element of the right-of-way is their top priority for the design of the guideway and Bruce Vento Trail.
- Most popular elements: safety and security and additional station amenities (landscaping, public art, wayfinding signage, etc.).

Use of Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way



B R T



Source: Washington, DC



Source: Trek Bikes

- Project staff asked how people would use the right-of-way after Rush Line BRT is constructed.
- Most popular: recreational walking, running or using a mobility device; recreational bicycling.

BRT/Trail Separation



Dense planting



Linear stormwater swale

- BRT/trail separation: this area separates trail users of all ages and abilities from the BRT guideway.
- Most popular: dense planting and linear stormwater swale.

Landscape Buffer



- Landscape buffer: area between the BRT guideway or Bruce Vento Trail and the edges of the right-of-way.
- Most popular landscape buffer: native understory.

Buffer/Edge



Ornamental hedge



Natural buffer

- Buffer/edge: area along the right-of-way edges.
- Most popular: ornamental hedge and natural buffer.

Grade Separation



- Grade separation: areas where corridor grades require engineered vertical structures to keep development within the right-of-way.
- Most popular grade separation: green slope with geotextile.

Amenities



- Project staff asked people to identify their four top amenities from a list of ten potential amenities.
- Preferred amenities: trash/recycling receptacles, benches, informational kiosks and drinking fountains.

Next Steps

- Preparing draft Visioning Framework; expected to be available in late summer/early fall.
- Project staff will conduct additional public engagement in fall 2019 to gather input on the draft and refine recommendations.

Discussion

- Opportunities for public engagement regarding the Visioning Framework:
 - Pop-ups at popular community destinations near the right-of-way.
 - Tabling at community event.
 - Listening session or open house.
 - Potential online survey.
- Suggestions for events or locations?



Tuesdays on the Trail, June 18



Environmental Assessment Updates

Technical Reports

- Technical reports address the following:
 - Land use, economics and community resources.
 - Traffic.
 - Noise.
 - Ridership and operations.
 - Section 4(f) – park resources.
 - Visual impacts.
 - Utilities.
 - Environmental justice.
 - Cultural and historic resources.

Technical Report Schedule

- As they become available, technical reports submitted to staff at cities/township and partner agencies for technical review through summer 2019.
- Technical reports will inform draft Environmental Assessment, which is expected to be submitted to Federal Transit Administration in early 2020.

Next Meeting

- A Doodle poll will be distributed for the next Community Advisory Committee in the fall.
- Contact the co-chairs and Frank if you have ideas for future agenda items.



Thank you!



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