



*Rush
Line*

B R T

July 25, 2019

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PHASE

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Recap of May Policy Advisory Committee meeting.
3. Public engagement update.
4. Coordination activities.
5. Community Advisory Committee update.
6. Engineering updates.
7. Public comment.
8. **Requested action:** Affirm the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation to advance the 15 percent plans for evaluation in the Environmental Assessment and staff review by the Rush Line BRT Project cities/township, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metro Transit.
9. Upcoming activities.
10. Next meeting.

Recap of May Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

- Presentation on transit-oriented development from Kathryn Hansen, Metro Transit.
- Updates on:
 - Public engagement activities.
 - Coordination activities.
 - City staff review of design plans.

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

- June 1: Train Day.
- June 1: WaterFest at Phalen Regional Park.
- 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



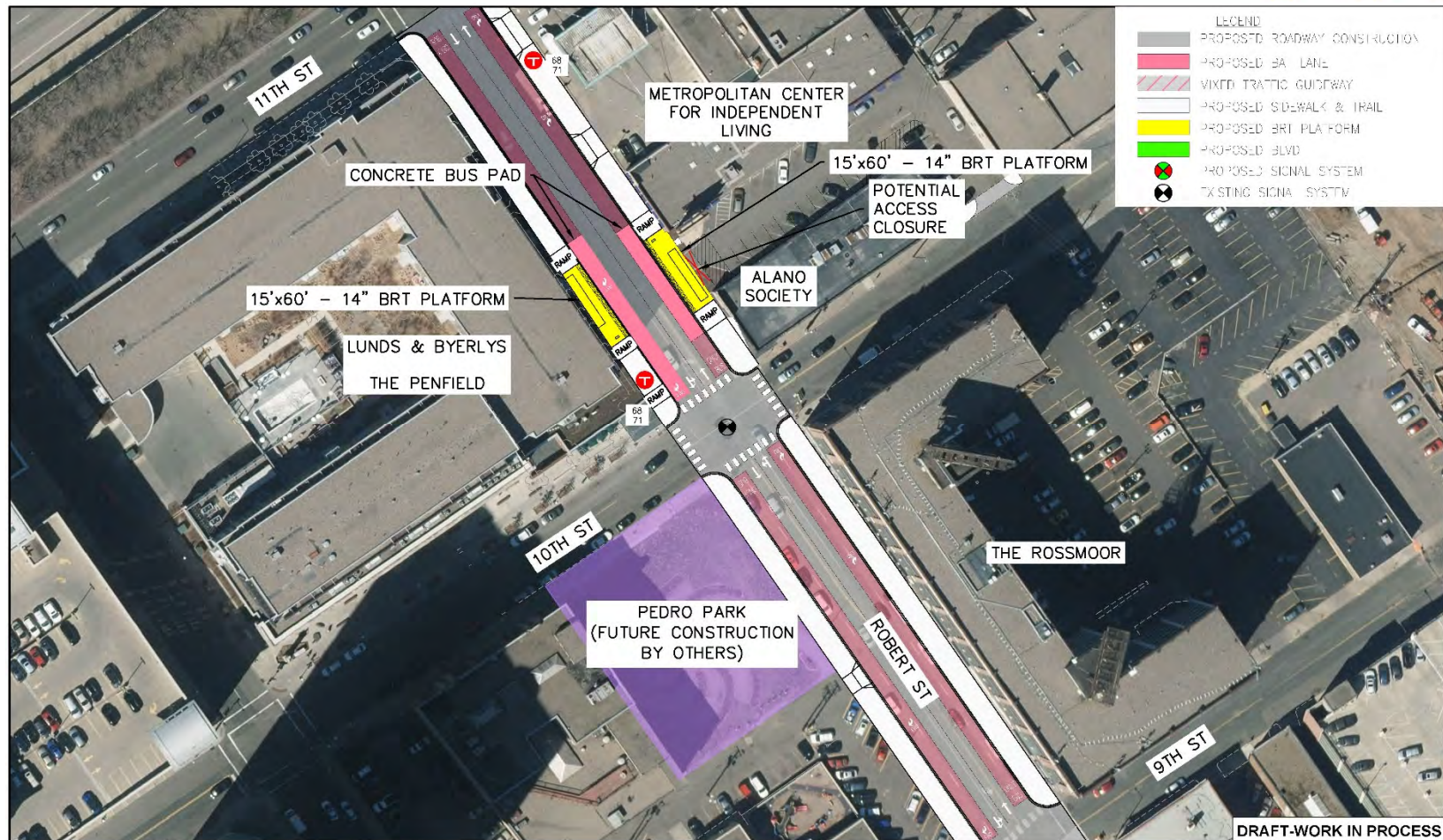
10th Street Station Drop-In Discussion, May 9

- 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.

10th Street Station Recommendation



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- Near side southbound platform recommended by Saint Paul Issue Resolution Team.

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 25

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



Tuesdays on the Trail, June 18

- Many people indicated that they would use the right-of-way for recreational walking, running, bicycling and/or using a mobility device after Rush Line BRT is constructed.
- Preferred trail amenities are trash/recycling receptacles, drinking fountains, informational kiosks and benches.
- Top priorities are maintaining natural, shaded atmosphere of the trail and promoting safety and security for users.

Other Public Engagement Themes



- Maplewood North End coordination.
 - Some residents of Cardinal Point expressed concerns about BRT operations on Hazelwood Street and a preference for Rush Line to operate on alternative routes that avoid passing Cardinal Point.
 - 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

Coordination Activities

- Federal Transit Administration.
 - June 26 update meeting.
- Minnesota Department of Transportation.
 - May 16 pre-layout review meeting.
 - May 31 pedestrian and bike facility review.
 - June 6 meeting with Bridge Office.
 - Phalen Boulevard at Arcade Street (TH 61).
 - Rush Line guideway over TH 36.
 - Rush Line guideway over I-694.
- Metro Transit.
 - June 17 park-and-ride coordination meeting.

City and Township Briefings

- Completed:
 - Saint Paul Transportation Committee: June 17.
 - Saint Paul City Council: June 26.
 - Maplewood City Council: May 13.
 - Vadnais Heights City Council: June 18.
 - White Bear Township Executive Board: June 21.
 - White Bear Lake City Council: February 12.
- Upcoming:
 - Gem Lake City Council: August 20.

Community Advisory Committee Update

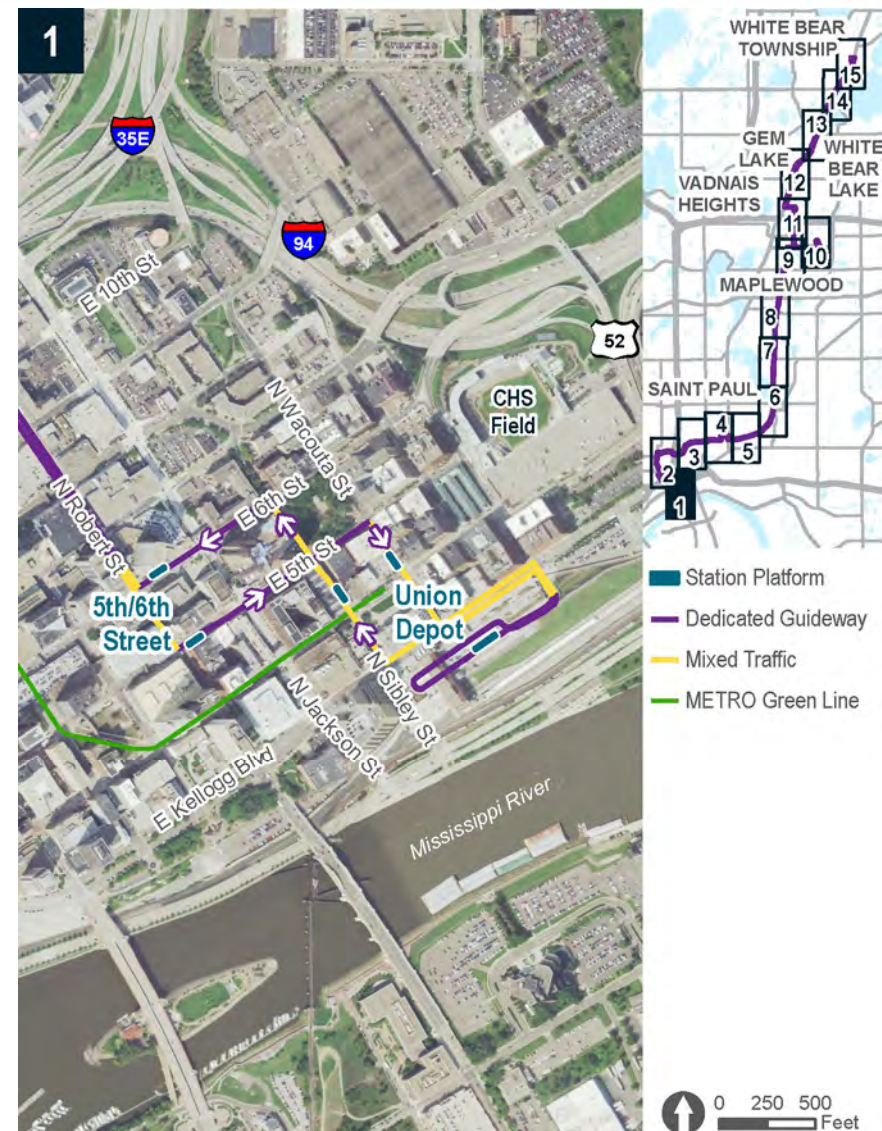
- Met on July 17:
 - Engineering updates.
 - Visioning framework overview and public engagement discussion.
 - Environmental assessment technical report overview.



Community Advisory Committee, July 17

15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- Three platforms for Union Depot – Union Depot bus deck, Wacouta Street and Sibley Street.
- Shared routing with METRO Gold Line on 5th, 6th, Sibley and Wacouta Streets.
- Ongoing Robert Street coordination with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and city of Saint Paul.

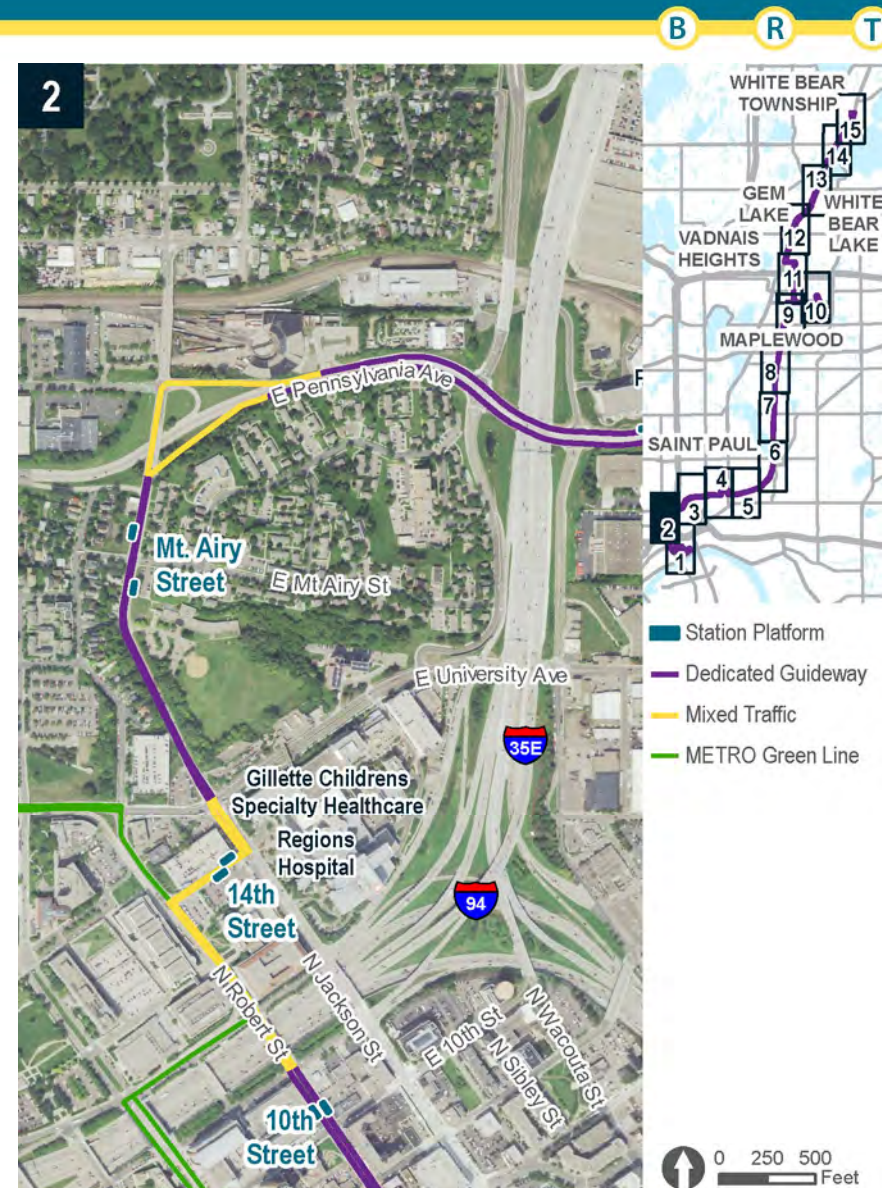


See Sheets 4-5

15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- Southbound 10th Street station platform shifted to near side.
- 14th Street station located by the METRO Green Line, Regions Hospital and Gillette Children's Specialty Clinic.
- Mt. Airy Street station serves Mt. Airy (public housing).
- Continued coordination with city of Saint Paul regarding Jackson Street roadway project.

See Sheets 5-7

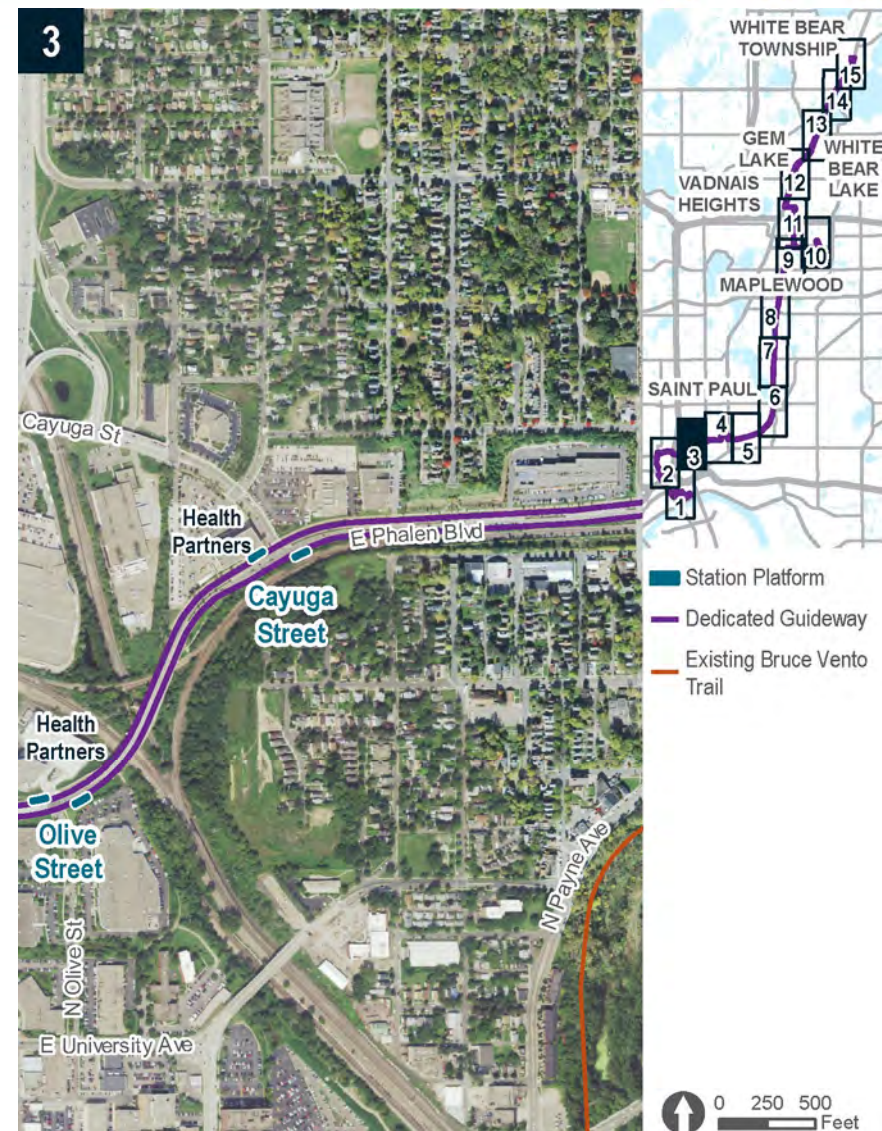


15 Percent Plan Walk Through



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- Healthcare destinations located near the Olive Street and Cayuga Street stations.
- Outside lanes on Phalen Boulevard dedicated for transit.
- Northbound Cayuga Street platform shifted to the north to better accommodate platform design and current grades.

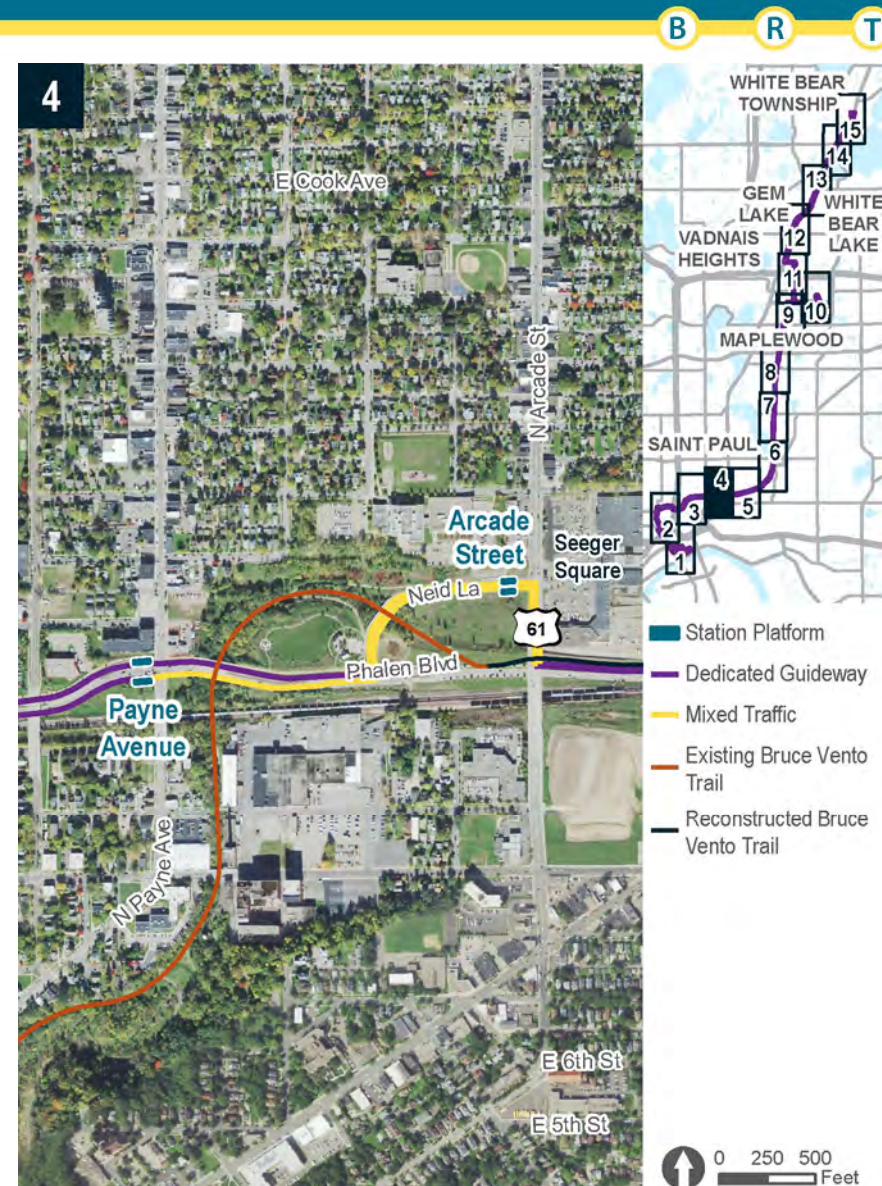


See Sheets 7-8

15 Percent Plan Walk Through

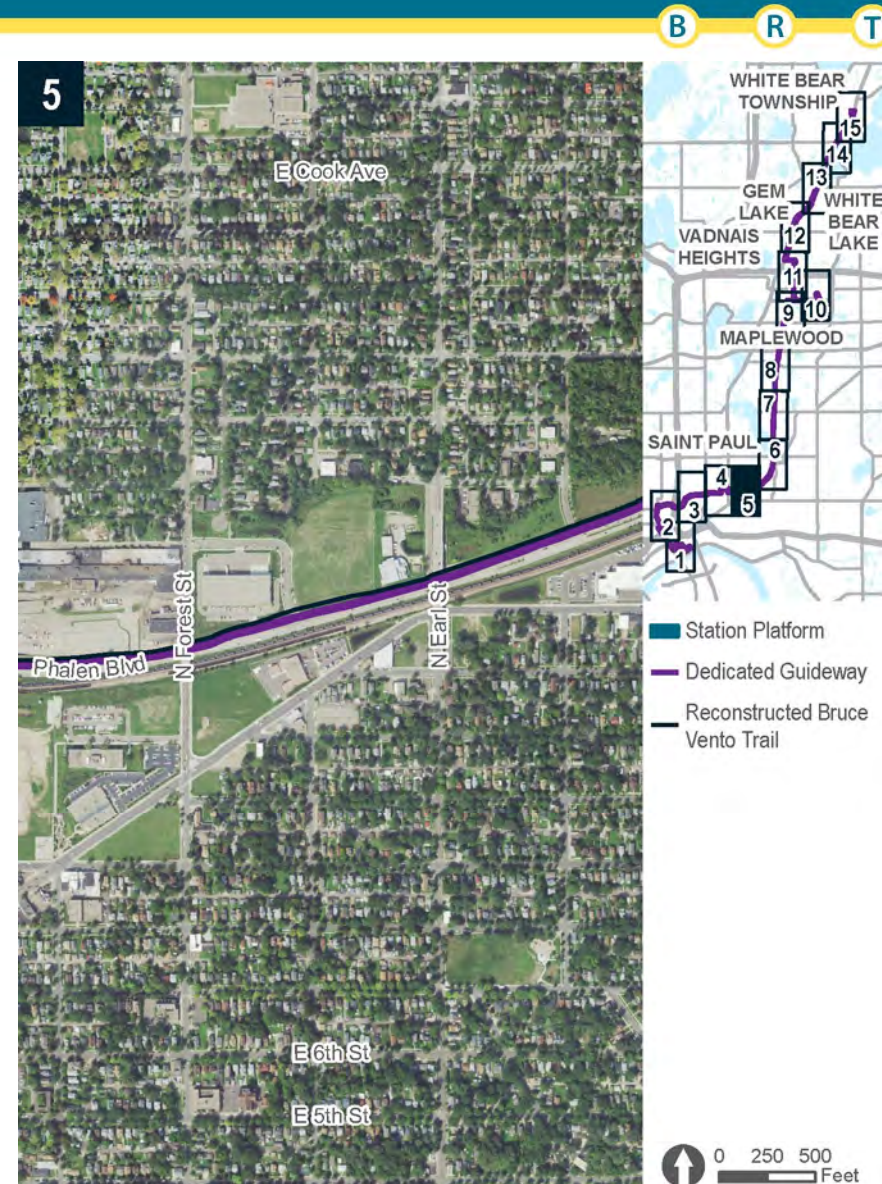
- Payne Avenue intersection improvements.
- Northbound Arcade Street platform shifted onto Neid Lane.
- Routing includes new bridge from Arcade Street to Ramsey County rail right-of-way.
- Reconstructed Bruce Vento Trail.
- Continued coordination with Lower Phalen Creek Project and Capitol Region Watershed District.

See Sheets 8-9



15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- BRT operating in Ramsey County rail right-of-way along north side of Phalen Boulevard.
- Reconstructed Bruce Vento Trail.



See Sheets 9-10

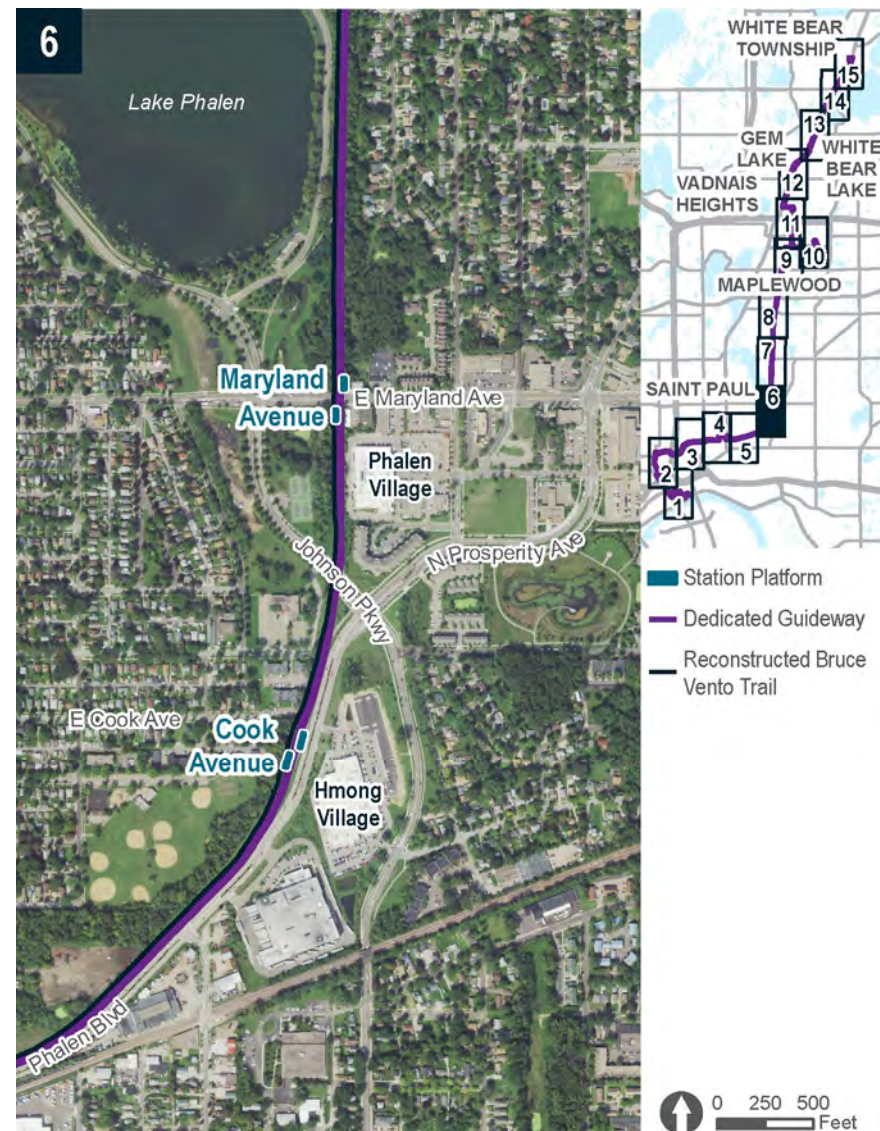
15 Percent Plan Walk Through



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- Cook Avenue station serves nearby neighborhood and Hmong Village.
 - New pedestrian crossing across Phalen Boulevard.
 - Platforms aligned to improve sight distance.
- New bridge over Johnson Parkway for BRT and trail users.
- Maryland Avenue station serves shopping center, Phalen Regional Park and bus connections.
- Reconstructed Bruce Vento Trail.

See Sheets 10-12



Visualization: Johnson Parkway Bridge



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Birdseye View Facing Northeast

Visualization: Johnson Parkway Bridge



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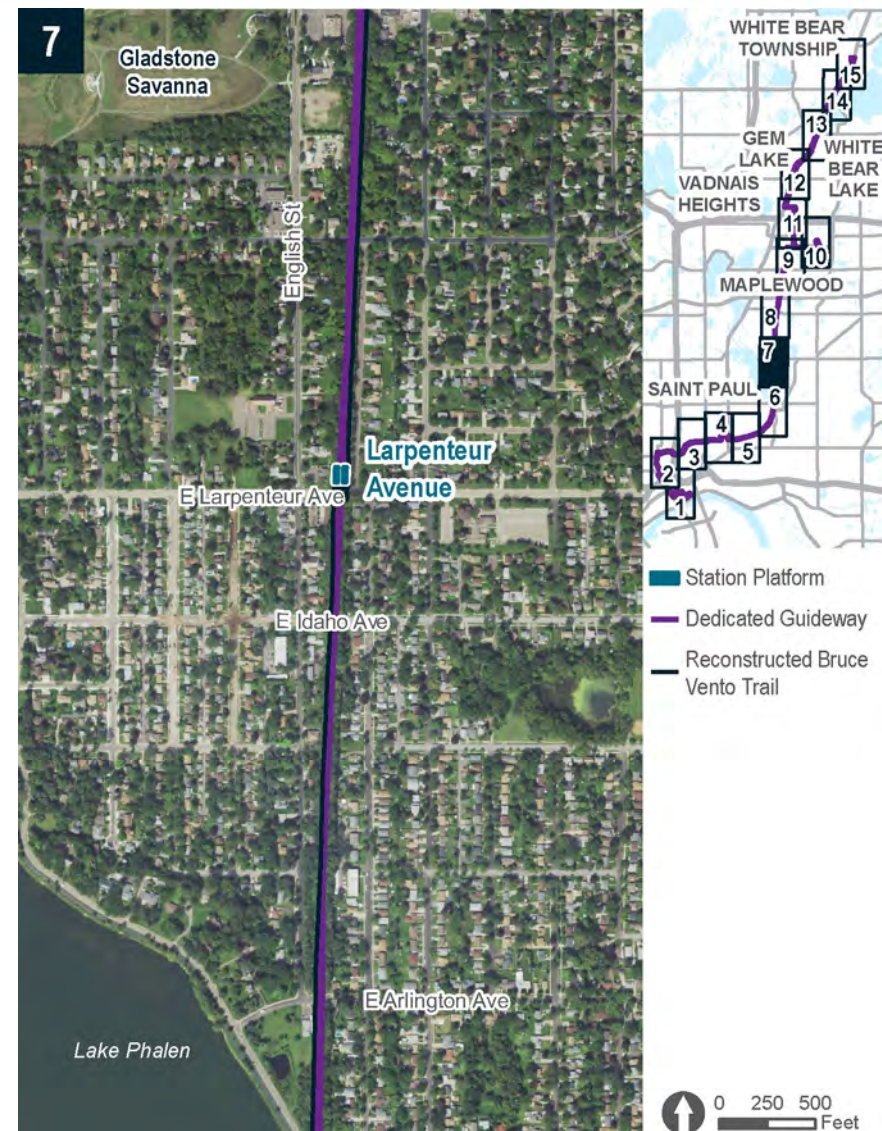
Johnson Parkway Facing Northwest

15 Percent Plan Walk Through



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- Reconstructed Bruce Vento Trail.
- Underpass closure south of Arlington Avenue.
- Pedestrian improvements on Larpenteur Avenue.



See Sheets 12-14

Visualization: Larpenteur Avenue Station



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DRAFT - WORK IN PROCESS

Looking North

15 Percent Plan Walk Through



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- Coordinating with the city of Maplewood's Frost Avenue reconstruction plans.
- Reconstructed Bruce Vento Trail.
- Grade-separated crossing of Gateway State Trail and near Weaver Elementary School.
- Highway 36 park-and-ride proposed to be located in Harvest Park.

See Sheets 14-17



Visualization: Pedestrian Underpass Near Weaver Elementary School



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45 Degree Wing Wall

Visualization: County Road B Intersection

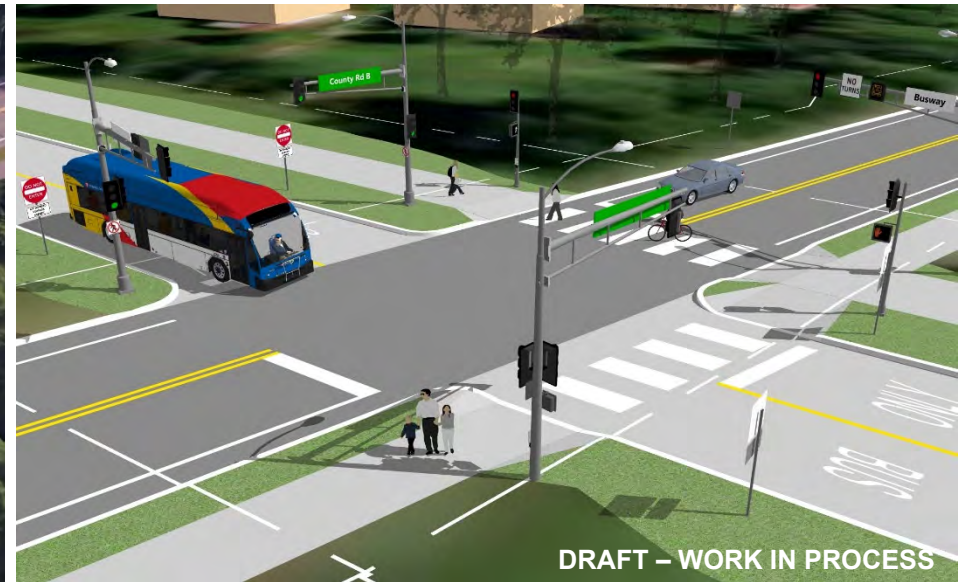


B R T

Looking Northeast



Before



After

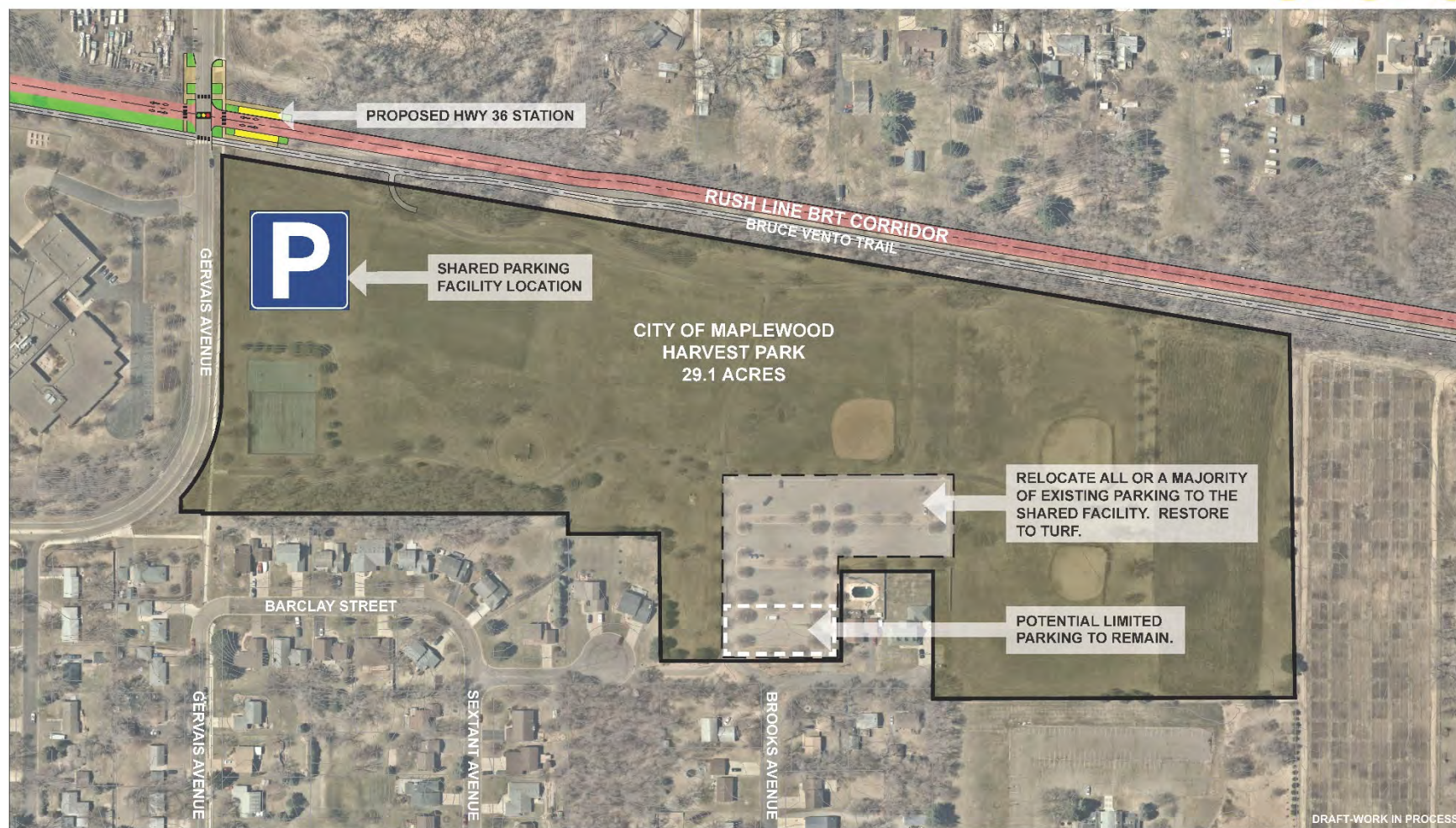
Highway 36 Station Park-and-Ride

- Coordination with City of Maplewood.
- Meetings with Minnesota Department of Transportation Facilities Lab and Truck Utilities.
- Discussion at issue resolution team meetings.
- Conducting parking demand study at park and on surrounding roadways.
- In discussion with Metro Transit on parking facility size.

Highway 36 Station – Harvest Park Site Diagram

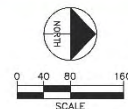


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Highway 36 Station Harvest Park Site Diagram

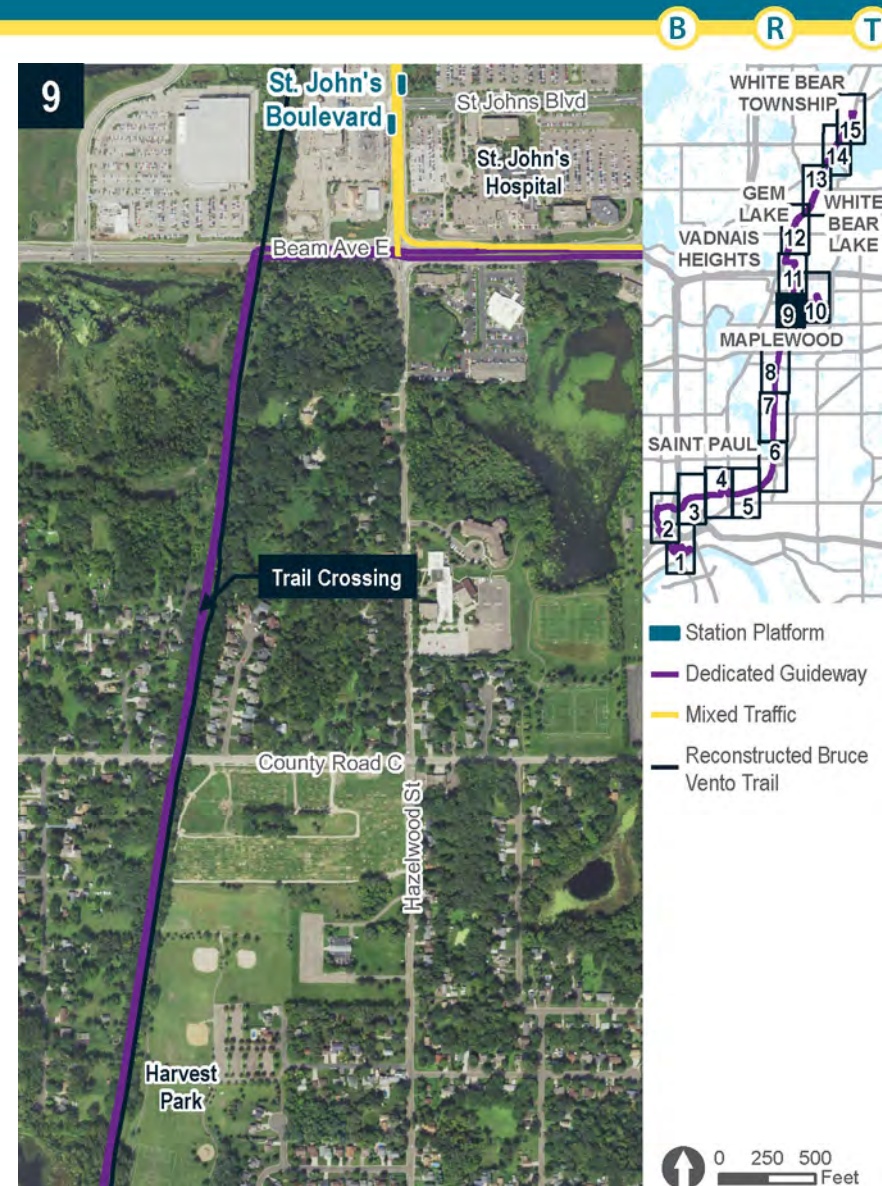
06/25/2019



15 Percent Plan Walk Through

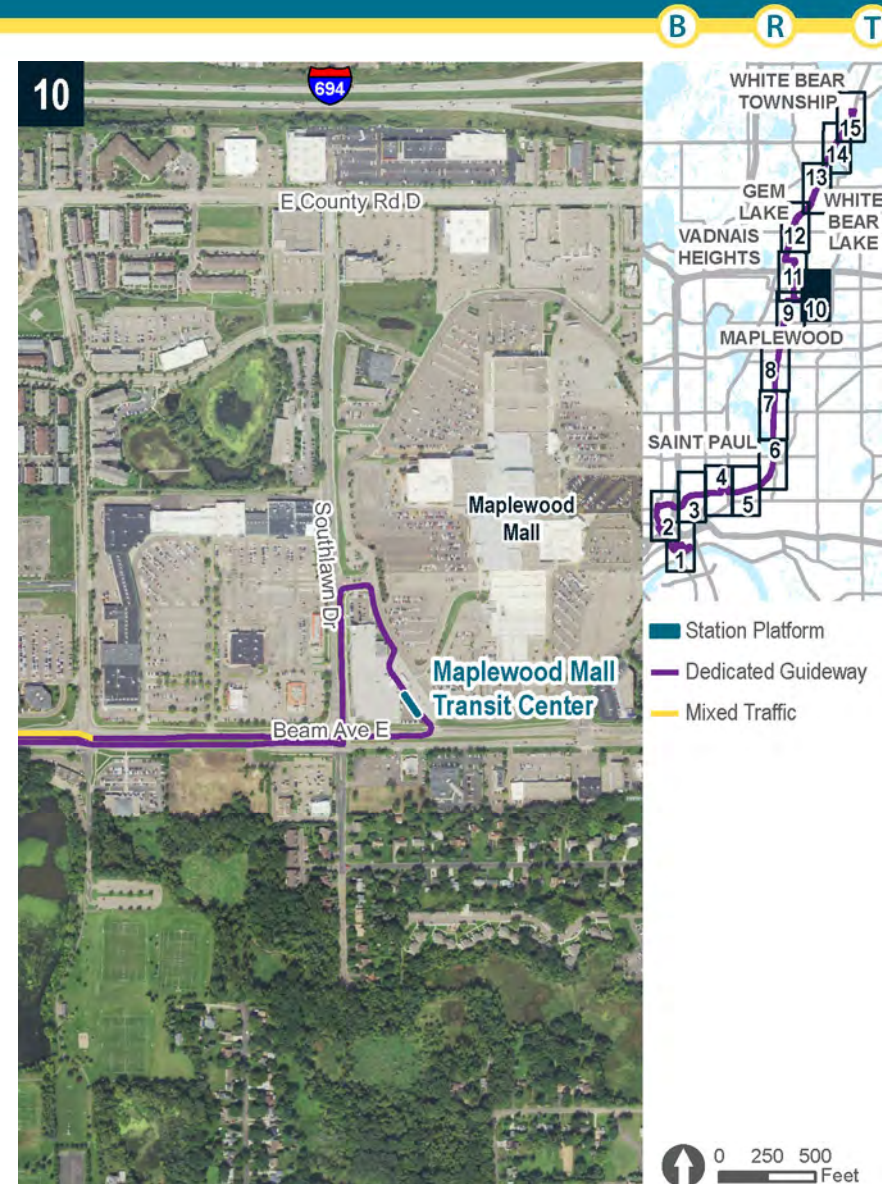
- Reconstructed Bruce Vento Trail south of Beam Avenue. No changes to the trail are anticipated between Beam Avenue and County Road D.
- Grade-separated trail crossing north of County Road C.
- Center running BRT on Beam Avenue.

See Sheets 17-19



15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- Refined routing through the Maplewood Mall Transit Center in coordination with Metro Transit to best serve existing and future bus and BRT operations.
- Coordinating with the city of Maplewood on the North End Vision Plan.

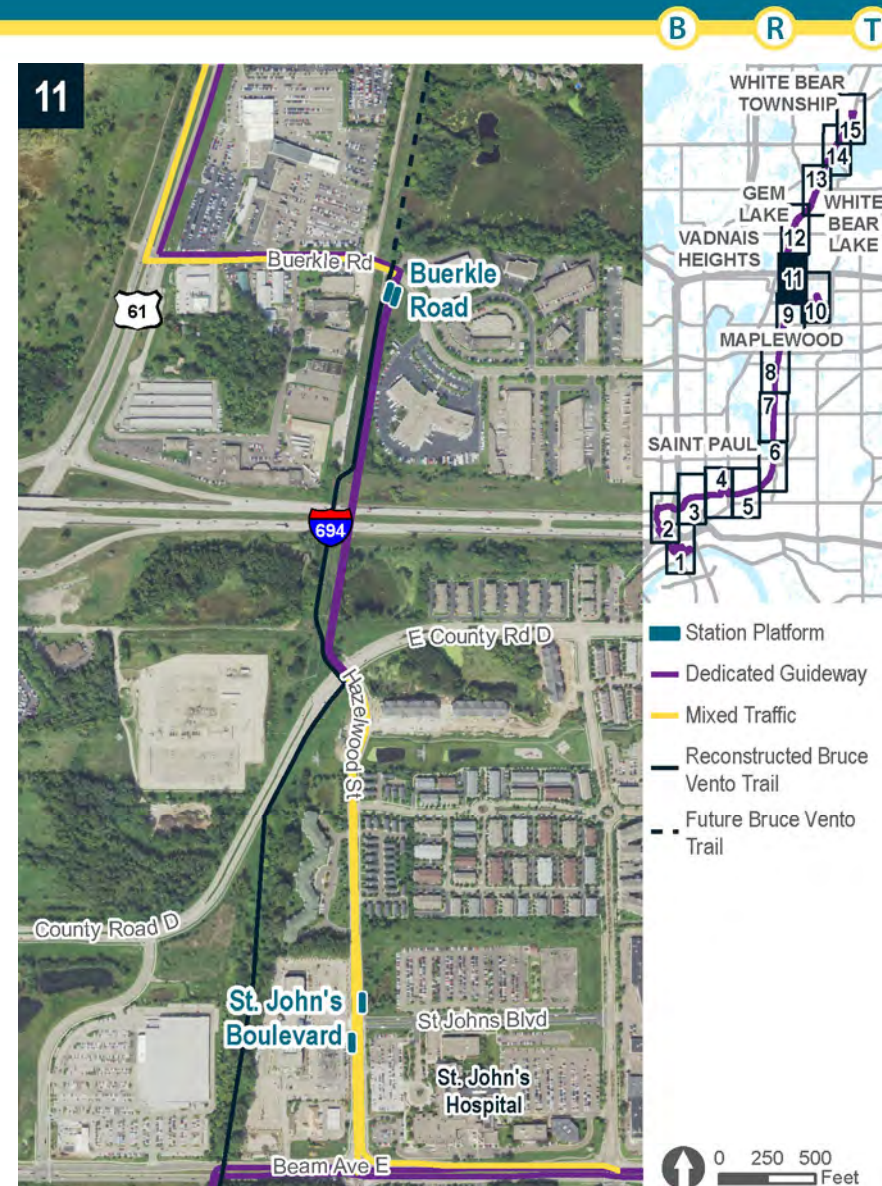


See Sheet 20

15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- Routing to serve St. John's Hospital and surrounding neighborhood.
- Improvements to intersection operations at Buerkle Road and Highway 61.
- Serves industrial jobs in the Buerkle Road station area.
- Ongoing coordination with the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding design requirements and review of business access and transit lanes on Highway 61.

See Sheets 19, 21, 22



Why Business Access and Transit (BAT) Lanes?

- High quality transit service.
 - Operates in own lane.
 - Improved and more reliable travel time and service.
 - Increases the visual presence of transit in the corridor.
 - Improved system brand.
 - Creates a sense of permanence increasing economic development potential.



Source: Seattle.gov SDOT Blog

Highway 61 BAT Lanes

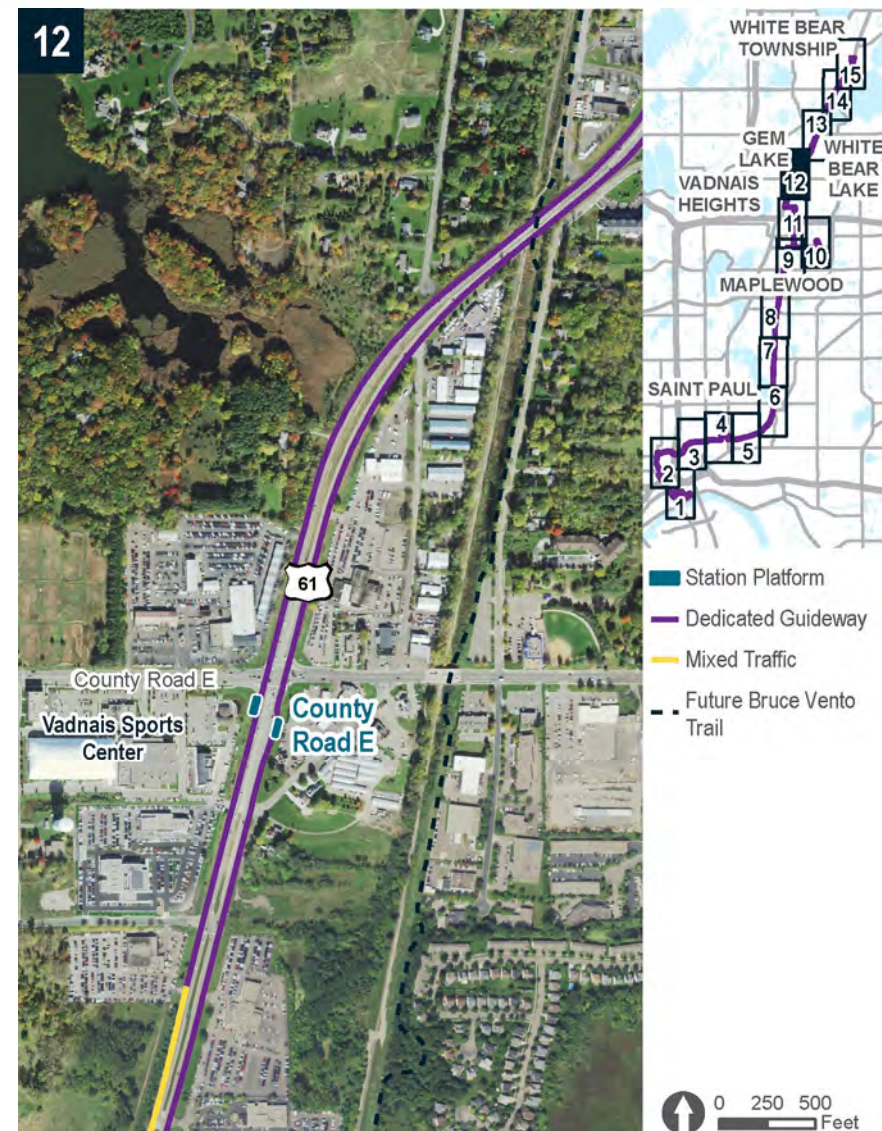
- Existing paved shoulder replaced with an auxiliary lane between intersections.
 - Restricted to buses and right-turn movements at intersections and local business access.
 - Consistent with the definition of a right-hand side preferential lane (AASHTO).
 - Up to 30 seconds of delay reduction for transit vehicles in the Highway 61 corridor.



15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- Pedestrian improvements at Highway 61 and County Road E crossing.
- County Road E platforms on south side. Continuing to evaluate platform configuration.
- Up to 70-space joint use parking lot at County Road E station.
- BRT operations in business access and transit lanes on Highway 61.

See Sheets 22-24



Visualization: County Road E Station



Looking Southeast



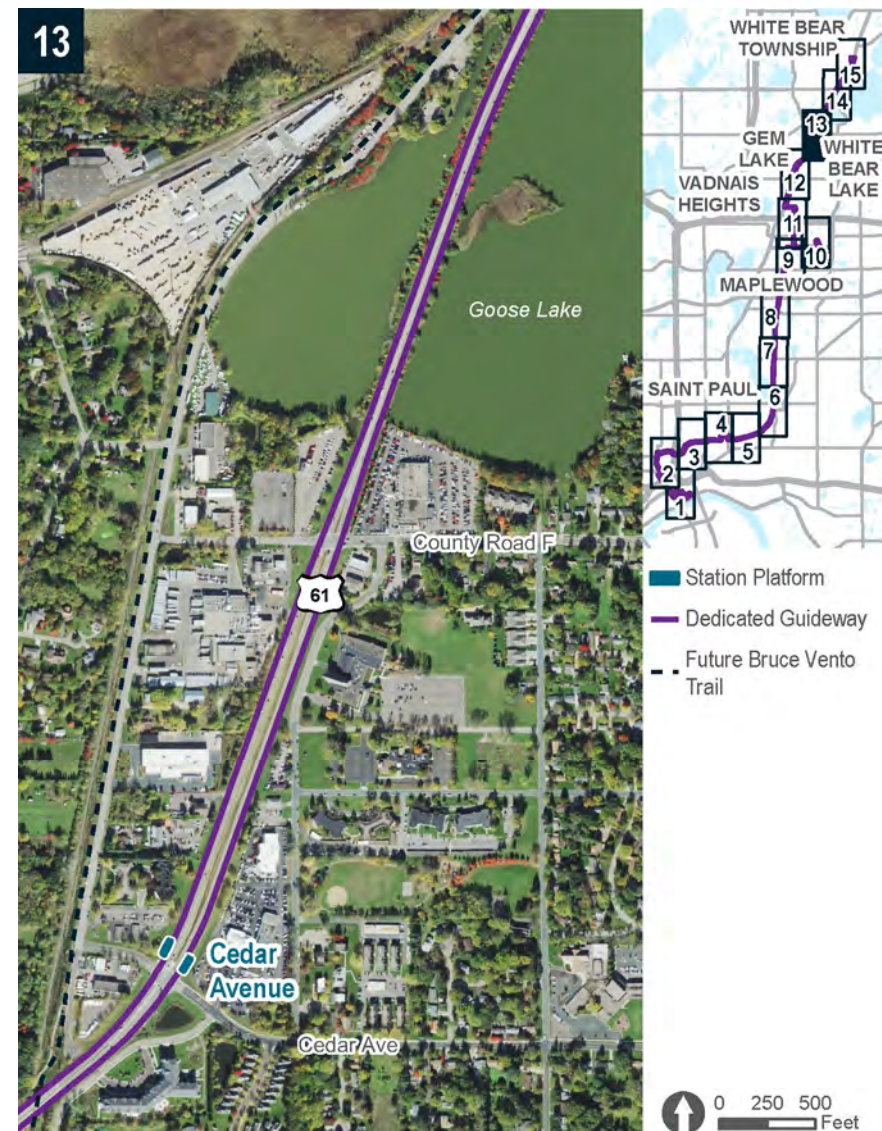
Before



After

15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- Cedar Avenue station platforms on north side.
- Pedestrian improvements to improve access to station and future Bruce Vento Trail.
- BRT operations in business access and transit lanes on Highway 61.



See Sheets 24-26

15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- Roadway and pedestrian improvements and three-way signal added at Whitaker Street and Highway 61.
- Northbound platform shifted to far side.
- BRT operations in business access and transit lanes on Highway 61 south of Whitaker Street.



See Sheets 26-28

15 Percent Plan Walk Through

- Downtown White Bear Lake station at 7th Street and Washington Avenue.
- Driver facility proposed to be located on adjacent residential property.
- Pedestrian improvements across Highway 61 at 7th and 8th Streets.
- Signal proposed at Highway 61 and 8th Street.

See Sheets 28-29



Next Steps for 15 Percent Plans

- Policy Advisory Committee action.
- City/township staff, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metro Transit review of design plans in August/September.

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.

Policy Advisory Committee Requested Action

- Affirm the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation to advance the 15 percent plans for evaluation in the Environmental Assessment and staff review by the Rush Line BRT Project cities/township, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metro Transit.

Pulse BRT Peer System Visit



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

Pulse BRT Peer System Visit



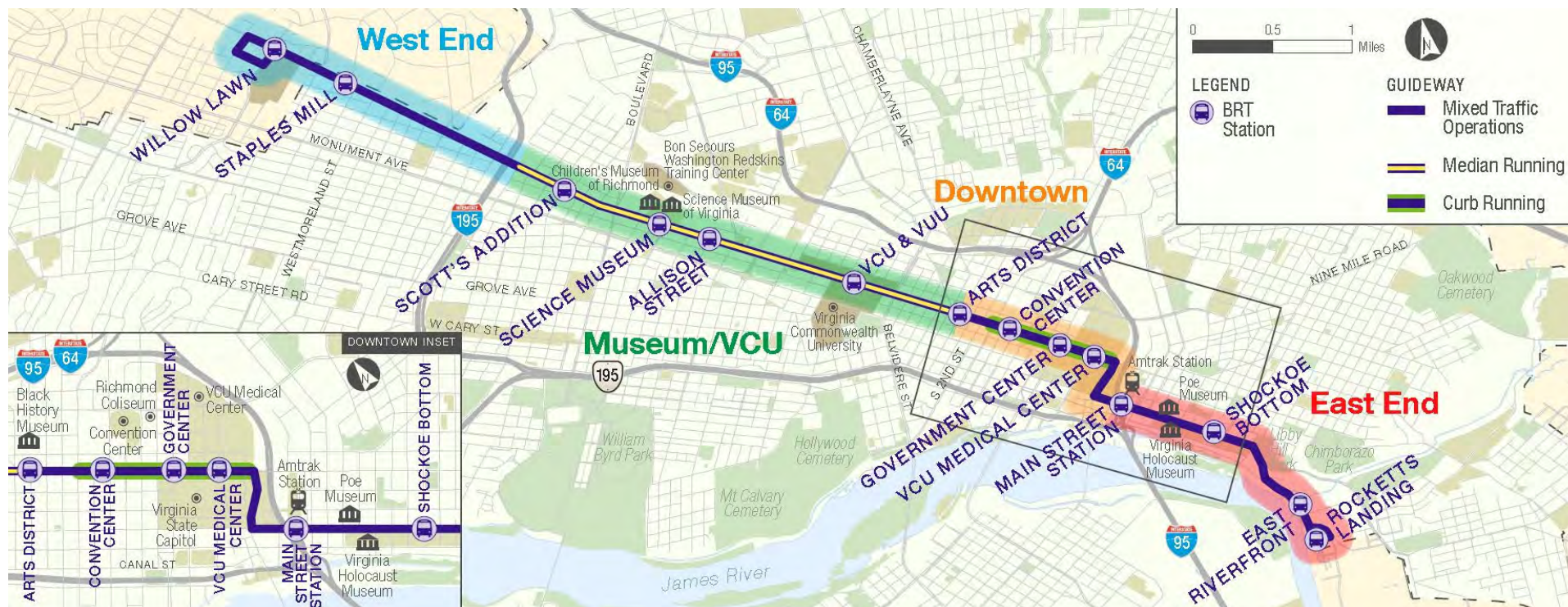
- Learn from local leaders and stakeholders.
- Firsthand experience with BRT construction, operations, maintenance and economic development.



Pulse BRT Peer System Visit



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

Upcoming Activities

- Perform technical analysis for the Environmental Assessment.
- Prepare the Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way Visioning Framework document.
- Ongoing public engagement.

Next Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

- Thursday, September 19.
- 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Maplewood Community Center.



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Thank you!



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