



March 26, 2020

# POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PHASE



## Agenda

1. Recap of January Policy Advisory Committee meeting.
2. Public engagement update.
3. Engineering update.
4. Station area planning update.
5. Environmental update.
6. Next meeting.

## Recap of January Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

- Updates on recent and planned public engagement activities.
- Discussion of potential refinements to the 15 percent plans and ongoing coordination.
- Review of field activities.
- Overview of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and status of survey and evaluation efforts.
- Updates on 2020 and 2021 project milestones.



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# Public Engagement Update

## Recent Public Engagement and Themes

- Community Advisory Committee meeting held on February 5.
  - Expressed interest in bikesheds/walksheds and station design.
- Comments received via email regarding:
  - Interest in funding sources for Rush Line BRT Project.
  - Interest in specific locations of White Bear Lake stations.
  - Concern about safety at station areas.



Community Advisory Committee, February 5

## Upcoming Public Engagement

- May 2: Cinco de Mayo – Saint Paul.
- May 12: Maplewood Bike Rodeo.
- Hmong community engagement.
  - Door-to-door neighborhood outreach.
  - Event to be scheduled in partnership with a Hmong community organization (SGU Veterans & Families).



Maplewood Bike Rodeo, May 14, 2019

## Project Update

- Due to the recommendations from [Minnesota Department of Health](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), we will be holding all upcoming advisory committee, issue resolution and stakeholder meetings online with call in options for the foreseeable future. Our engagement work will also be limited to online interactions. We are working on creative ways to continue to engage with the public and gather input during this time.
- The remainder of the work for the project to complete the Environmental Analysis Phase continues to move forward as planned.



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# Engineering Update

## 15 Percent Plan Review Process

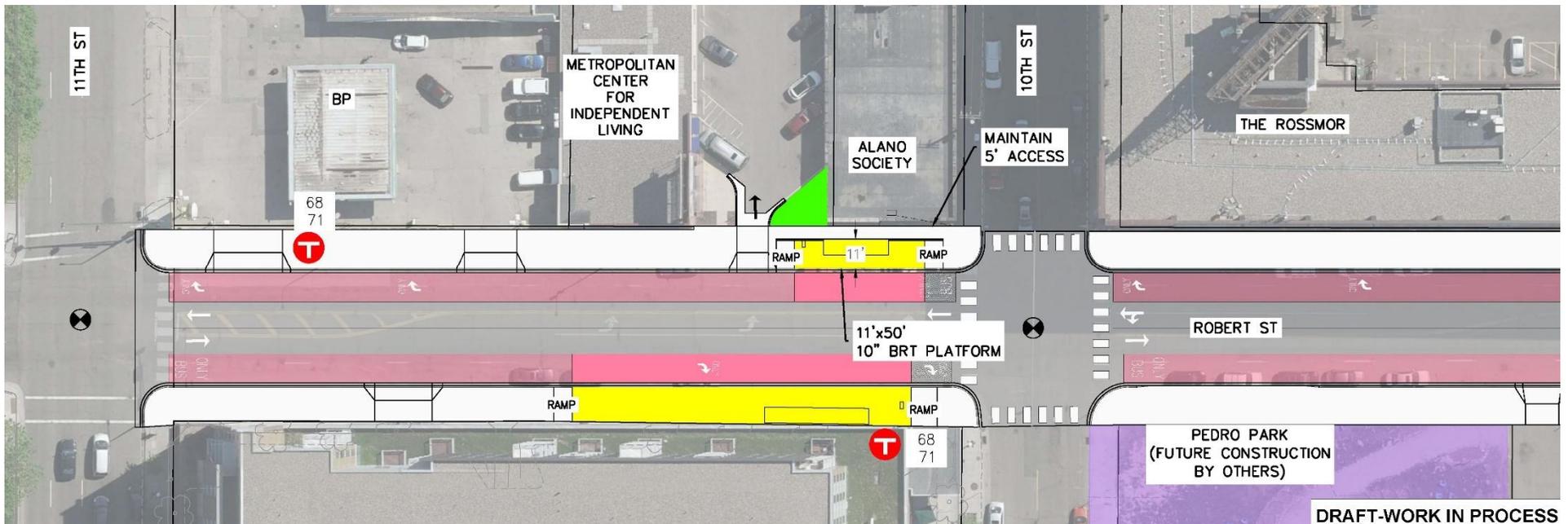
- Draft 15 percent plans were provided to city/township staff, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metro Transit for review on August 1, 2019.
- Comments on the draft plans were requested by September 3, 2019.
- Verbal and written comments were received from:
  - Saint Paul.
  - Maplewood.
  - White Bear Township.
  - Vadnais Heights.
  - Gem Lake.
  - White Bear Lake.
  - Minnesota Department of Transportation.
  - Metro Transit.
  - Ramsey County Parks.
  - Ramsey County Public Works.

## 15 Percent Plan Review Process

- Comments that required discussion were topics at issue resolution team and individual agency meetings.
- Refinements were incorporated into the 15 percent plans.
  - Additional refinements identified since the January Policy Advisory Committee meeting are illustrated on the following slides.

# Additional Refinements to 15 Percent Plans

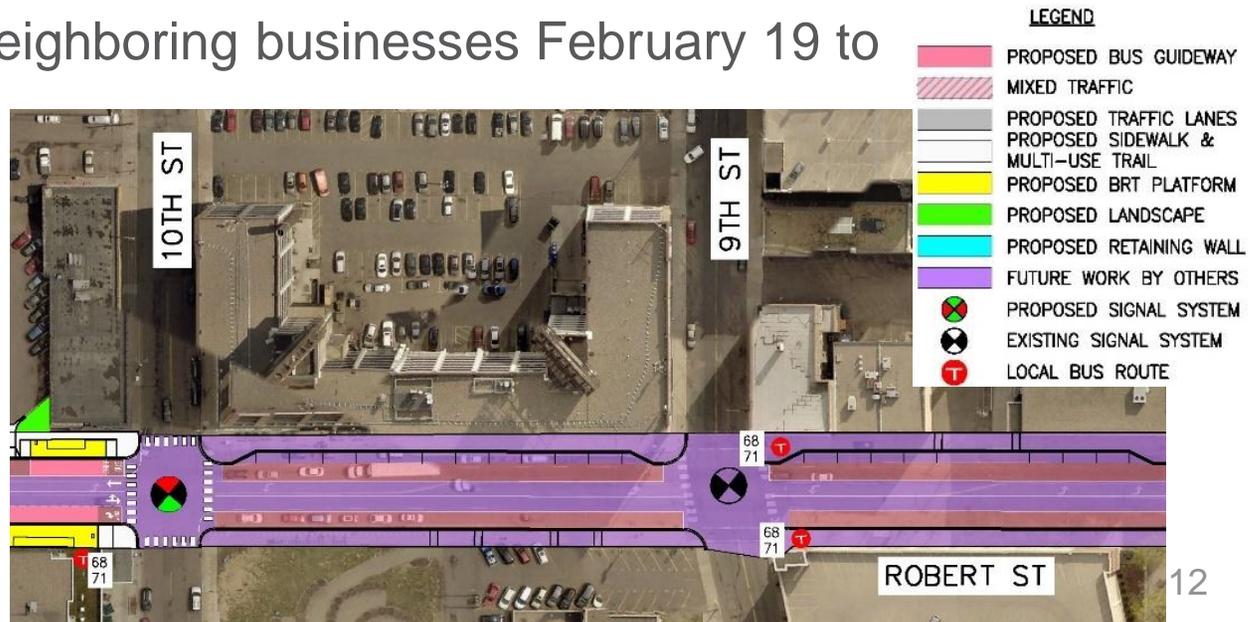
- Shifted 10<sup>th</sup> Street northbound platform location to avoid driveway access closure.



DRAFT-WORK IN PROCESS

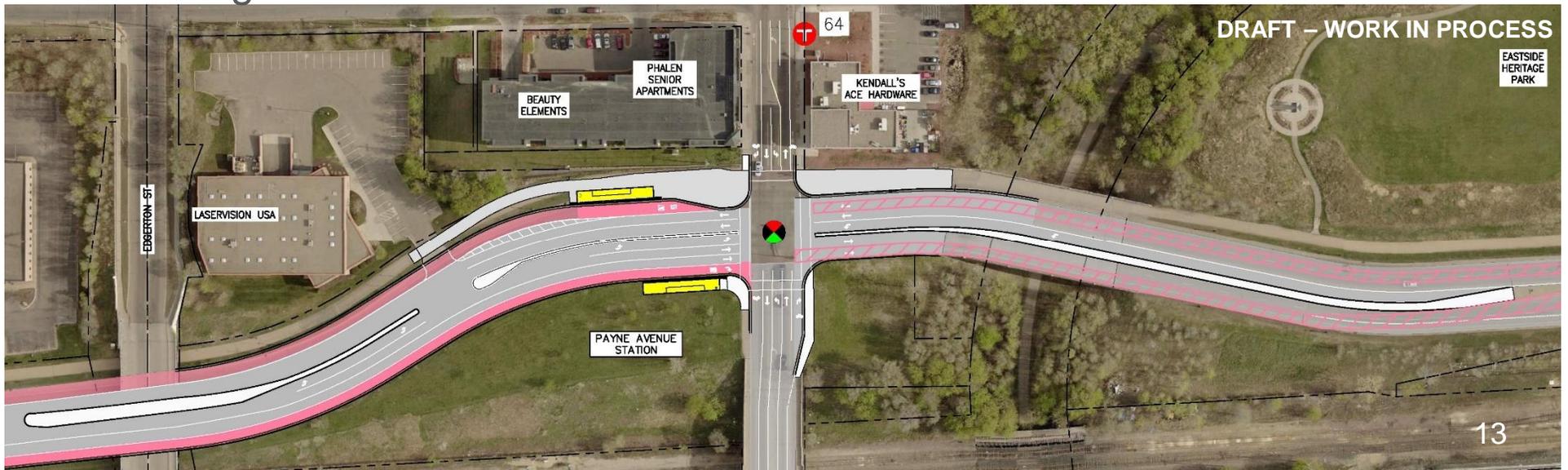
## Additional Refinements to 15 Percent Plans

- Neighboring business expressed concern about loss of on-street parking in front of their business.
- Refined Robert Street design to retain some on-street parking spaces.
- Concept preserves the business access and transit lanes.
- Project staff met with neighboring businesses February 19 to share revised concept.
- Coordination is ongoing with the city of Saint Paul and Minnesota Department of Transportation.



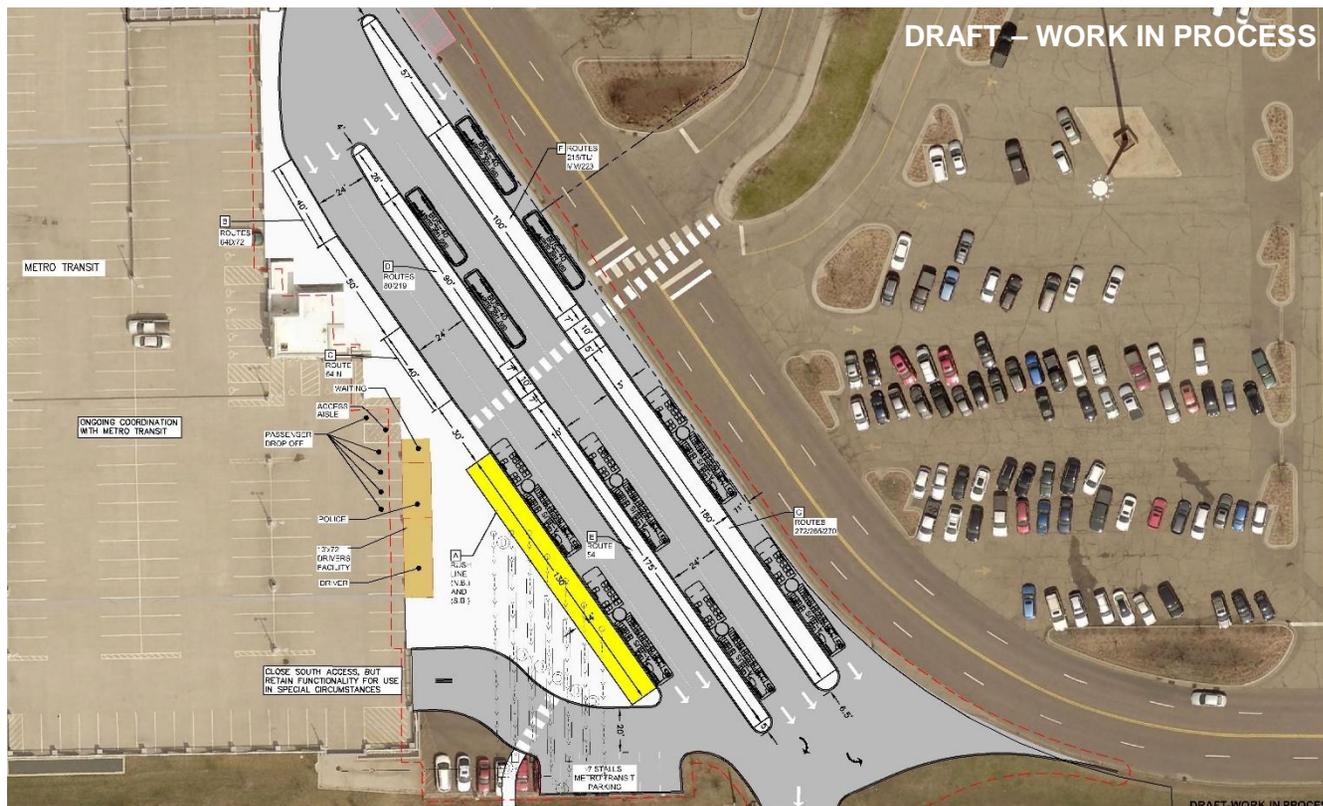
## Additional Refinements to 15 Percent Plans

- Refined the Phalen Boulevard and Payne Avenue intersection to optimize the design for all modes. In the southbound direction, the business access and transit lane would begin west of Payne Avenue to reduce the pedestrian crossing distance and still retain the transit advantage.



# Additional Refinements to 15 Percent Plans

- Refined Maplewood Mall Transit Center improvements in coordination with Metro Transit (transit gates and platform configuration and improvements to customer waiting area).



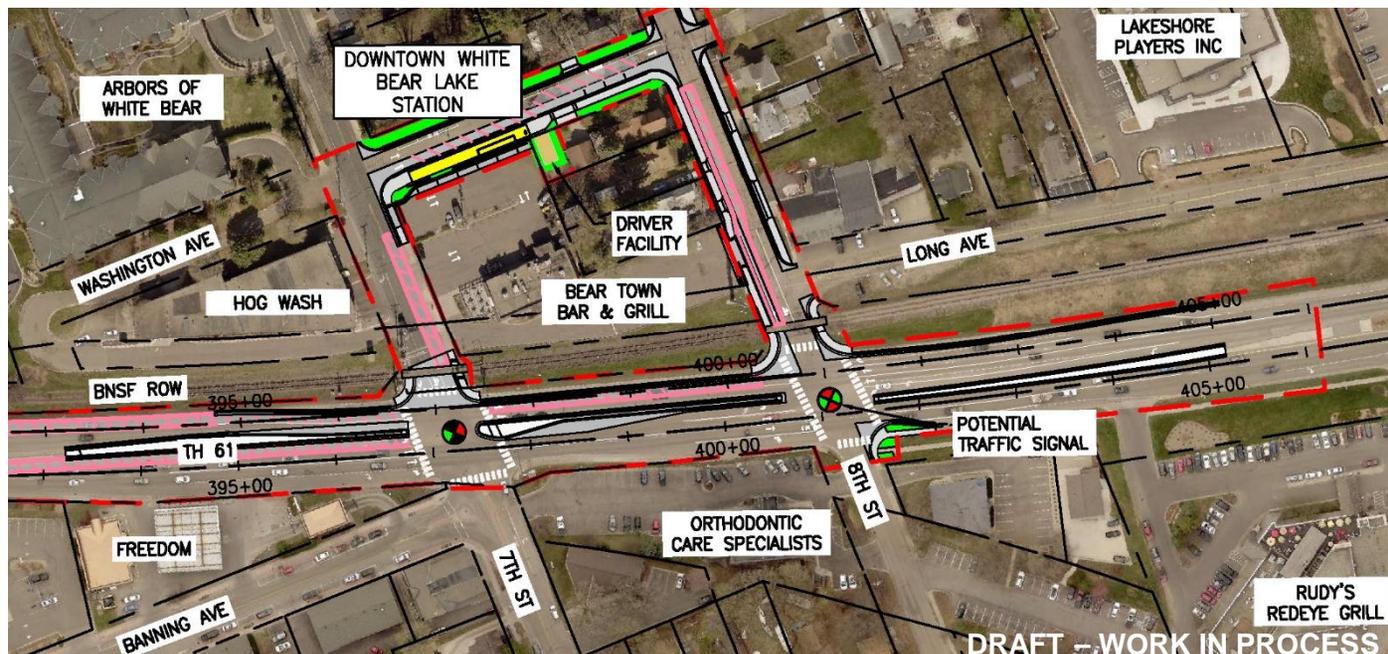
## Additional Refinements to 15 Percent Plans

- Add trail from Cedar Avenue to County Road F on the east side of Highway 61.
- Trail will be evaluated in the Environmental Assessment but ongoing coordination with project partners will be required to determine feasibility of this trail segment, identify potential sources for the non-federal funding share and develop a maintenance plan prior to including the trail segment in the project scope.



## Additional Refinements to 15 Percent Plans

- Refined 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 61 intersection design to include pedestrian improvements and a traffic signal at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and prohibits southbound left turns at 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Additional coordination needed with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and White Bear Lake Area Schools.



## Summary of Refinements to 15 Percent Plans

- Platform locations to provide maximum transit accessibility for both local service and BRT, while minimizing potential impacts.
- Platform height (recommended 10 inches) to provide equitable, safe and efficient transit access.
- Dedicated guideway and intersection design to minimize parking and traffic impacts while providing efficient transit operations.
- Inclusion of additional pedestrian and bicycle facilities to improve station accessibility.

## Summary of Refinements to 15 Percent Plans

- Adjusted BRT and Bruce Vento Trail design within the Ramsey County rail right-of-way to improve safety and reflect public input.
- Design refinements to Maplewood Mall Transit Center facility to efficiently serve both existing service and Rush Line BRT and improve customer experience.
- Agreement to review the project with and without the Highway 36 park-and-ride in the Environmental Assessment.
- Commitment to continue coordination with cities, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metro Transit to address as design advances.

## Municipal Support of 15 Percent Plans

- Ramsey County and Metropolitan Council are requesting resolutions of support from the municipalities along the route prior to the transition of the project from Ramsey County to the Metropolitan Council in spring 2021.
- Ramsey County is asking for these resolutions in the summer of 2020 and will work with Technical Advisory Committee members to schedule meetings with their councils/boards.
- Municipalities will have additional opportunities to provide comments during the Environmental Assessment public comment period and on the subsequent 30, 60 and 90 percent design plans prior to construction.



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# Station Area Planning Update

## Individual City Station Area Planning Guides

- A document will be prepared for each city that will:
  - Highlight key findings from preliminary station area planning, market analysis, walkshed/bikeshed analysis and Health Impact Assessment.
  - Summarize recommended strategies and case studies related to planning for transit-oriented development around BRT projects.
  - Identify station area planning resources available through Ramsey County, the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit.
  - Describe key tasks and outcomes of future advanced station area planning.



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# Environmental Update

## Schedule Update

- Environmental Assessment review process:
  - March to June: Ramsey County, Metro Transit and Minnesota Department of Transportation review.
  - June/July: Federal Transit Administration first administrative review.
  - August/September: Federal Transit Administration second administrative review.
  - September/October: Federal Transit Administration first legal review.
  - November: Federal Transit Administration second legal review and regional administrator review.
  - December: Publish Environmental Assessment and begin 45-day public comment period.

## Field Activity Update

- Phase II Environmental Site Assessment work continues.
  - Focus on parcels with high risk of contamination (based on Phase I Environmental Site Assessment) and where ground disturbance and/or property acquisition is proposed.
  - Current borings in public right-of-way.
  - Pursuing entry to 10-15 private parcels.
- Geotechnical borings also being conducted.



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# Next Meeting

## Next Meeting

- May 28, 2020.
- 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- We anticipate this will be an online meeting.  
Further details to be provided.



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# Thank you!

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