

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting #4



Welcome and Introductions



Virtual Meeting Procedures – Members

- Please mute your mic when not speaking.
- Please leave your video feed on if possible.
- If you wish to speak:
 - Please use the "raise hand" feature.
 - Unmute your mic.



Virtual Meeting Procedures – Public

- Public comments and questions will be taken at the end of the meeting.
- If you wish to speak:
 - Please use the "raise hand" feature.
 - Your name will be called.
 - Unmute your mic.
 - State your name and address for the record.
 - 3 minutes for comments.



Community Engagement Updates



Engagement Strategies



General Timing of Engagement

Spring-Summer 2021

- Tribal Engagement
- Project Purpose and Need

Summer 2021

- Refining Elements of Preferred Alternative
- Existing Conditions

Fall-Winter 21-22

- Recommendations for Preferred Alternative
- Central Segment Plans

2022-2023

- Preliminary Engineering
- East and West Segment Plans



Engagement Jan-Jun 2021: Project Setup

- Project committee formation and meetings.
- Website and email setup.
- Project social media account setup.
- Partner and community organization contact list.
- Development of general media campaign.
- Artist partner solicitation process.
- Bus-streetcar FAQ drafted.







Engagement Jan-Jun 2021: Outreach

- Tribal consultation.
- Purpose & Need review.
- Business association and neighborhood association meetings.
- Stakeholder outreach.
- Virtual open house #1.
- Media awareness campaign and ads.









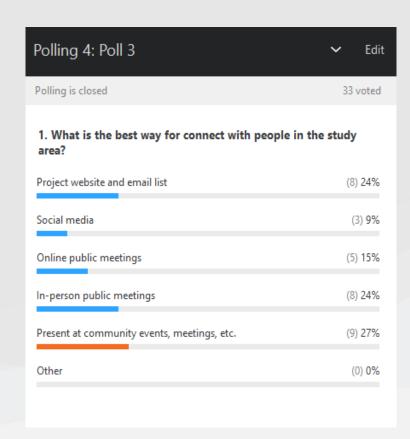
FEEDBACK: Share your thoughts and ask questions

REGISTER ONLINE AT: RiverviewCorridor.com



Virtual Open House

- 120 people registered; nearly 70 attended.
- Presentations on Purpose & Need and other project updates.
- Live polls of attendees and follow-up survey.
- Around 30 questions answered live.
- Recording and slide deck on website.





Engagement Jan-Jun 2021: Observations

- Many questions on how **Locally Preferred Alternative** was reached.
- Both vocal support and opposition to project.
- Continued need to support diverse outreach efforts.
- Need to define meaningful questions to ask the public.



RAMSEY COUNTY

BUS AND STREETCAR OPTIONS

- Policy Advisory Commission Direction. In December 2017, the Riverview Policy Advisory Committee resolved it would reconvene in 2020 to "reevaluate the technical and financial" outlook for the Riverview Corridor Project, to determine whether the chosen Locally Preferred alternative is likely to become a reality by 2025 an make alternate plans if necessary.* This is the focus of the current study. Some study timeline modifications will be
- Current Study Scope. The Engineering and Pre-Environmental Phase will build upon the Pre-Project Development Study that resulted in the selection of a modern streetcar connecting neighborhoods, anchor destinations and employers in downtown Saint Paul, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Mail of America as the corridor's Locally Preferred Alternative. It will not be a reevaluation of the universe of alternatives that was
- Better Bus Service Prior to Study Completion. Route 54 is the Hi-frequency route that Declare case service in a street complete the control of the contr desire to improve service in the interim prior to the implementation of Modern Streetcar. The Engineering and Pre-Environmental Phase will explore multiple ways to improve this service Conjunctions and Free-circumstatement reason will explore manager mayo to improve uno service including operating (frequency and span of service) to capital (buses, stations, offboard fare collection, etc.) this analysis can then be used to identify improvements for route 54 prior to
- Concerns about Streetcar. Some commonly voiced concerns include:
 - a. Higher cost than bus. While the cost of design and construction of the service is Figure cost than bus. While the cost of design and construction of the service is anticipated to be higher than bus, additionally lenefits are expected (see next section).

 Additionally, efficiencies in operations may lower cost per passenger over time.
- Additionally, electeduces in operations may now to use yet plassenger over time.

 Longer timeline than bus improvements. While streetcar development will take longer Longen amenine man ous improvements, vrnine surentair development will lake to than a bus-based option, better bus improvements can take place in the interim, based on incremental improvements to existing services.
- usero on an ememoral authoritements to existing services.

 c. More disruptive during construction. This reality can be countered through proactive name assignme uning construction. This reamy can be commenced unough process communication and staging work, as well as longer term benefits for businesses,
- property owners, and residents about the mile.

 Benefit regional users more than local. Community and economic development certain reports used a fune than now. Cultimining and economic development benefits can accuse to existing community members, through increased property values, additional amenities, and more customers/loot traffic for businesses.
- vanues, assumental anneances, and more customers now using for an expensive constraints that will limit streetcar. This will be addressed in detail through the Engineering and Pre-Environmental Phase design process.



Community Advisory Committee

- Diverse representation of community stakeholders.
- First meeting was 5/18: committee and project introduction, major issues overview
- Will meet approximately quarterly.



Application deadline extended to January 4



The application deadline for the Riverview Corridor Community Advisory Committee and Station Area Planning Task Force has been extended to January 4!

Ramsey County is seeking applicants representing a diversity of people and perspectives. Women, people of color, indigenous people, people who rent their homes and people with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply to serve on these committees and shape the Riverview Corridor Modern Streetcar Project.



Committee Changes

- Community Advisory Committee.
 - Adam Yust, Ward 2 resident resigned.
 - Amelia English, Minneapolis resident and Mall of America employee is recommended.
- Station Area Planning Task Force.
 - Recommended addition of Nate Hurse, Ward 3 resident.

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval of new committee members.



Purpose and Need Updates



Review process

- March/April tribal and Technical Advisory Committee review.
- May/June public review.
- July Policy Advisory Committee endorsement for federal agency review.
- July submit to Federal Transit Administration.



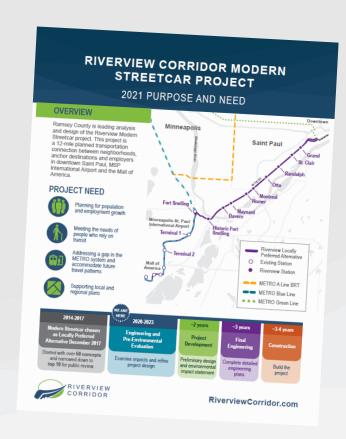
Tribal and Technical comments

- Upper Sioux.
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux.
- Metropolitan Council.
- City of Saint Paul.
- City of Bloomington.



Public Comments

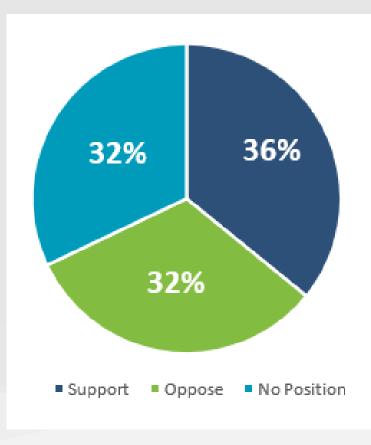
- Prior to public circulation, completed 45-day tribal review and comment.
- Summary and full document available on the website.
- Comment period open from May 17 to June 25.
- Presentation at June 23 virtual open house





Purpose and Need: Comments

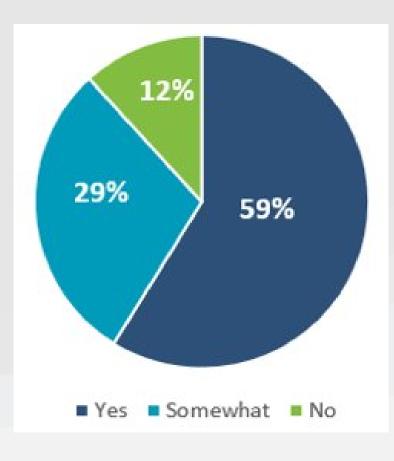
- 53 comments received.
- 36% supported LPA.
- 32% did not support LPA.
- 32% were noncommittal, requesting additional information and analysis.





Purpose and Need: Open House Poll

 35 responses received to "Are the purpose and need statements a good foundation for how decisions should be made as part of this project?"





Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit

- Focus on transit investment as a way to strengthen economic competitiveness of the corridor and downtown Saint Paul.
- Emphasize connections of downtown, airport,
 Mall of America.



Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Riverview Corridor Project is to provide transit service that enhances mobility and accessibility for residents, businesses and workers and supports economic opportunities within the project area, particularly in lowincome neighborhoods.



Need Statements.

- Planning for population and employment growth.
- Meeting the needs of people who rely on transit.
- Addressing a gap in the METRO system and accommodating future travel patterns. Improving economic competitiveness of the corridor.
- Expanding transit options to supporting local and regional plans.



Purpose and Need – Next Steps

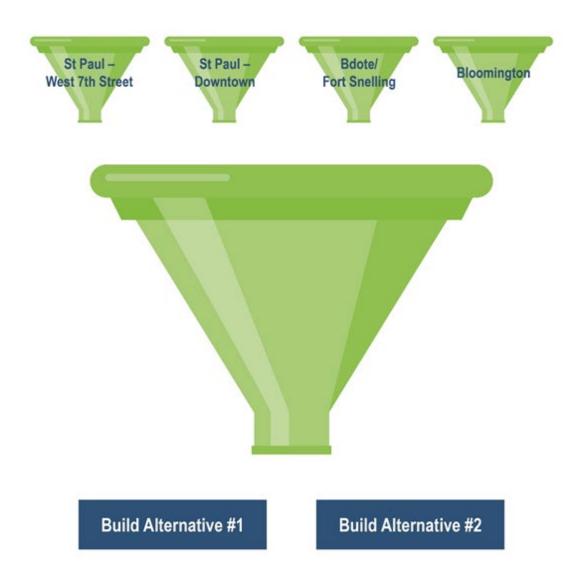
 Review by Federal Transit Administration.

 REQUESTED ACTION: Endorse submittal of the Purpose and Need Statement to the Federal Transit Administration for their review.



Refinement of Locally Preferred Alternative







Airport/Bloomington



Airport/Bloomington – Progress and Next Steps

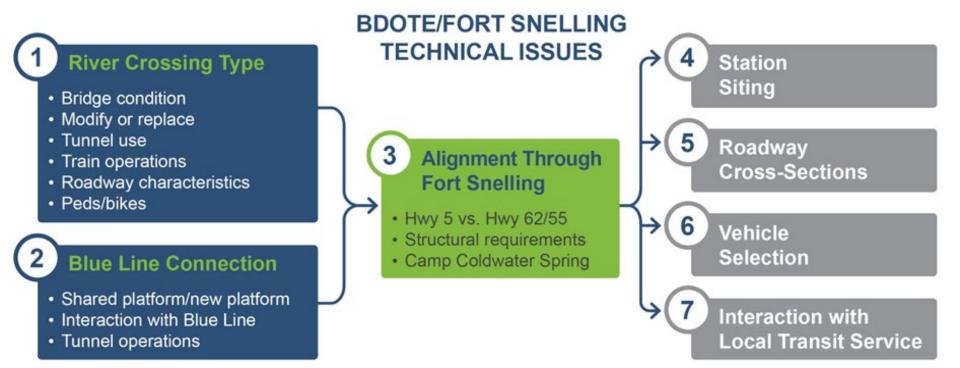
- Understand traffic at area intersections.
- Identify potential Mall of America connections.
- Meeting with Mall of America May 6.
- Refine potential Mall of America connections.
- Develop evaluation criteria.



Bdote/Fort Snelling: Crossings and Connections



Issue Priority





Bdote/Fort Snelling – Progress

- Issue: river crossing type
 - Understand tunnel condition and areas of previous disturbance.
 - Meetings with MnDOT Bridge Office, Tribes.
 - Develop tunnel options.
 - Develop evaluation criteria.



Bdote/Fort Snelling – Progress

- Issue: Blue Line connection.
 - Understand current train and tunnel operations.
 - Develop options for connecting to existing Fort Snelling Station.
 - Develop options for separate platform.
 - Meetings with Metro Transit and Metropolitan Airports Commission.



Bdote/Fort Snelling – Progress

- Issue: alignment through Fort Snelling.
 - Connect tunnel to Blue Line.
 - Develop Highway 5 and Highway 62/55 alignments.
 - Understand land ownership.
 - Develop evaluation criteria.



Next Steps

- Apply evaluation criteria to provide additional context for decision-making.
- Discuss conflicting priorities with Strategic Management Team.
- Identify areas to maximize ridership and limit costs.
- Identify most competitive streetcar alternative.



Station Area Planning Updates



Station Area Planning Task Force

- Meeting 1 May 4.
 - Project overview and intro to station area planning.
 - Group exercise: corridor strengths and challenges.
- Favorite place or amenity.
 - Keg & Case, Mississippi River and adjacent parks and trails, small businesses, rich historic fabric.
- Biggest challenge or issue.
 - Efficient regional and local ridership.
 - Increasing density without homogenizing neighborhood character.
 - River crossing.
 - Improved pedestrian experience.
 - Retaining history of corridor and river.
 - Traffic downtown (near Xcel and Hospital).



Station Area Planning Task Force

- Meeting 2 June 8.
 - Community engagement overview.
 - Review of existing physical conditions in corridor.
 - Group exercise: Corridor vision and pros/cons.
- Vision in three words (ranking).
 - 1. Movement/circulation.
 - 2. Sustainability.
 - 3. Equity, 3. Development.



Station Area Planning Task Force

- Meeting 3 July 13.
 - Review of existing socio-economic and market conditions in corridor.
 - Group exercise: Categorize station areas by general type.



Cultural Landscape Study



Cultural Landscape Study

- Approved June 15, 2021.
- Purpose.
 - Documents the interconnected nature of the landscape, landmarks, sites, and natural features of Bdote and its significance to Dakota people.
- · Schedule.
 - Research and engagement Fall/Winter 2021.
 - Report completion Spring 2022.



Public Comment



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Next Meeting – TBD In person at Union Depot



THANK YOU!

LEARN MORE: RIVERVIEWCORRIDOR.COM



