

#### Meeting will begin shortly

#### **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

Meeting #1



June 23, 2021



#### Land Acknowledgement

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference.

We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Dakota People. We want to acknowledge the Ojibwe, the Ho Chunk and the other nations of people who also called this place home. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the treaties made by the tribal nations that entitle non-Native people to live and work on traditional Native lands. Consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

The acknowledgment given in the USDAC Honor Native Land Guide - edited to reflect Minnesota tribes. In review with SIA and endorsed by Shannon Geshick, Executive Director Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.



## **Meeting Format**

- Welcome!
- Project Overview.
- Where Are We Now?
- Planning for Station Areas.
- Understanding History and Culture.
- Engaging the Public in the Project.
- Questions.

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## **Meeting Purpose**

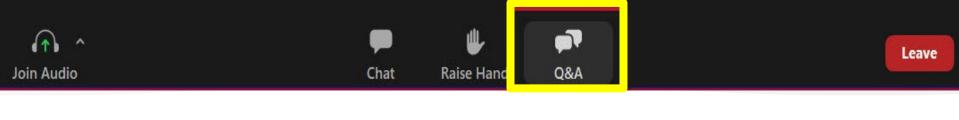
- Share information about the Riverview Corridor Modern Streetcar Project.
- Share information about the draft Purpose and Need.
- Answer your questions about the project.
- Get your feedback on the draft Purpose and Need.





#### **Virtual Meeting Procedures**

- Public comments and questions will be taken at the end of the presentation.
- If you wish to ask a question or comment:
  - Please use the Question & Answer button.
  - Type your question or comment in the space provided.
  - Staff will read your question or comment and select a project team member to respond.



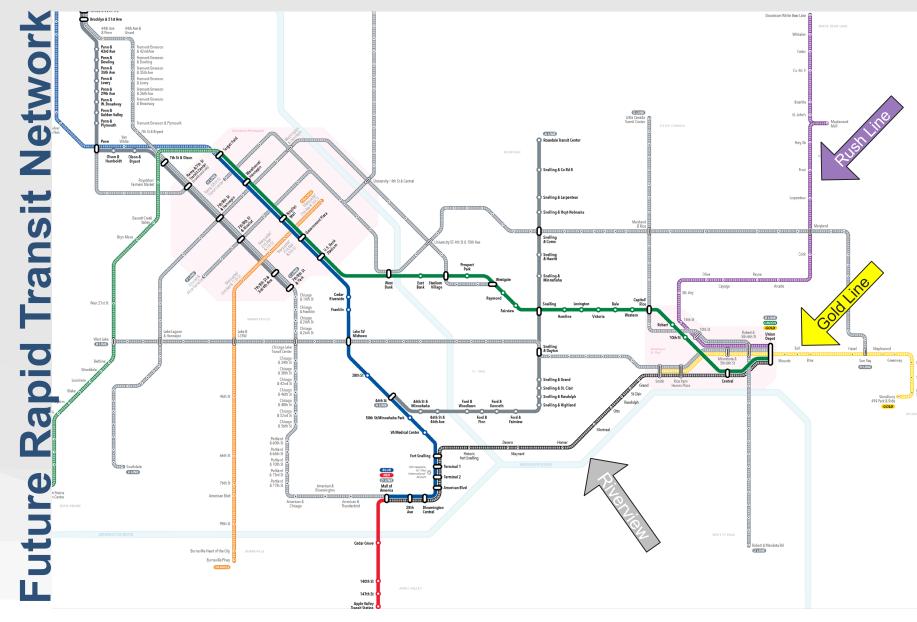
## **Group Agreements**

- Be open-minded.
- Listen actively/respectfully when others are speaking.
- Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing (Use "I" instead of "they," "we," and "you").
- Respectfully ask challenging questions and refrain from personal attacks.
- Be engaged and provide feedback.
- The goal is not to always agree it is to gain a deeper understanding.
- Be aware of your facial expressions they can be perceived as disrespectful as words.
- Do not dominate the discussion, allow others to be heard.
- "Step Up and Step Back!"



#### **Project Overview**

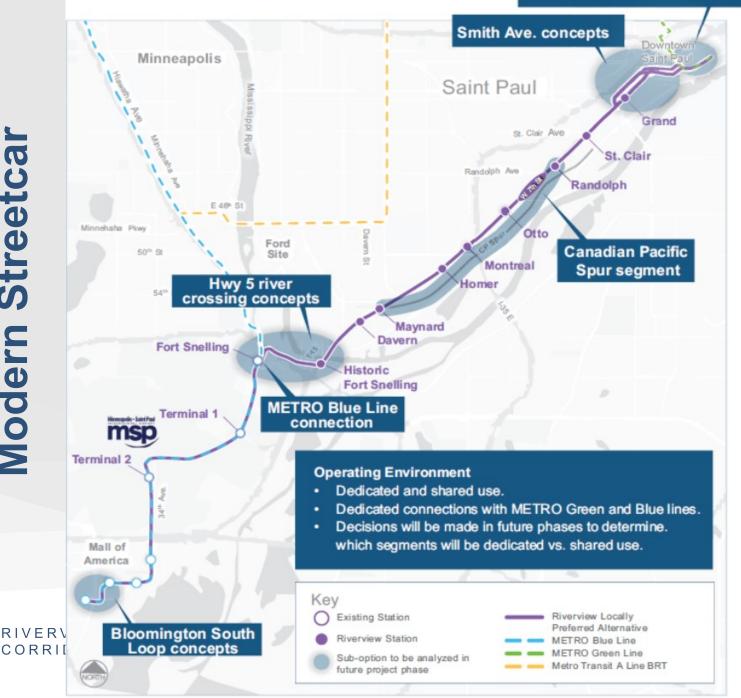






#### METRO Green Line connection





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#### **Modern Streetcar Characteristics**

- Improved travel times and reliability through:
  - Shared or exclusive guideway.
  - Signal prioritization.
- Quiet.
- Smooth ride experience.
- Lower floors/level boarding.
- Roomy interiors.
- Catalyze development that contributes to "sense of place."
- Electric powered with overhead wires (wireless technology available).
- Customize vehicle size.





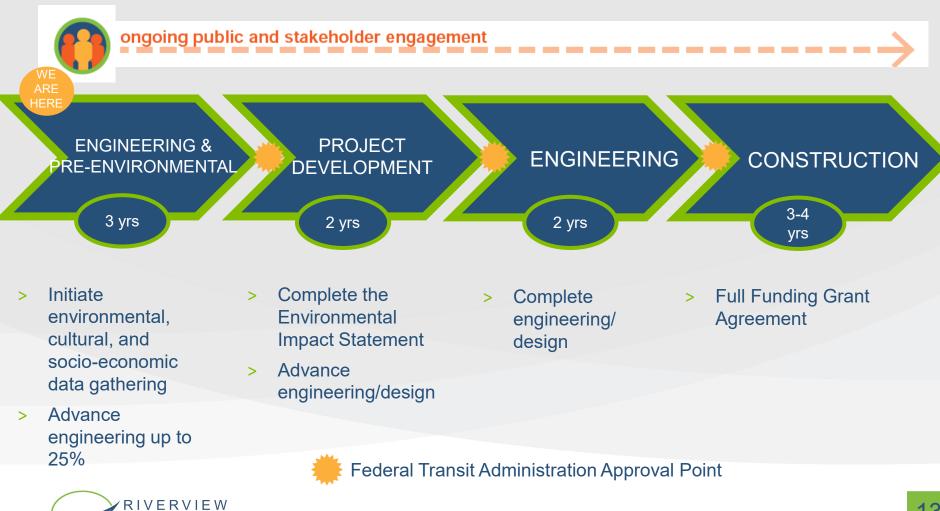
#### Where Are We Now?

#### **Engineering and Pre-Environmental Phase**

Purpose: Further refine the technical details for the Locally Preferred Alternative: A modern streetcar route between downtown Saint Paul and MSP Airport and the Mall of America, generally along W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street



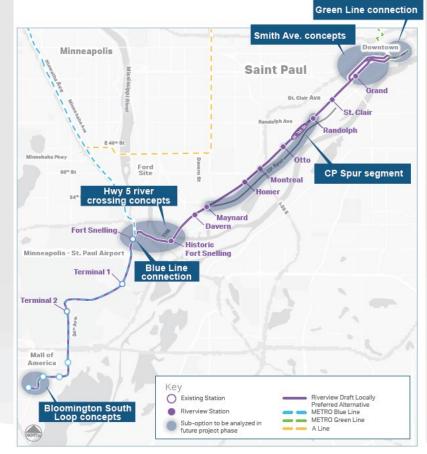
## **Implementation Plan**



CORRIDOR

#### **Refinement of Locally Preferred Alternative**

- Locally Preferred Alternative: Streetcar.
- Route
  - Light rail transit connections.
  - Seven Corners/Smith Avenue.
  - CP Spur parallel to West 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Highway 5 river crossing.
  - Bloomington South Loop/Mall of America.
- Operating environment
  - Dedicated and shared use.
  - Center- or side-running.



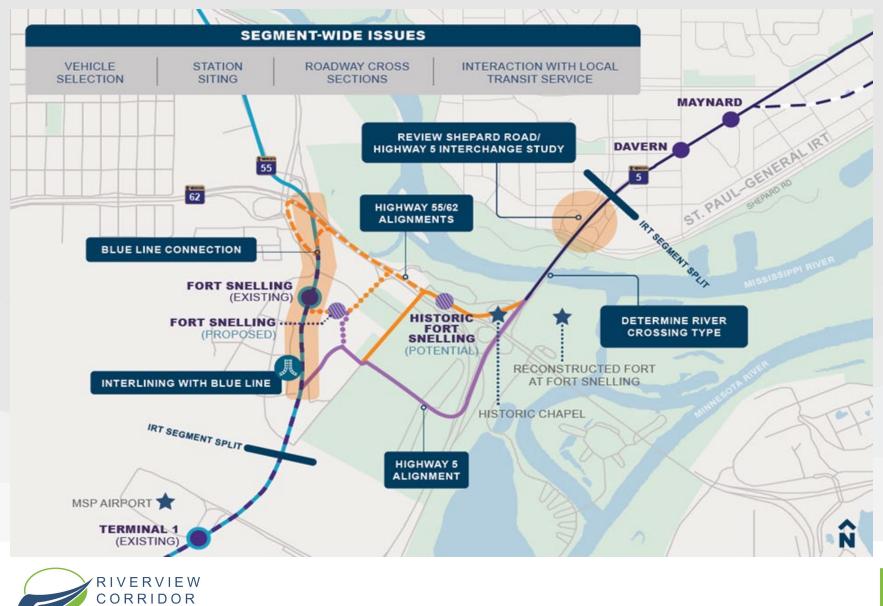


#### **Airport/Bloomington**

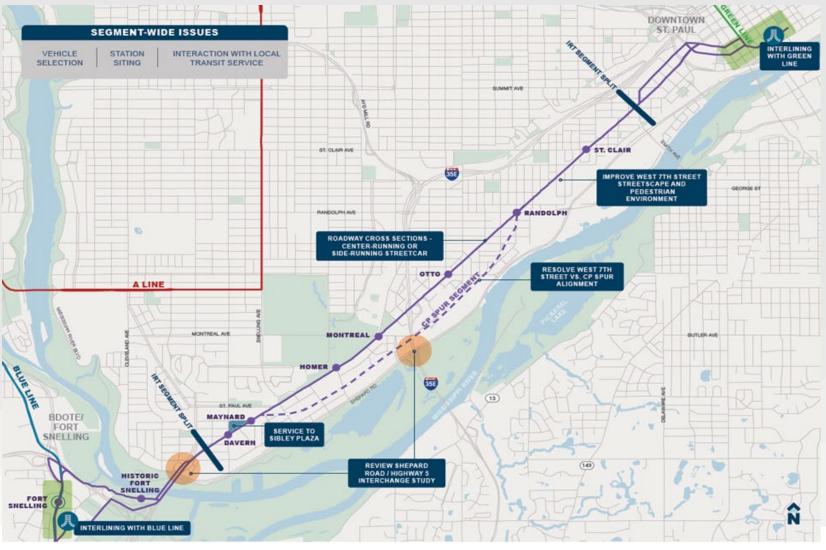




#### **Bdote/Fort Snelling**

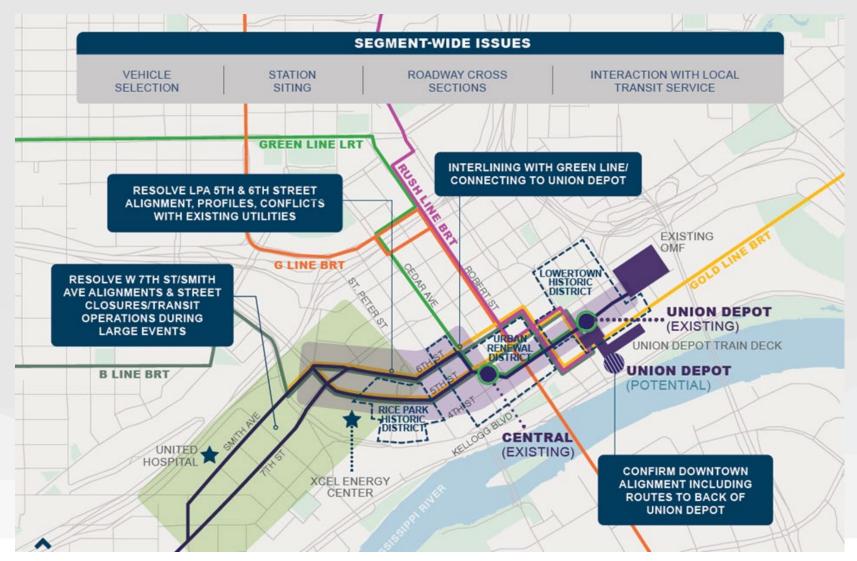


#### Saint Paul – West 7th



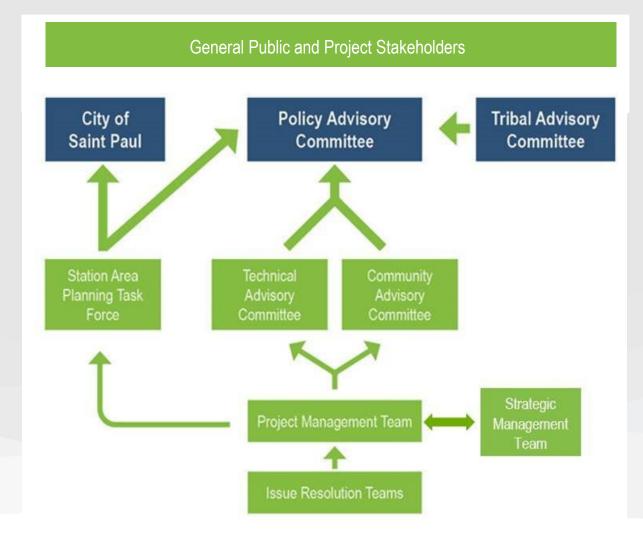


#### Saint Paul - Downtown





#### **Decision Making Structure**





#### **Draft Purpose and Need**



#### What is Purpose and Need?

- Articulates why the project is proposed and what it is trying to achieve.
- Provides a foundation for technical decision-making.
- Informs future environmental documentation.
- Will be updated in environmental documentation phase.





#### **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 low-income neighborhoods.



# 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 plans.







## Supporting local and regional plans.





#### **Purpose and Need: Review**

- Summary and full document on the website <u>www.riverviewcorridor.com</u>.
- Comment period open until **June 25**.
- Summary of comments received will be provided to Policy Advisory Committee at meeting on July 15.





## **Instant Poll**

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

- A. Yes They cover topics that are important to the corridor.
- B. Somewhat They are OK, but some things that could be better.
- C. No There is a better way to prioritize improvements here.

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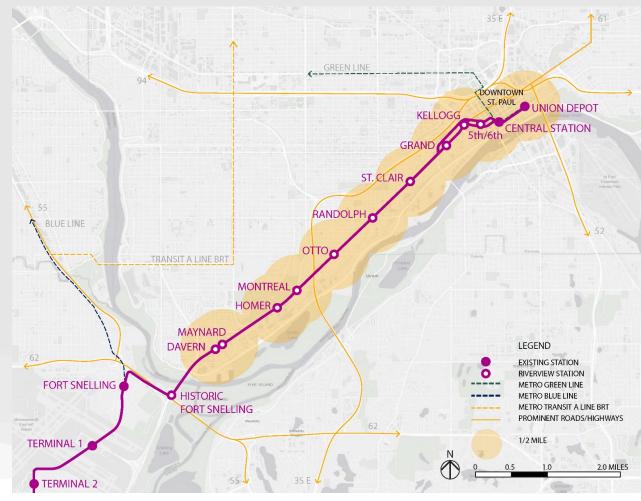


#### **Planning for Station Areas**



#### What is Station Area Planning?

A collaborative process that identifies ways to promote safe and direct station access and transitsupportive development near transit stations.



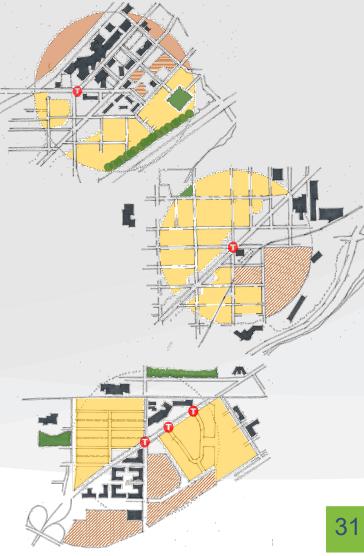


#### **Station Area Planning Goals**

Provide a vision for each station area to:

- 1. Thrive as a result of the transit investment.
- 2. Develop supporting policies.
- 3. Identify specific implementation steps for each plan.
- \* Plans are intended to guide the next 20 or more years of development.





#### **Station Area Planning Process**





#### **Instant Poll**

What would you consider the **most important neighborhood strength** of the Riverview/West 7th Street Corridor?

- A. Parks and open spaces.
- B. Businesses.
- C. Pedestrian-friendly character.
- D. Availability of transit.
- E. Housing options.
- F. Other.





#### **Understanding History and Culture**



#### **Historic Properties**

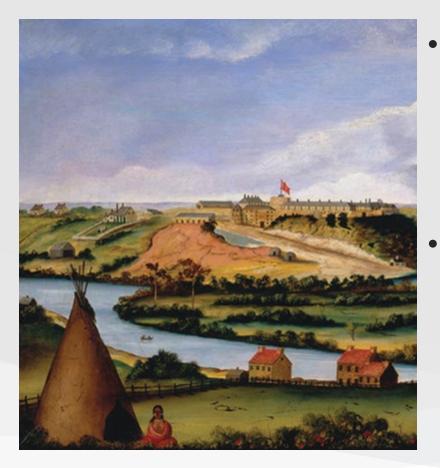
•Why consider historic properties?

- •Federal and state laws.
- •Place matters to people.
- •Architecture/History the built environment.
  - •Buildings, bridges, statues, roadways, designed parks, industrial complexes, military forts, districts, etc.





#### **Historic Properties**



 Archaeology: Study of our shared human past through the excavation and analysis of artifacts and features that people left behind.

# Cultural Landscape: Documents the interconnected nature of the landscape, landmarks, sites and natural features of Bdote and its significance to Dakota people.



#### **Tribal Coordination**

- Ramsey County recognizes the importance of the region to Tribal communities.
- Tribal coordination is ongoing.
- Participation by Tribal representatives in the IRTs.





#### **Instant Poll**

What aspects of the area's history are important to you and your community?

- A. The stories of people who lived here.
- B. Historic events that occurred here.
- C. Older buildings and structures located in the area.
- D. Something else.





#### **Engaging the Public in the Project**



#### **Engagement Goals**



**GOAL 1:** An informed and engaged public that reflects the diversity of the corridor.



**GOAL 2:** Meaningful input to guide the project.



**GOAL 3:** Public accountability and transparency.



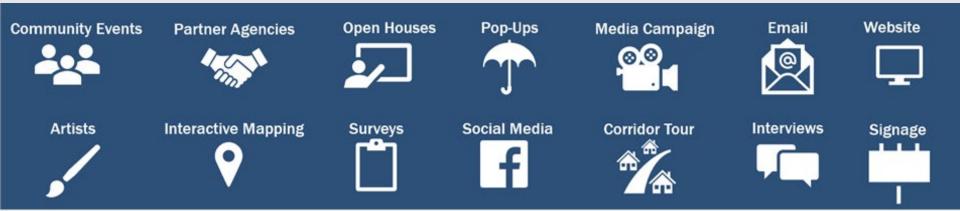
#### **Engagement Approach**





supporting

#### **Engagement Strategies**



#### **General Timing of Engagement**





#### **Follow Us For Updates**

- Subscribe to email news updates <u>www.riverviewcorridor.com</u>.
- Like us on Facebook
   <u>facebook.com/riverviewcorridor</u>.
- Follow us on Twitter <u>twitter.com/riverviewline</u>.





## **Instant Poll**

What is the best way to connect with people in the study area?

- A. Project website and email list
- B. Social media
- C. Online public meetings
- D. In-person public meetings
- E. Present at community events, meetings, etc.
- F. Other





## **Questions?**

#### LEARN MORE: RIVERVIEWCORRIDOR.COM



