

Cultural Placekeeping Meeting #2

June 25, 2025



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



Today's Topics

- Shared Meal + Introductions *15 minutes*
- Brief Presentation *25 minutes*
 - Activities Overview
 - Approach + Resources
 - Breakout Groups
- Small Group Breakouts *60 minutes*
- Report Back + Group Discussion *15 minutes*
- Wrap Up + Next Steps *5 minutes*



Meeting Agreements

- *Respectful communication*
- *Meetings will start and end on time*
- *Raise hand or signal to speak*
- *Discussion should remain focused on agenda items*
- *Decisions will be made by consensus if possible and by vote if not*
- *Don't make assumptions, ask for clarification*
- *Discussions and sensitive information shared should be confidential*
- *Constructive criticism is welcomed, but should be presented in a respectful and constructive manner*
- *No side conversations*
- *Limit cell phone usage*
- *A summary of the meeting and action items with due dates will be assigned the meeting the meeting*

Grace

Respect

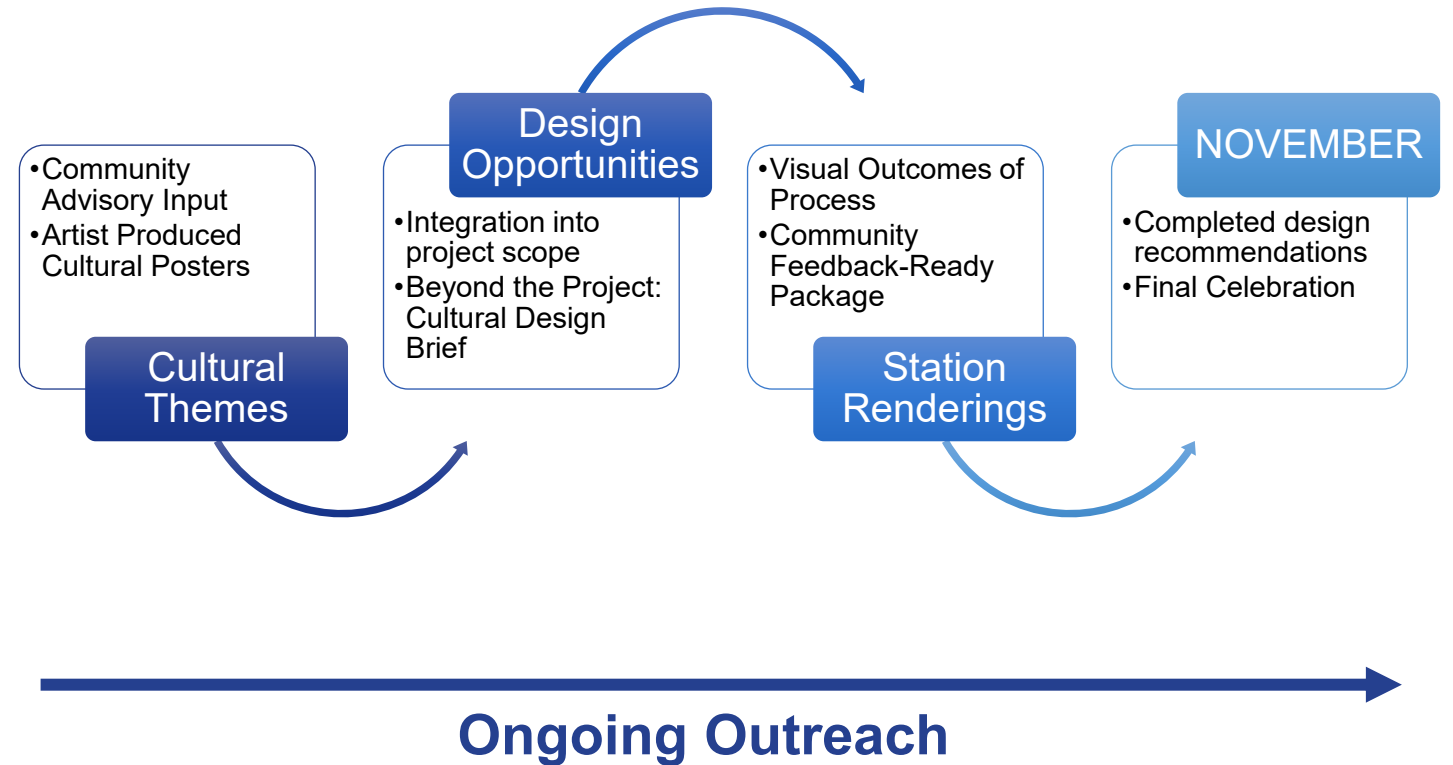
Patience

Humility



Approach Overview

- Design Groups by City
- Cultural Themes Discovery
- Artistic Translation
- Design Opportunities
- Outreach Feedback Loop



Key Goals

- Translate community cultural priorities into design recommendations per station
- Process complete by November 2025



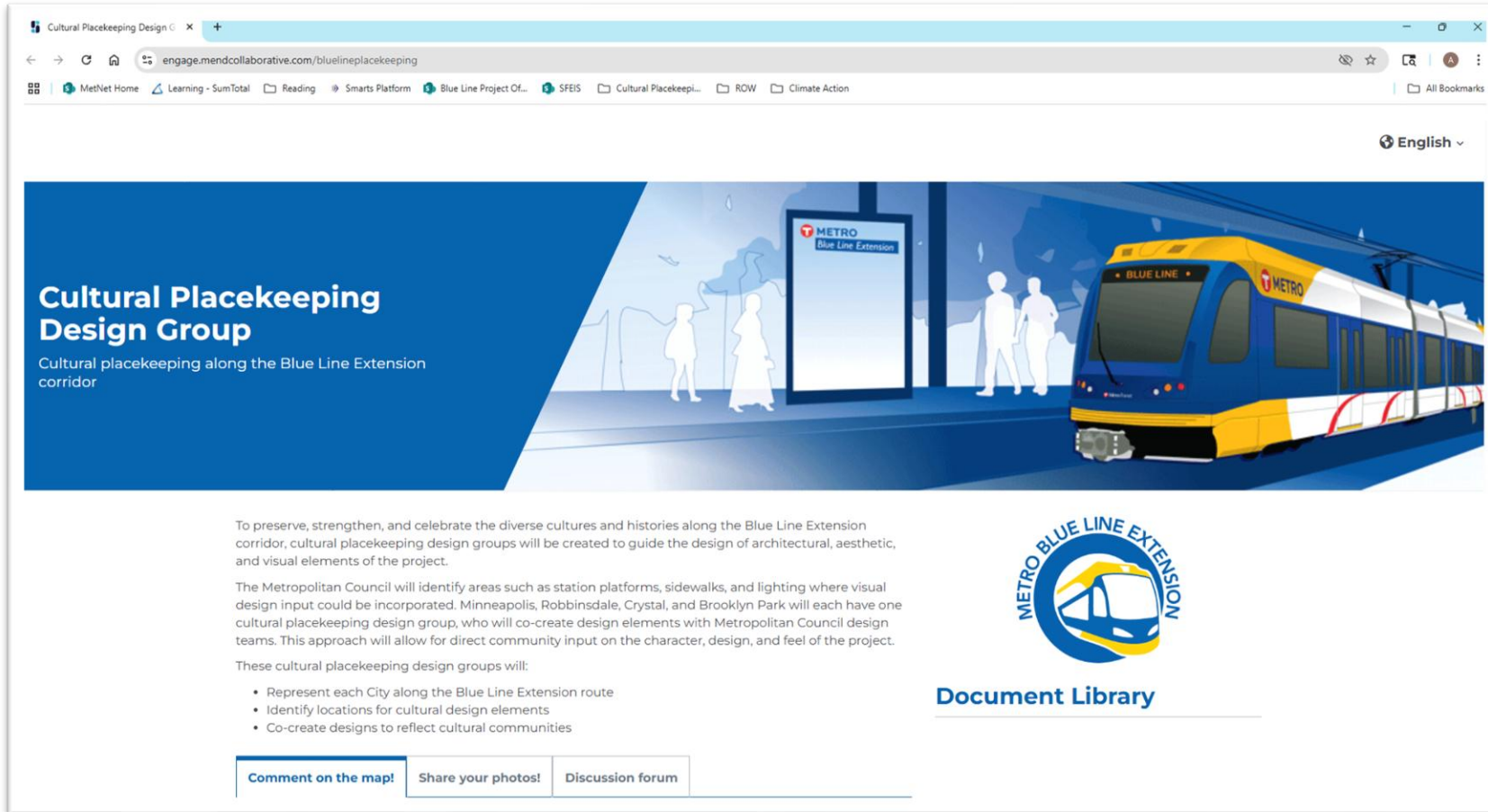
GLE Golden Triangle Station Design Proof

Supporting Resources

- **People:** project staff, city staff, artists (theme development), consultants
- **Data:** demographics, planning documents, GIS tools
- **Time:** 5 in-person meetings, outreach opportunities
- **What else would help you feel prepared and engaged throughout the process?**



Social Pinpoint Overview



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `engage.mendcollaborative.com/bluelineplacekeeping`. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The website has a blue header with the text "Cultural Placekeeping Design Group" and "Cultural placekeeping along the Blue Line Extension corridor". Below the header is a large illustration of a blue and yellow Metro Blue Line train at a station platform. To the right of the illustration is a "Document Library" section with a circular logo that says "METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION". Below the logo is a list of three bullet points: "Represent each City along the Blue Line Extension route", "Identify locations for cultural design elements", and "Co-create designs to reflect cultural communities". At the bottom of the page are three buttons: "Comment on the map!", "Share your photos!", and "Discussion forum".

Cultural Placekeeping Design Group
Cultural placekeeping along the Blue Line Extension corridor

To preserve, strengthen, and celebrate the diverse cultures and histories along the Blue Line Extension corridor, cultural placekeeping design groups will be created to guide the design of architectural, aesthetic, and visual elements of the project.

The Metropolitan Council will identify areas such as station platforms, sidewalks, and lighting where visual design input could be incorporated. Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park will each have one cultural placekeeping design group, who will co-create design elements with Metropolitan Council design teams. This approach will allow for direct community input on the character, design, and feel of the project.

These cultural placekeeping design groups will:

- Represent each City along the Blue Line Extension route
- Identify locations for cultural design elements
- Co-create designs to reflect cultural communities

Document Library

[Comment on the map!](#) [Share your photos!](#) [Discussion forum](#)



Shared Definitions

Shared definitions help us communicate clearly and work together with mutual respect. They ensure we're starting from the same place, so our conversations and decisions reflect the full diversity of experiences in the community.

- **Culture**

The shared traditions, values, stories, and expressions of a community—shaped by its people, history, and lived experiences. Culture includes language, art, music, food, celebrations, and ways of life that reflect who a community is and what it stands for.

- **Placekeeping**

The active care and celebration of a community's culture, history, and identity—ensuring that changes to a place honor the people who live there and preserve what makes it meaningful.



Shared Definitions

- **Themes**

Key ideas or messages that capture what is most important to express about the community's identity, history, and aspirations. Themes help focus storytelling, design, and engagement around what matters most to the people who live and work in the area. Think big picture!!!

- **Design Opportunities**

Specific moments or places within the project where cultural stories, themes, or values can be reflected through physical design — We'll discuss the specific opportunities on the next few slides.

Do you agree with these definitions? Is there anything you want to add?



Design Opportunities

- **Tier 1 - Consistent at Every Station**

- Station identification graphics
- Fence/railing panels
- Utility wraps
- Colors for structural elements
- Banners (attached to light poles)



GLE Downtown Hopkins Station



Scottsdale, AZ

Design Opportunities

- **Tier 2 - Optional or Station Specific**
 - Form liners for bridge piers and abutments
 - Bass Lake Road
 - Lowry
 - Off-platform seating/benches
 - Off-platform signage/wayfinding
 - Open space use/programming
 - e.g. playground, skatepark, sport court



Council Bluffs, IA (Design by HDR)

Design Opportunities

- **Tier 3 - To Be Explored**

- Background sounds played over speakers
- Landscape plantings (culturally significant plantings – must confirm maintenance feasibility)



Native MN Plantings

Design Opportunities

- **Temporary Installations**

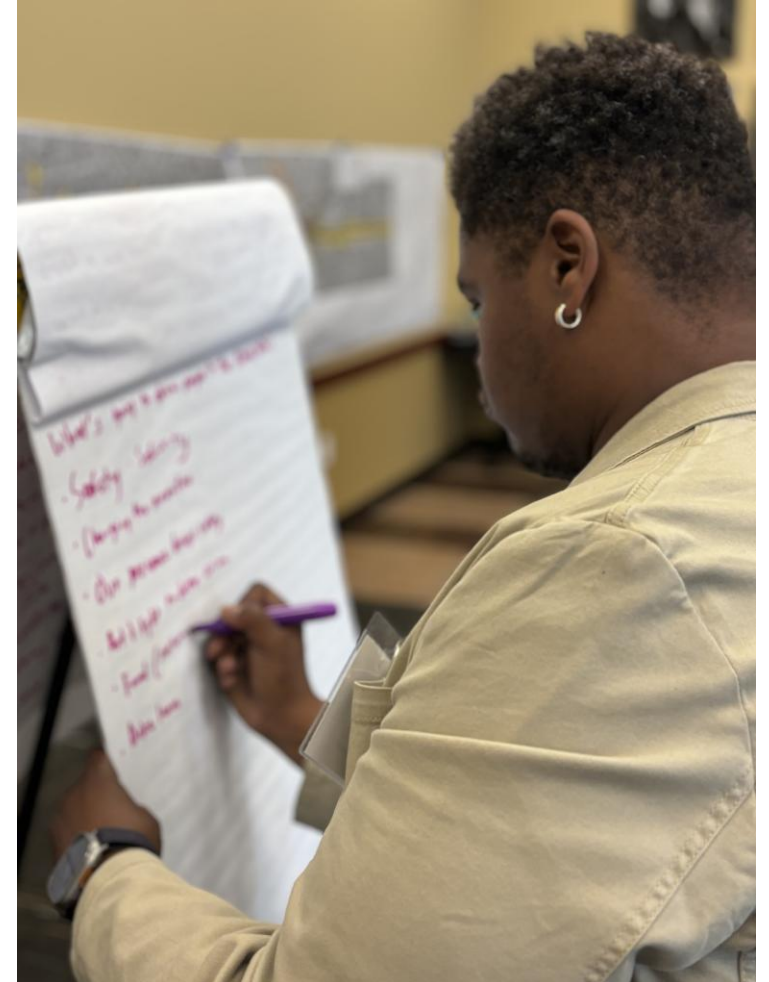
- Tactical urbanism intersection/pavement painting
- Advertisement panels / train or bus wraps
- Open to ideas pending feasibility confirmation



Baltimore

Today's Small Group Activities

- **Group Introductions** *15 minutes*
 - Get to know your group members
- **Mapping the Work** *30 minutes*
 - Plan our path forward
- **What Belongs Here** *15 minutes*
 - Provide feedback for outreach activity



DREAM North Event – August 2024

Small Group Breakouts



Small Groups – Even Distribution

- **Group #1 Stations**

- Oak Grove Parkway
- 93rd Avenue
- 85th Avenue

- **Group #2 Stations**

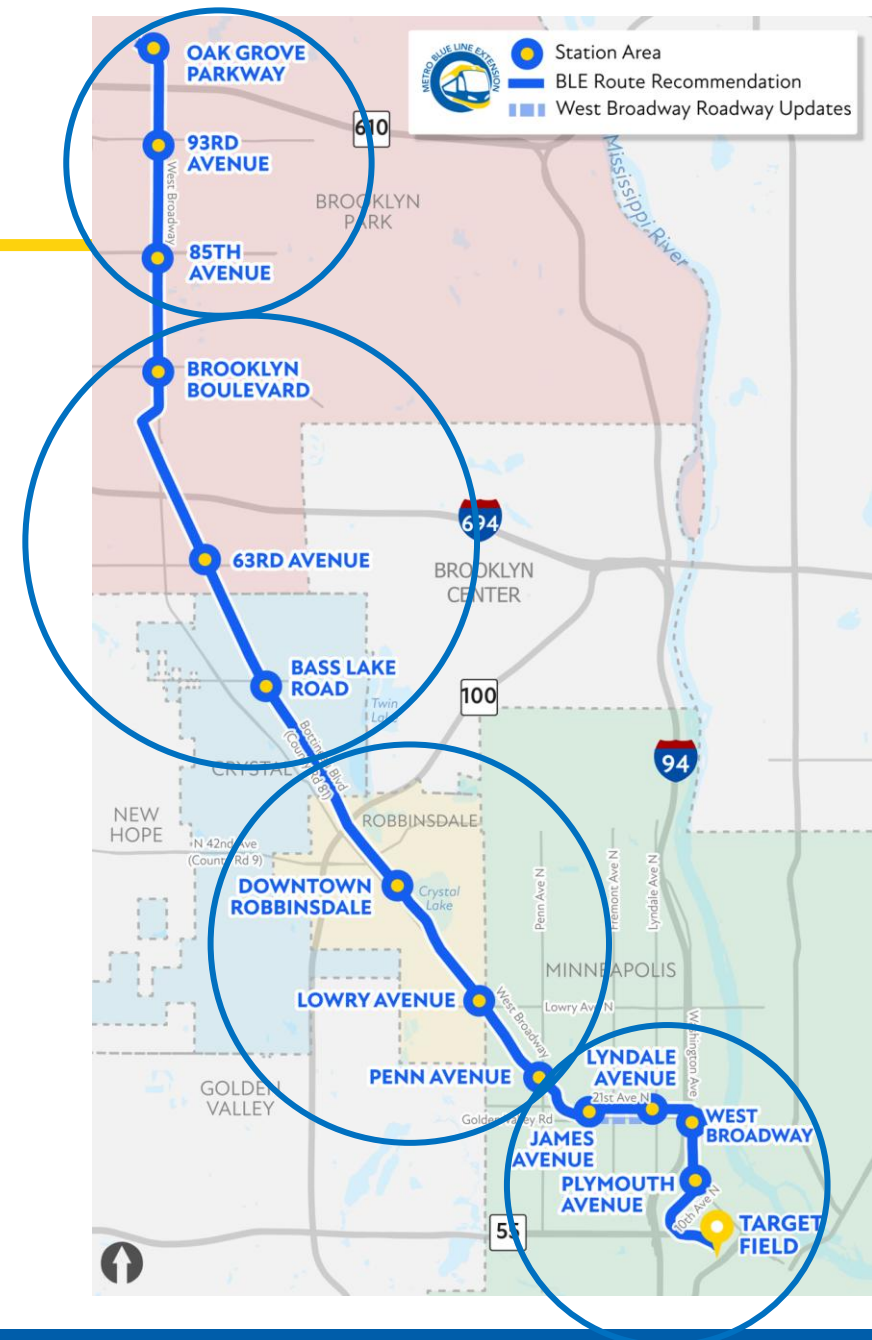
- Brooklyn Boulevard
- 63rd Avenue
- Bass Lake Road

- **Group #3 Stations**

- Downtown Robbinsdale
- Lowry Avenue
- Penn Avenue

- **Group #4 Stations**

- James Avenue
- Lyndale Avenue
- West Broadway
- Plymouth Avenue



Small Group – By City

- **Group #1 Stations**

- Oak Grove Parkway
- 93rd Avenue
- 85th Avenue
- Brooklyn Boulevard

- **Group #2 Stations**

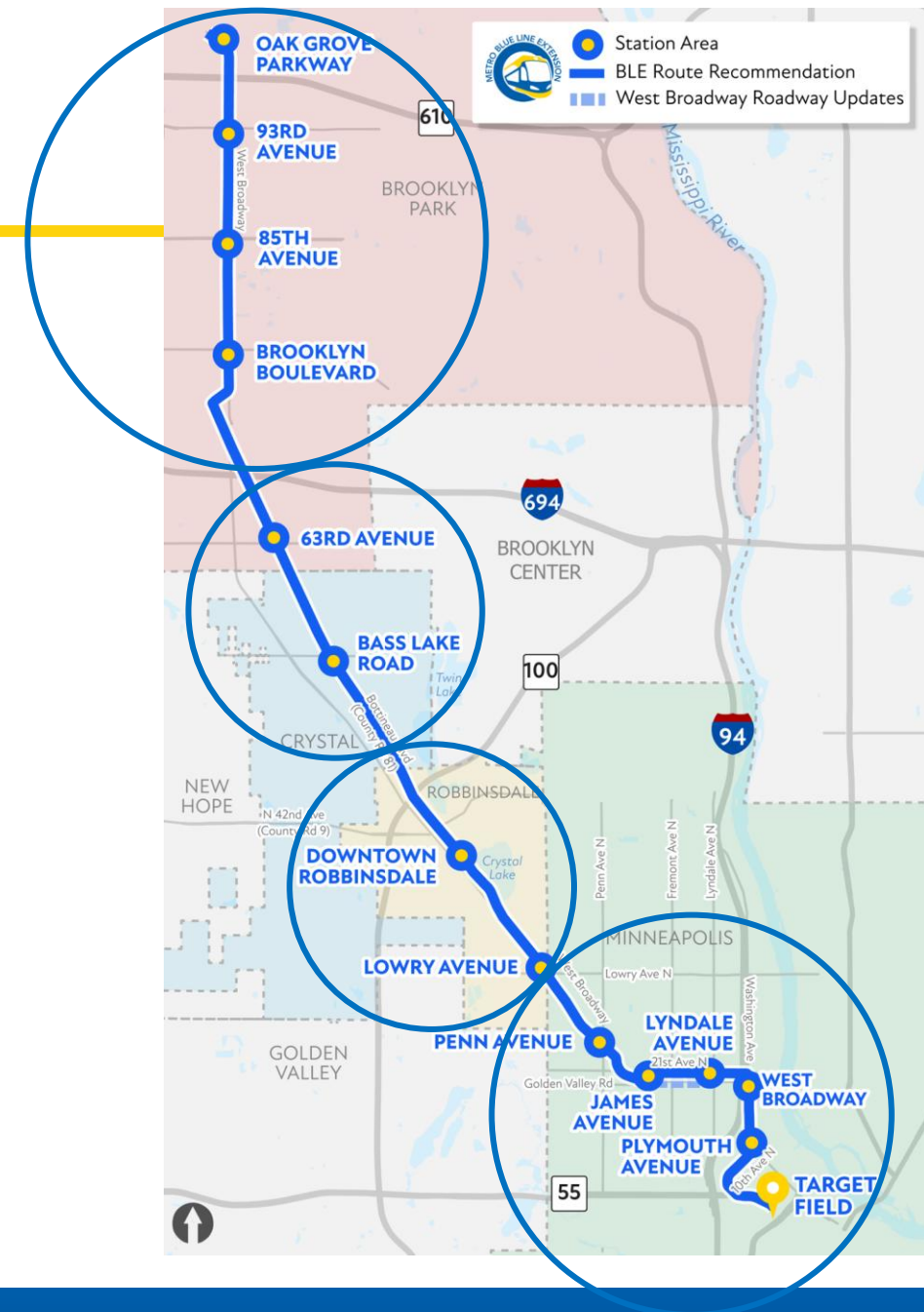
- 63rd Avenue
- Bass Lake Road

- **Group #3 Stations**

- Downtown Robbinsdale
- Lowry Avenue

- **Group #4 Stations**

- Penn Avenue
- James Avenue
- Lyndale Avenue
- West Broadway
- Plymouth Avenue



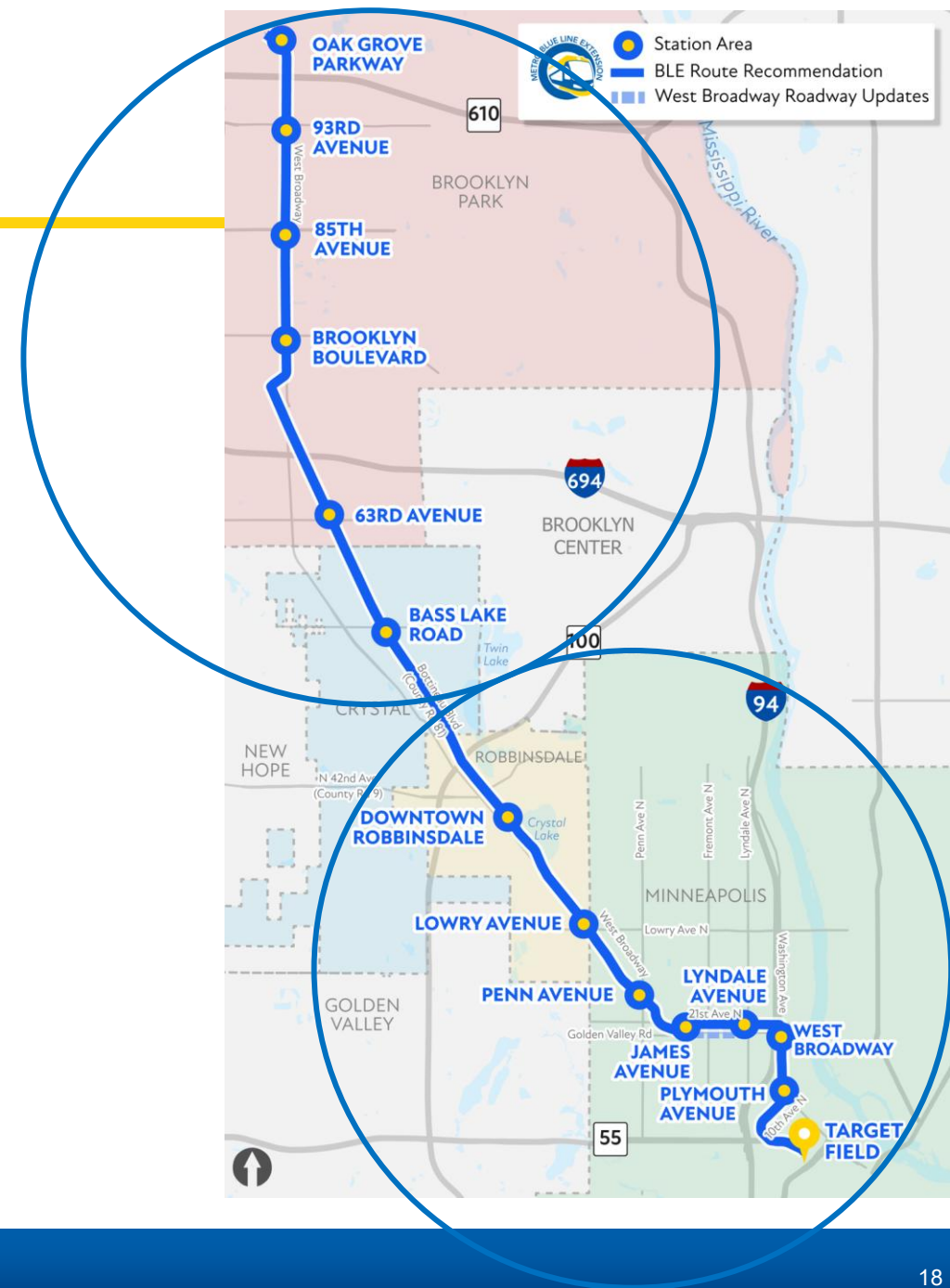
Small Group – Two Groups

- **Group #1 Stations**

- Oak Grove Parkway
- 93rd Avenue
- 85th Avenue
- Brooklyn Boulevard
- 63rd Avenue
- Bass Lake Road

- **Group #2 Stations**

- Downtown Robbinsdale
- Lowry Avenue
- Penn Avenue
- James Avenue
- Lyndale Avenue
- West Broadway
- Plymouth Avenue



Wrap Up & Next Steps



Next Steps

- Next Meeting:
 - July 23, 2025
 - Elim Lutheran Church Gymnasium
 - 5:00 – 7:00 PM
 - Continue developing themes per area, introduction to application opportunities
- Get familiar with Social Pinpoint
- Bring back a story, idea, photo, or something else to share with your small group



Stay Connected

- Engagement email:
 - BLEoutreach@metrotransit.org
- **BlueLineExt.org**
 - For the latest project updates and to sign up for our newsletter
 - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation
- **Follow us:**
 - Instagram: Blue_Line_Extension
 - BlueSky: @BlueLineExt.bsky.social
 - X: @BlueLineExt
 - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension



A service of the Metropolitan Council
COUNTIES *Transit*
Improvement
BOARD