Mentimeter

Cultural Placekeeping Kickoff

May 17, 2025

METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION

BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Hennepin

Federal Transit Administration

Today's Topics

- Welcome + Introductions
- Project Overview + Timeline
- Anti-Displacement Context
- Cultural Placekeeping Design Groups
- Design Opportunities + Constraints
- Precedents + Inspiration
- Wrap Up + Next Steps

Introductions

- *Name / Pronouns*
- *Where do you live, work or go to school?*
- *Why did you join this group?*

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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

Which best describes why you decided to join this group?

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Project Overview

METRO Blue Line EXTENSION

- 13.4 miles & 13 new stations
- Connecting Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities to fast, frequent, all-day service across the METRO system
- Single seat ride to existing Blue Line stops downtown, MSP Airport, and Mall of America
- Focus on building community prosperity through anti-displacement strategies before, during, and after construction

Next steps

- ✓ Municipal Consent : Summer 2024
- Updated 60% cost estimate: Summer 2025
- Supplemental Final EIS and Amended Record of Decision: Summer 2025
- Final Design: 2024-2026
- Major construction: 2027-2030

All schedules are subject to change

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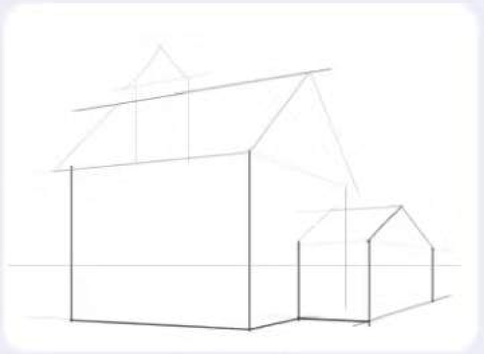
30-60-90% Design Progression

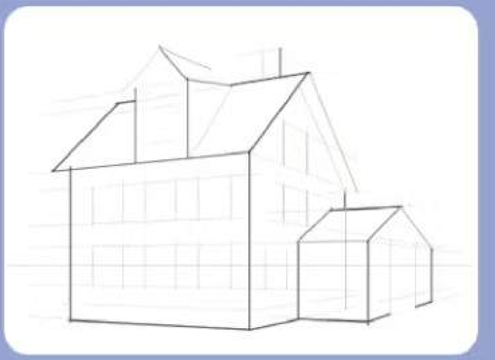
30% Design



COMPLETED

- Alignment
- Station locations
- Typical sections *(i.e., width of vehicle lanes, sidewalks, etc.)*
- General access changes
- Prepare preliminary plans

60% Design



MAY – JULY 2025

- Refinements to typical section *(i.e., width of vehicle lanes, sidewalks, etc. and access)*
- Site plans for park-and-rides
- Traffic plans
- Environmental mitigation measures

90% Design

2026

- Station architectural design *(i.e., platform, shelters)*
- Lighting + Landscaping plans
- Architectural treatment of retaining walls and noise walls, where applicable
- Construction planning

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Brooklyn Park

Proposed: 5 Stations

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Oak Grove Pkwy Station

Rhode Island Dr

99th Ave

Oak Grove Pkwy

West Broadway Ave

Overhead View

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93rd Ave Station

West Broadway Ave

93rd Ave

Overhead View

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85th Avenue Station

West Broadway Ave

85th Ave

Overhead View

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85th Avenue Station

Street View

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Brooklyn Blvd Station

Brooklyn Blvd

West Broadway Ave

Overhead View

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63rd Ave Station and Park & Ride

Overhead View

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Crystal

Proposed: 1 Station

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Bass Lake Road Station

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Bass Lake Road Station

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Robbinsdale

Proposed: 1 Station + Shared Lowry Avenue Station

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Downtown Robbinsdale Station

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Lowry Avenue Station

Draft as of March 25, 2025

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Lowry Avenue Station

View from Theo Wirth Parkway looking East towards the station

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Minneapolis

Proposed: 5 Stations + Shared Lowry Avenue Station

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Penn Avenue Station

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James Avenue Station

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Lyndale Avenue Station

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West Broadway Station

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Plymouth Avenue Station

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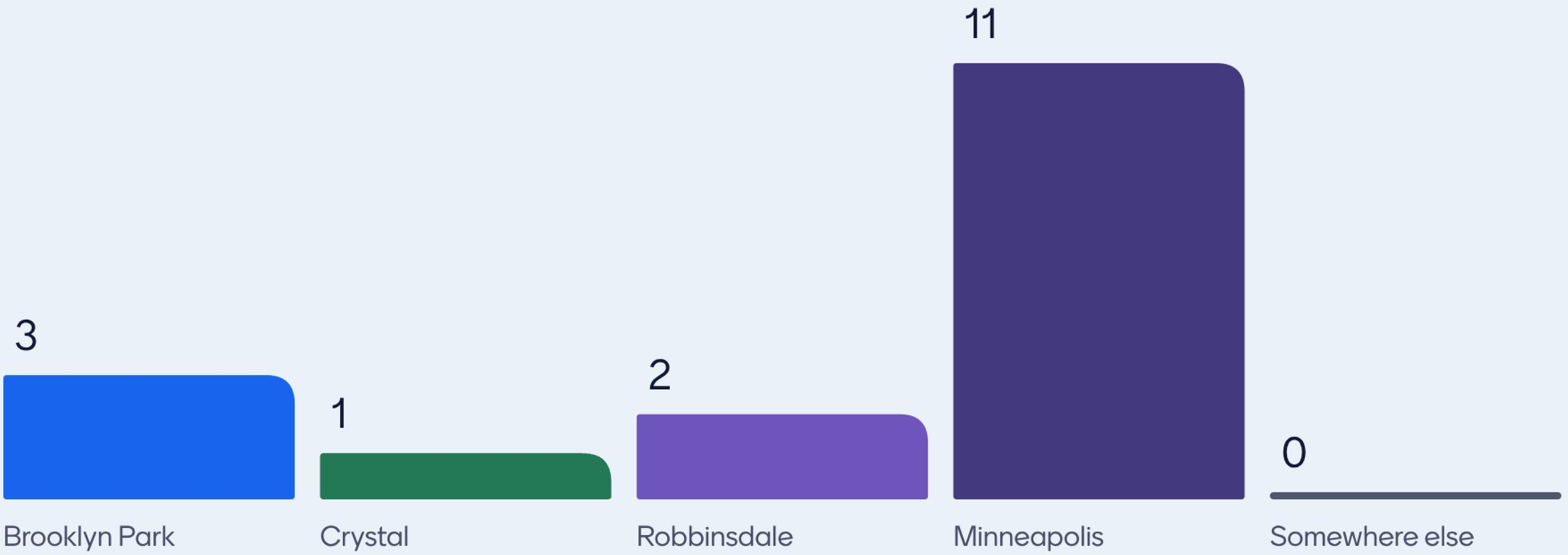
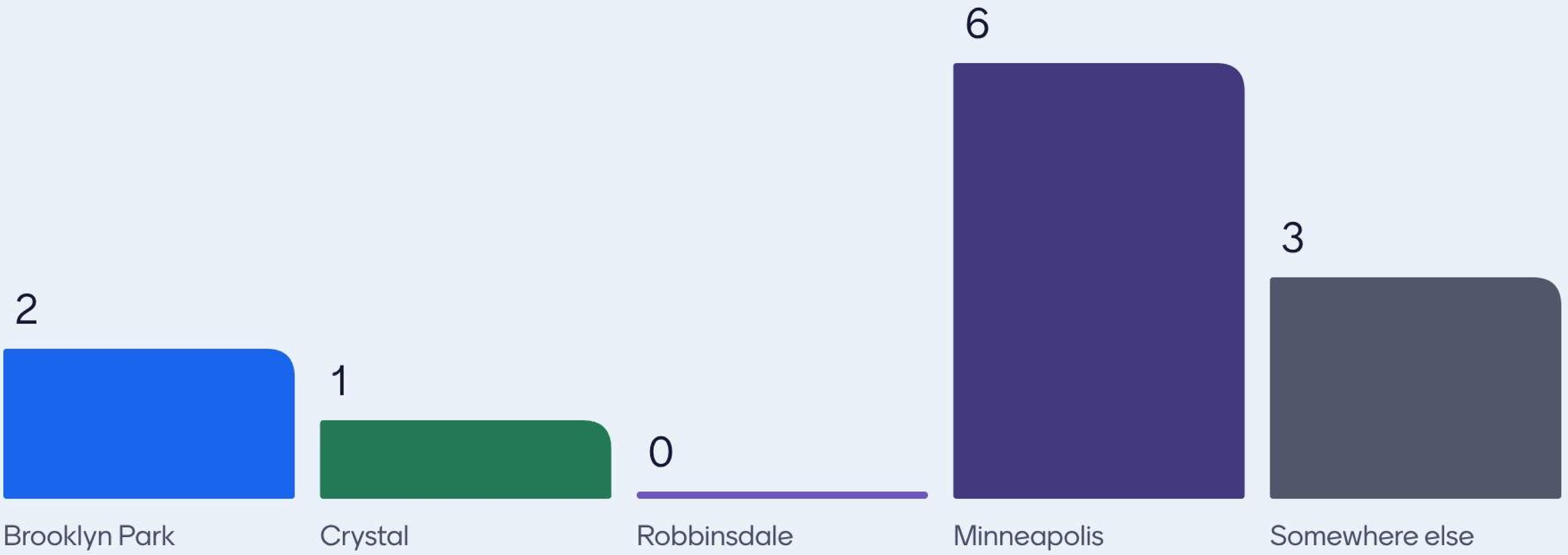
10th Avenue – Transitway

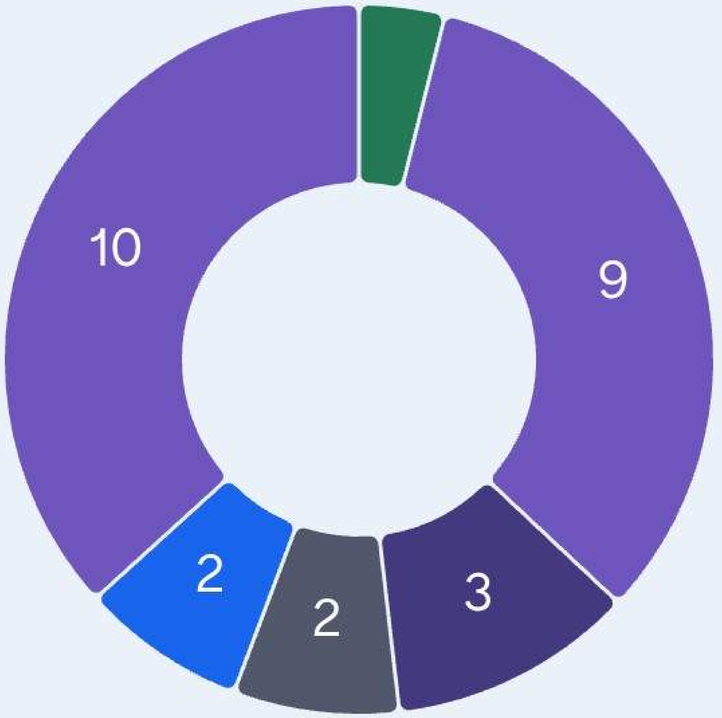
Where do you live?



Where do you work or go to school?



What's your relationship to transit? (select all that apply)



■	0	I rely on transit as my primary mode of transportation
■	1	I use transit regularly (at least once a week)
■	9	I use transit occasionally (a few times a month or less)
■	3	I don't use transit, but I support improving it
■	2	I don't use transit because it doesn't meet my needs
■	2	I used to use transit, but no longer do
■	0	I've never used transit in this area
■	10	I'm interested in using transit more in the future

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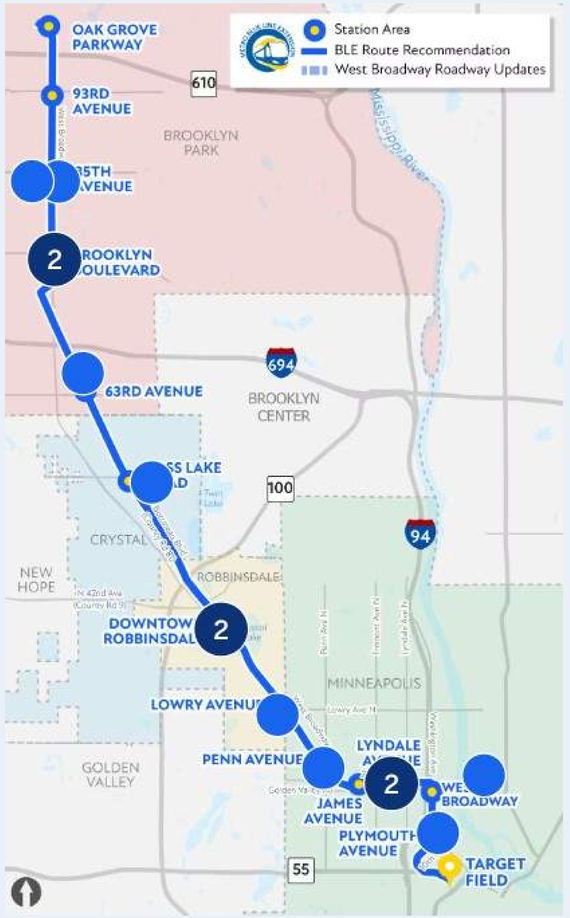
Which station or stations are you most interested in?



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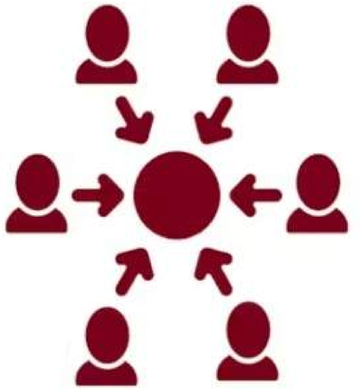
Anti-Displacement Context

Anti-Displacement Program + Timeline

Beginning

- Re-routed alignment led to increased awareness of displacement concerns along the corridor
- Community members sought a strong anti-displacement intervention with the project
- Goal: Ensure light rail investment benefits current corridor residents, businesses



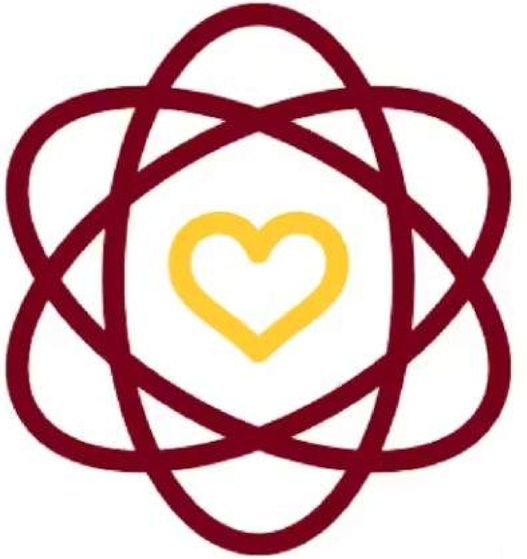
Anti-Displacement Working Group

- A Community-based Working Group (ADWG) was created and led by CURA
- ADWG met over 5 day-long workshops
- The final output was a list of recommended outcomes and polices complied into a report created by CURA
- June 2023 CMC Action to receive the report

Anti-Displacement Recommendations

Centers recommended outcomes first
Distinct to each jurisdiction and corridor-wide

17 policies support recommended outcomes



ADWG identified underlying principles for all recommendations

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Coordinated Anti-Displacement Strategies

Coordinated Action Plan	
Within BLE Project	**Outside of BLE Project**
• Environmental review process to develop strategies to address impacts	• Anti-displacement Community Prosperity Program (ACPP)
• Project design / **Cultural Placekeeping**	• Actions by Project Partners
• Construction management	• Anti-displacement Coordinated Action Plan
• Relocation assistance – residential and business	

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Understanding Types of Displacement

- Cultural Placekeeping
  - Cultural Placekeeping is a tool in preventing Cultural Displacement by anchoring identity through **visible and emotional symbols**—creating a deep sense of belonging that ties people to place.

There are several types of displacement that can occur in neighborhoods:

DIRECT DISPLACEMENT occurs when residents can no longer afford to remain in their homes due to rising housing costs or are forced out by lease non-renewals, evictions, eminent domain, or poor physical conditions that render homes uninhabitable, often as investors await redevelopment opportunities.

INDIRECT DISPLACEMENT (or **exclusionary displacement**) occurs when homes are vacated by low-income residents, but other low-income residents cannot afford to move in. This shift in the housing cycle can stem from price increases, policy changes, or occupation by middle-income residents.

CULTURAL DISPLACEMENT occurs as the scale of residential change advances. Shops and services shift to focus on new residents, the character of the neighborhood is transformed, and the remaining residents may feel a sense of dislocation and lack of attention despite remaining in the neighborhood.

Definitions of types of displacement used by the City of St. Paul and Reconnect Rondo

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Cultural Placekeeping + Anti-Displacement

Anti-Displacement Work Group Recommendation:

- Use cultural heritage as a lever for further economic investment
- Demonstrate the interconnectivity of cultural and physical infrastructure

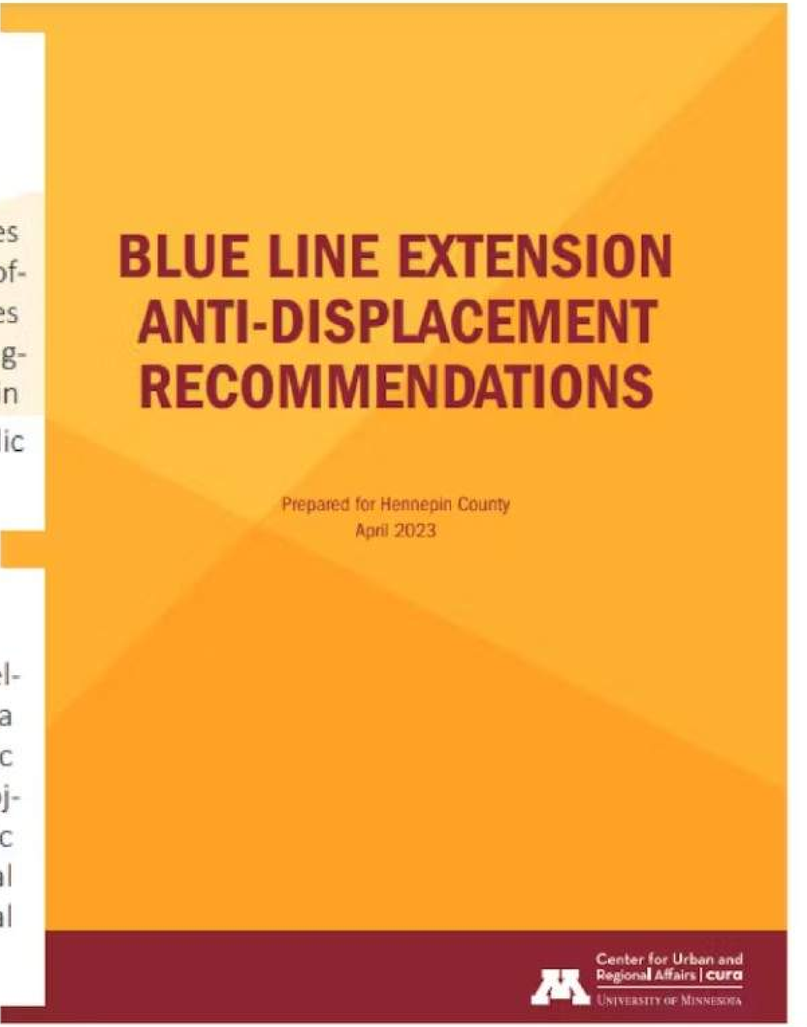
Cultural Placekeeping/Placemaking

DESCRIPTION OF POLICY

Cultural displacement, or the practice of making communities feel unwelcome and alienated in their own neighborhoods, often precedes and perpetuates physical displacement (Torres Rodriguez, 2020). When residents don't feel a sense of belonging and attachment, a city government is less likely to invest in that community and more likely to perpetuate exclusive public spaces (Torres Rodriguez, 2020).

Cultural Corridors

Cultural corridors aim to foster equitable community development through the celebration of local arts and culture in a particular geographic area. Through a combination of public and private dollars, cultural corridors are place-making projects that use cultural heritage as a lever for further economic investment. In a twist on traditional planning models, cultural corridors demonstrate the interconnected nature of cultural and physical infrastructure.



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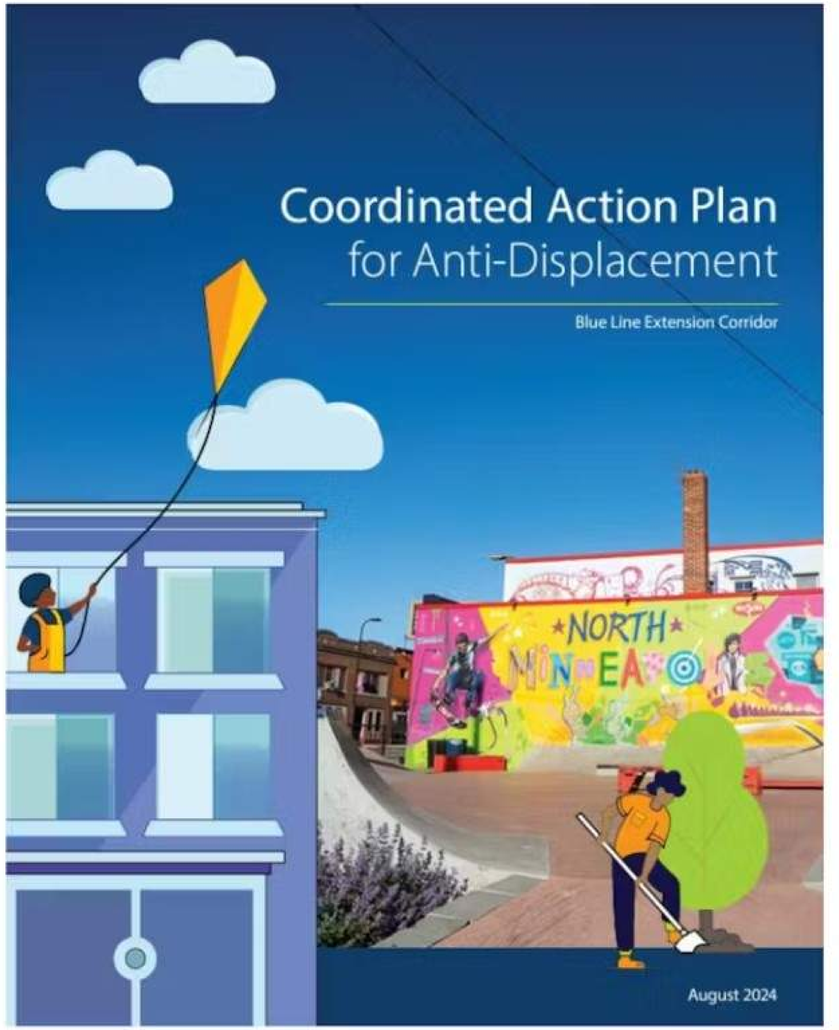
Cultural Placekeeping + Anti-Displacement

- Coordinated Action Plan for Anti-Displacement
  - Keeping the rich culture of the corridor in place and enhancing it so it can thrive
- This recommendation requires all of us to consider how to keep and enhance culture through the design of the LRT project with the community as co-creators



What are some changes in your neighborhood that could make it unaffordable or make you feel unwelcome?

Higher property taxes

Safety

Increases in property values correlating to an increase in property tax

Displacement of local businesses

Unreasonable rents increases

Unknown

Prioritization of "cute" landscapes over needed utility and infrastructure enhancements.

Assessment fees / taxea

What are some changes in your neighborhood that could make it unaffordable or make you feel unwelcome?

Removing or damaging culturally significant markers.

Changing the culture of it displaces people of color

Things that break up the neighborhood visually it physically

Big developments coming in that hosted by investors not coming from the neighborhood, not reflecting the demographics of the neighborhood, and entities not offering what residents' like/want

Closure of 10th Avenue to cars and the addition of several blocks of newly constructed streets would seriously increase traffic and affect walkability of neighborhood.

The cost of a cup of coffee

Things that make it hard for my other able bodied neighbors to move around

Bland landscapes

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What are some changes in your neighborhood that could make it unaffordable or make you feel unwelcome?

The alter of the physical characteristics of our community's

Loss of Art, food and events

Saying / hearing hello from strangers and neighbors on the sidewalk

Walkability

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What are some of the things that make you feel comfortable in your neighborhood?

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Cultural Placekeeping Design Groups

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Cultural Placekeeping Process

- Create Cultural Placekeeping Design Groups
  - Engage local residents, business owners, and cultural organizations to ensure that the design of light rail transit respects, reflects, and celebrates the diverse cultures of the corridor through their stories and traditions
- Work collaboratively to define cultures and histories present in each city
  - How can culture be reflected in the LRT design? Who should be represented?
  - How can the visual aspects of the project help honor and celebrate existing cultures and past histories in the corridor?

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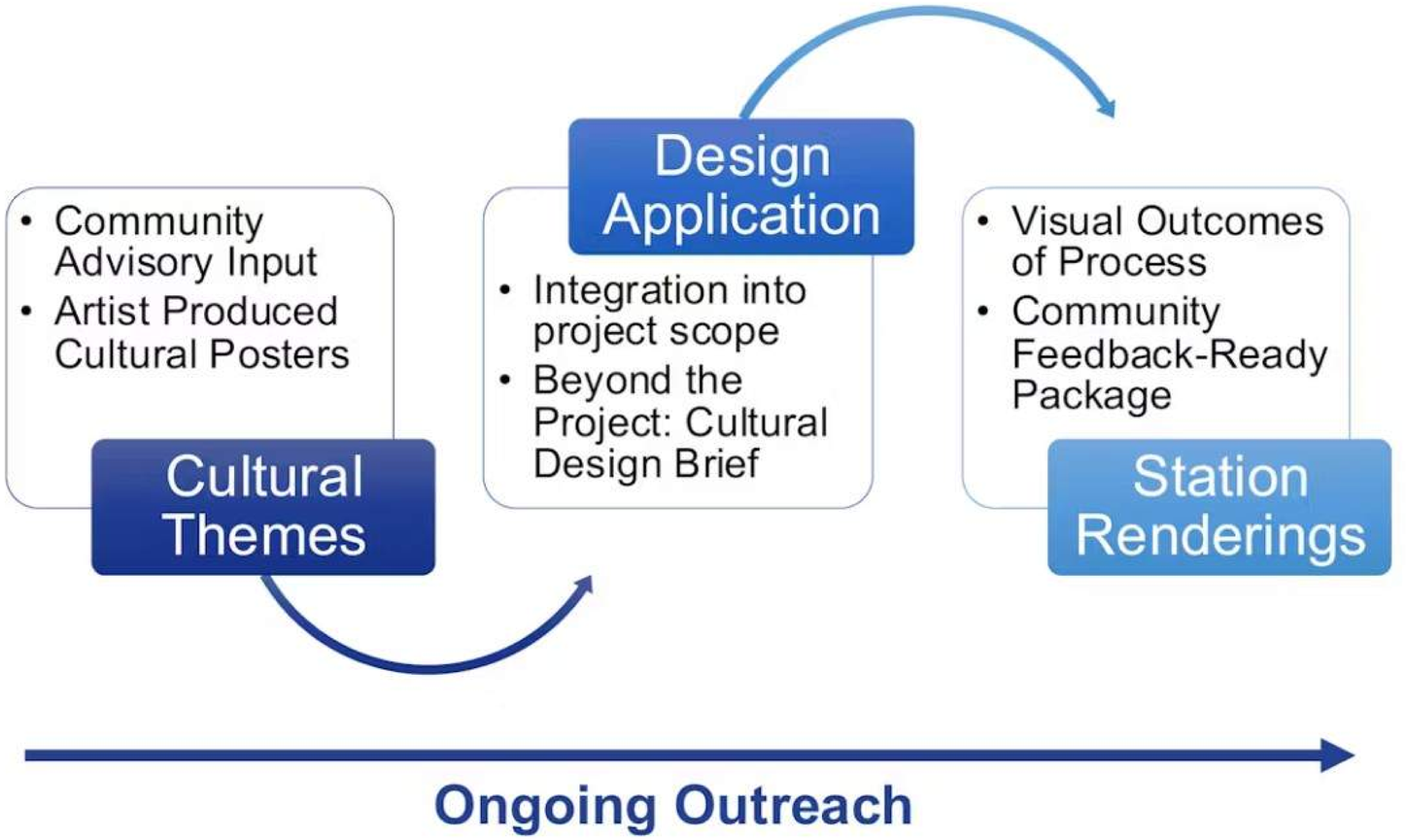
Approach Overview

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



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How the Design Groups Work

- Groups of 6-10 individuals for each city
- Supported by BLE Project and City staff
- 1 meeting per month May-November 2025
- Purpose of the groups:
  - To represent lived experiences in the corridor
- Type of input sought:
  - Themes, stories, visual ideas, general feedback

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What unique perspectives, experience or expertise do you bring to this group?

Experience in public art and community engagement.

I've lived in 3 of the 4 cities along the route

I worked as a architectural designer, now I work as a construction project representative, but more importantly, am a community organizer and leader!

Professional architectural design experience

I have great documentation and communication skills; translating subject matter jargon to digestible and executable goals. Great at organizing and supporting the creative people to be creative.

For 27 years, I have lived 5/8 mile from the proposed station

Artist/creative who's helped with public art projects

Have lived in my neighborhood for more than 20 years and have seen substantial change over that time. Hope to help guide future change in a way that enhances and does not distract.

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What unique perspectives, experience or expertise do you bring to this group?

Prior Blue Line representative Longtime Minneapolis resident Well traveled Real estate developer

Urban design, community engagement, placemaking, partnerships

My age as a youth, culture, school, work, creative thinking, and probably a lot more

Good communicator.

Connections to neighbors in Near North neighborhood

Asian American lived experience, arts/cultural/business network throughout the BLE, AI/AR/VR exhibition to bring the experience digitally as well.

Directly impacted by project, live on route, , artist, background in placemaking/keeping , public art, community leader, marketing background, economic/real estate development

Organized at the grassroots level, especially with youth and underrepresented communities, I understand the importance of centering voices that are often left out.

What unique perspectives, experience or expertise do you bring to this group?

Detailed orientation

cultural patterns, need more interpretation signs, the examples not reflecting how those arts tied to functionalities

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Design Opportunities + Constraints

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Opportunity Areas – On Platform

- Wayfinding panels, fences, handrails
- Colors, patterns, textures
- Interpretive signage

Green Line Extension – Downtown Hopkins Station

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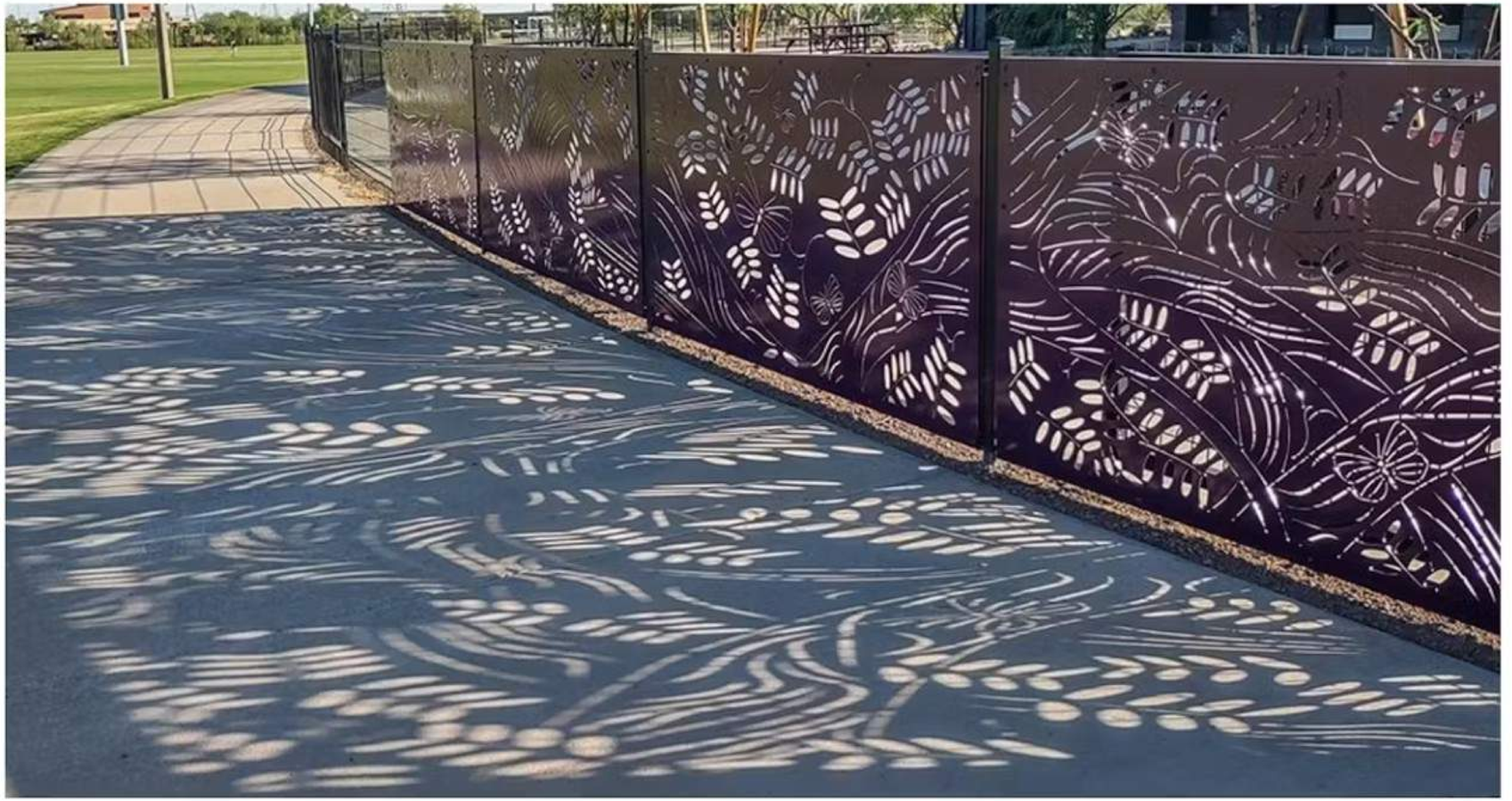
Opportunity Areas – Off Platform

- Landscaping
- Banners
- Fencing
- Utility Cabinets



Scottsdale, AZ

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Constraints Overview

Due to federal spending regulations, we can't include:

- "Art" defined by the federal government as "primarily aesthetic objects that do not have a meaningfully functional structural or transit-related purpose"
- "Non-functional landscaping" defined by the federal government as "Landscape elements installed solely for visual or aesthetic appeal"
- Elements on Private Property

However, it may be possible for other partners to fund other improvements.

Source: https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/grant-programs/art-and-non-functional-landscaping-federally-funded-public-transit

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Final Feedback Report

- All input will be gathered.
- Transparent record of this group's work that will be incorporated into the design.
- Ideas that can't be utilized due to constraints can be distributed to cities, developers, and other partners to inform future planning efforts.

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Cultural Placekeeping in Action

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Cultural Placekeeping in Action

Emerson Park, East St Louis

North Vancouver Lower Lonsdale alley

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Cultural Placekeeping in Action

Dakota Language Signs, Bde Maka Ska, Minneapolis

Mexican Papel Picado Designs on a River Boat, San Antonio

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Cultural Placekeeping in Action

Indigenous Design
Lawrence, KS

Adinkra Gate, Columbus, OH

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Cultural Placekeeping in Action

Swedish Dala Horses, Scandia

Bike racks made from rail ties (industrial heritage), Minneapolis

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Cultural Placekeeping in Action

Azulejos (Spanish Tile) at a Transit Station, San Antonio

Rose Pak Station, Chinatown, San Francisco

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Cultural Placekeeping in Action

Venice Beach Skate Plaza

Baltimore

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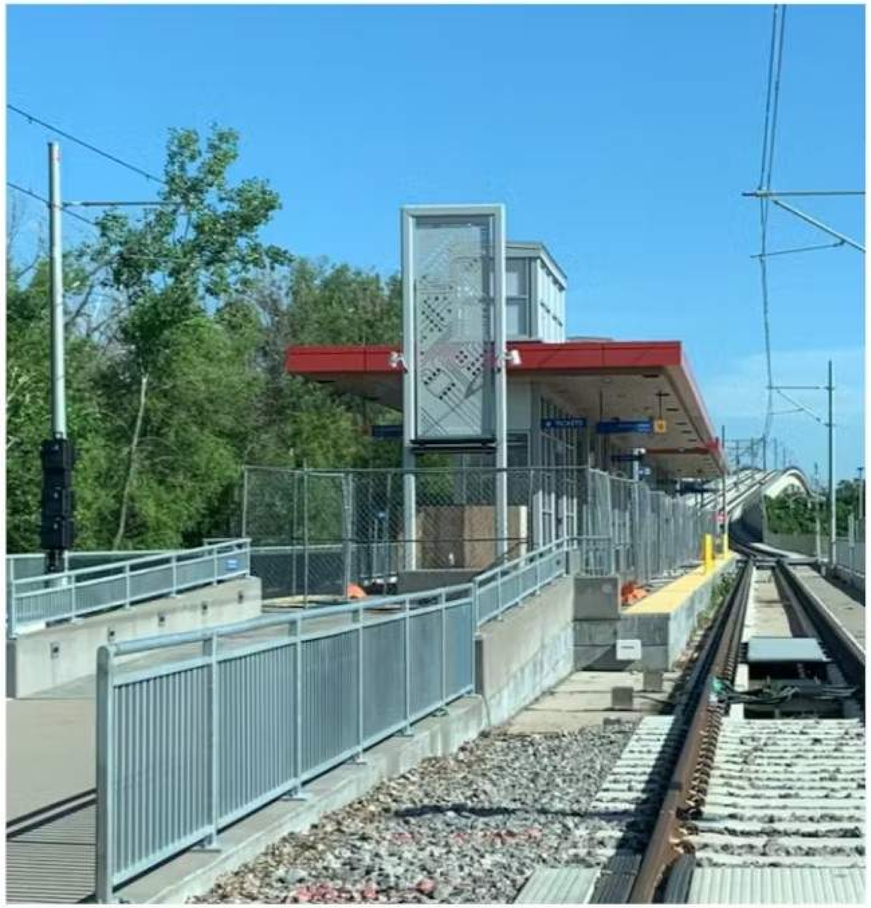
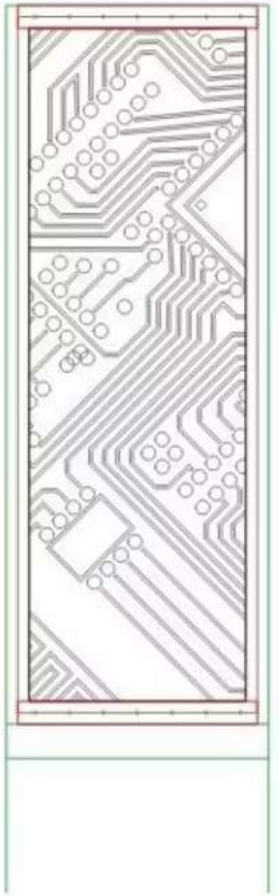
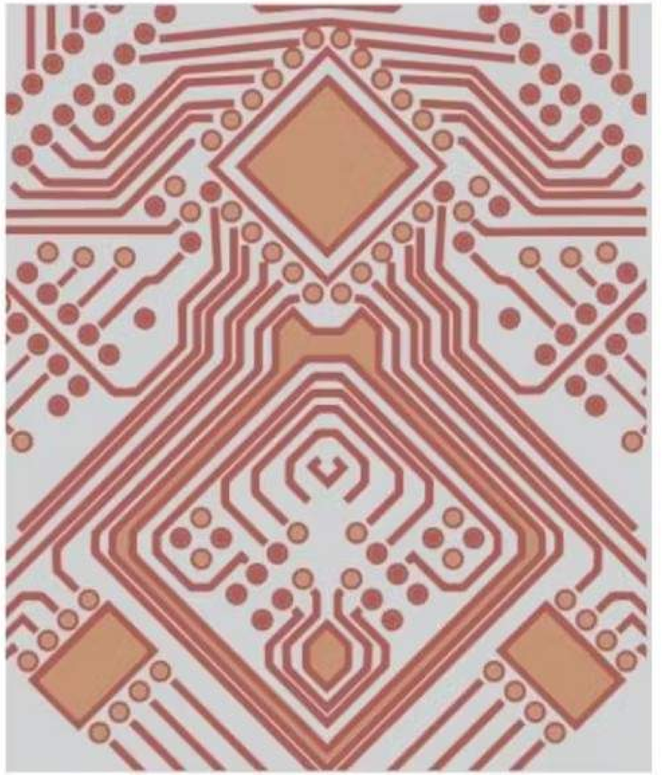
Green Line Extension (GLE)







GLE Golden Triangle Station

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What did you like the most about the provided examples?

Draw from local artist, and vibrant colors to slow traffic near intersections.

The colors, different patterns, and its purpose on the ground

Variety of cultural representation.

Use of color and patterns

How practical things can be beautiful

They're different, unique, vibrant - and hopefully attract people to the area, make it more inviting, and make transit use more likely

Bright colors, welcoming

Beautiful

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What did you like the most about the provided examples?

Variety of areas where great design can be implemented.

Ability to inject color, beauty, and fun into public space

It feels like me

Uniqueness so you know where you are

Human scale

Visually represents cultural communities. Tells a story about each place.

Creative use of color and shape

We need more public art from local people

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What did you like the most about the provided examples?

Flexibility

no displays of language interpretation of findways, no connections from arts to functionalities

Provide a list with example images of each typical design element we could influence

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What didn't resonate with you?

Need more emphasis on the ability to "gather "

Nothing - we need creative examples even if they don't apply to us.

Many were outside of a transit 'station' area

Functional beauty is reduced to scale to the budget allowed. Thus, really cool community improvements aren't as tied to the project.

I loved the different vibrant colors for street painting on one of the examples, but is that allowed/accessible?

Great colors but we need to include things that represent youth like as well.

Keep a good balance between visual impacts and functionality

Ability to color the actual train needed

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What didn't resonate with you?

How can we incorporate safety?

More functional examples. What can we do with light, edible blvds..

different languages incorporated to the station design

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What types of examples would you like to see more of?

What about the Blue Line has you the most excited?

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Wrap Up & Next Steps

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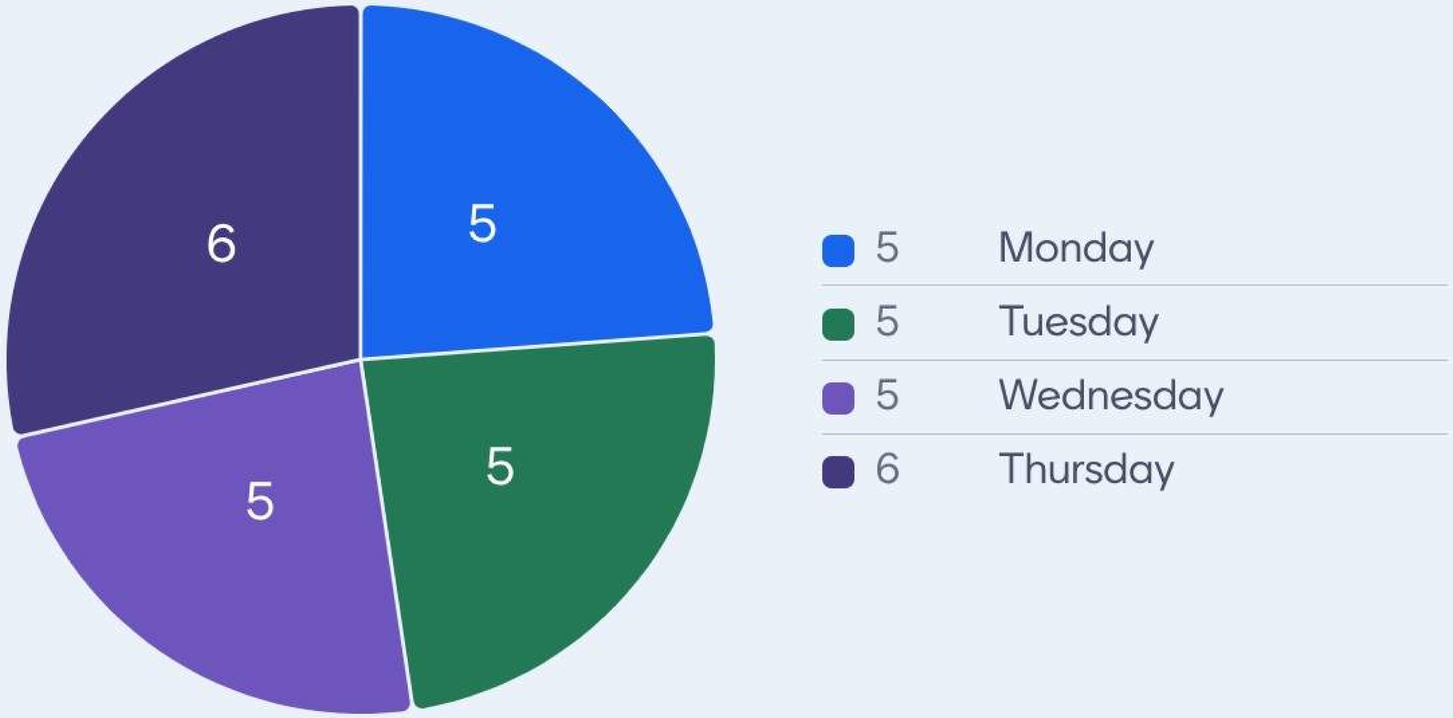
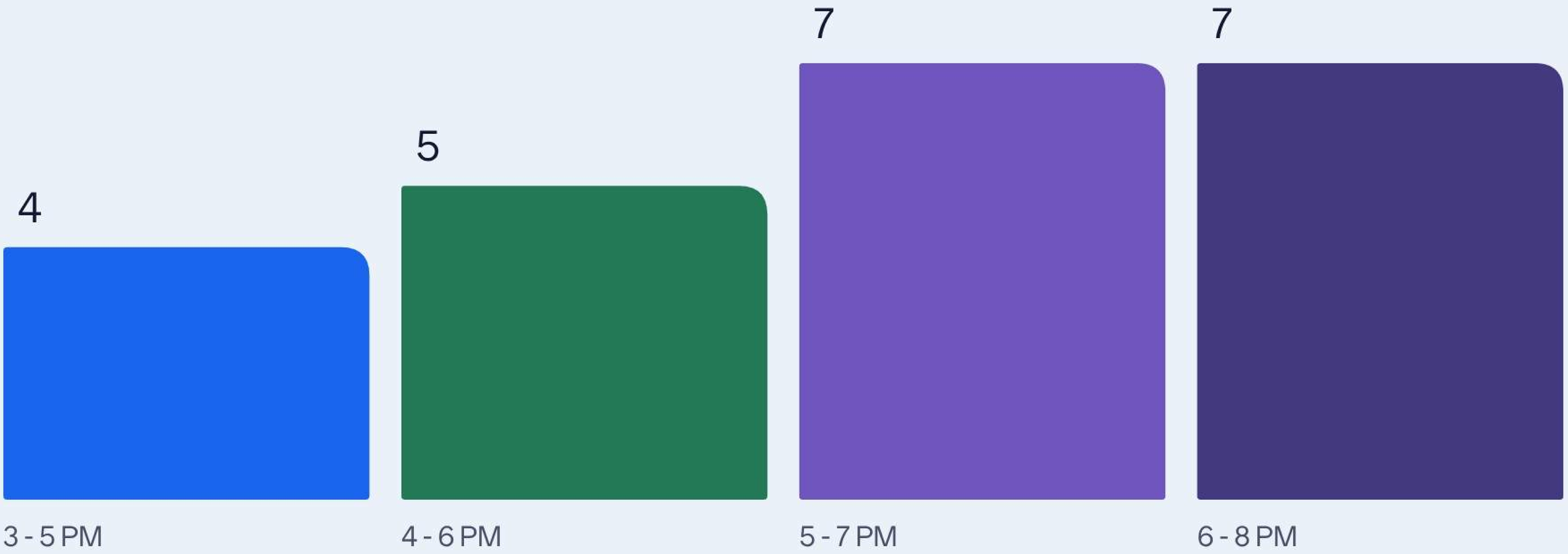
Recap of Today's Key Topics

- BLE Project has completed 60% design
  - Infrastructure is fixed, but your input will influence how the design reflects local culture
- Anti-displacement efforts extend beyond the cultural placekeeping efforts
- While there are constraints, ALL input will be documented and shared
- We're here to celebrate and reflect *your* culture—let's create something meaningful together

For future meetings, which days of the week work the best for you? (Choose as many as you want)



For future meetings, what times of day would work best for you? (select as many as you like)



Do you have any dietary restrictions? Food recommendations? Anything else you'd like us to consider?

- Salad
- Chipotle
- Meeting at venues along corridor - ie Juxta
- Businesses ON the corridor
- Less sweets, more healthy
- Low sugar
- Business on the corridor
- List ingredients on food so allergens can be checked.

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Do you have any dietary restrictions? Food recommendations? Anything else you'd like us to consider?

HEAL Mpls

Businesses along the corridor

Venue in N Mpls or Robbinsdale to be closer to most attendees

African, Asian, Mexican, and other cusines. As well as any food from local businesses

Culturally Specific

Plant based options besides salad

Sammy's Sandwiches

Salads

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Do you have any dietary restrictions? Food recommendations? Anything else you'd like us to consider?

Highly nutritious and delicious

Food from businesses on the corridor

Sammy's Avenue Eatery

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Next Steps

- Intro to Social Pinpoint – coming soon
  - Share a story or image to share with your small group
  - Contribute to interactive map
  - Review project documents
  - Get familiar with Social Pinpoint platform
- Look out for an email for the June meeting!

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