



Blue Line Extension Anti-Displacement

Cathy Gold, Public Works Transit and Mobility Department

Blue Line LRT Extension

- Located in Hennepin County directly connecting downtown Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park and communities in the northwest metro
- Supplemental Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process underway for modified route adopted in June 2022
- Public engagement ongoing, including an Anti-Displacement Workgroup
- Policy recommendation in Summer 2023 for preferred route where Supplemental EIS includes more than one option



Community context

Historical redlining and Racial Covenants

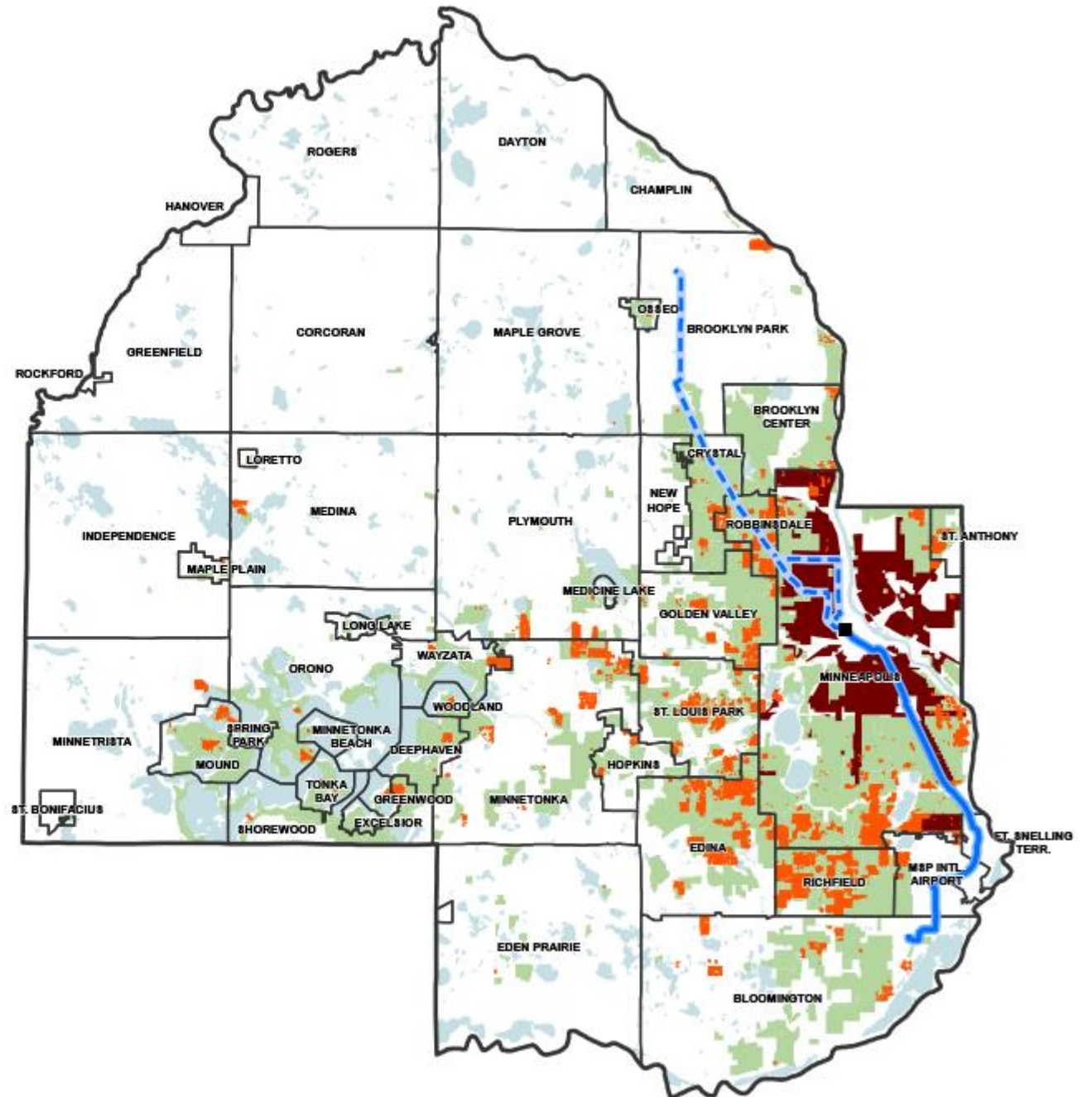
Map Legend

Light Rail Transit

- Target Field Station
- Blue Line (Existing)
- - - Blue Line Extension (Proposed)

- Parcels with Historical Racial Covenants
- Historic HOLC Neighborhood Appraisal - Red Line Areas*
- Residential Land Use - 1959
- Water Bodies

*Classified by Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) as "Definitely Declining" or "Hazardous"



Working with community to prevent displacement

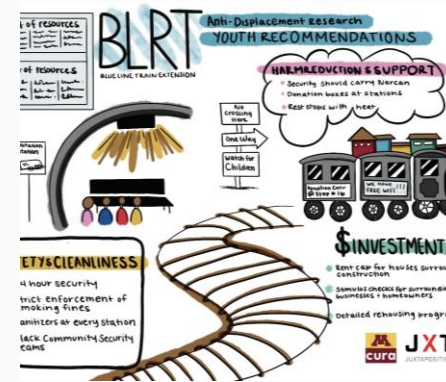
Project Design

- Contracted with CURA to convene anti-displacement work group, lead research
- Engage community on anti-displacement
- Convene public, private, community partners to recommend strategies



Vision

Prevent displacement and maximize community benefits of light rail by centering community voices in establishing strong anti-displacement strategies for implementation.



Racial equity framework



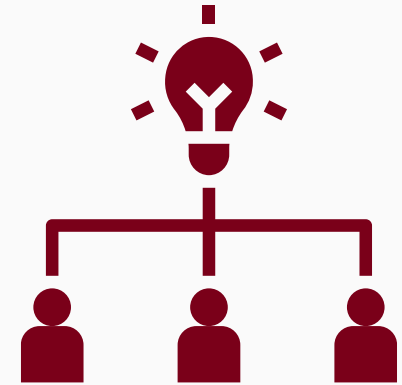
ADWG process overview



Convened a 27 member Anti-Displacement Work Group



Centered on 5 large format Saturday meetings



Convened Internal Work Groups (IWGs) within each government

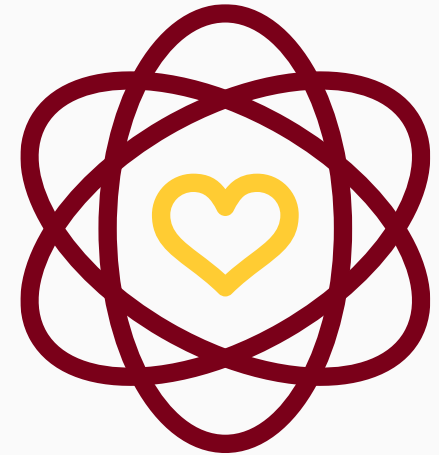
ADWG Report Recommendations



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



17 policies support recommended outcomes



ADWG identified underlying principles for all recommendations

Moving forward, taking action



What it will take



Transparency, accountability,
and shared decision-making



Coordination, collaboration and
commitment across business
lines



Investment and partnership
from public and private sectors,
philanthropy, community etc.

Communications overview



Timeline: June-September 2023

- Accessible summary materials in multiple formats
- Shareable toolkits to support partner, community promotion
- Paid advertising campaign highlighting community voices (digital, print, radio, video)
- Earned media push with focus on local and cultural media outlets
- Organic promotion via project and partner social media, newsletters, websites, etc.

Read the recommendations

[Yourblueline.org/anti-displacement](https://yourblueline.org/anti-displacement)



Transitioning to implementation, community prosperity

- Communicate and engage on recommendations
- Work with community and partners to develop implementation plan
- Prioritize strategies for before, during, and after construction

Prepare

Survive

Thrive

- Bring implementing partners together for funding and action
- Move from anti-displacement to community prosperity as long-term outcome

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Brooklyn Park Recommended Outcomes

- Keep the rich culture of the corridor in place
- Improve the climate for businesses post-construction, and prioritize development of spaces for small businesses
- Provide opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported
- Support development, preservation, and access of safe and affordable housing and housing choice
- Ensure youth feel safe on and around the light rail and feel excited and proud to remain in their communities

Crystal/Robbinsdale Recommended Outcomes

- Address indirect construction impacts
- Improve the climate for businesses post-construction, and prioritizing development of spaces for small businesses
- Improve infrastructure around the project
- Support development, preservation, and access of safe and affordable housing and housing choice
- Keep the rich culture of the corridor in place
- Ensure there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies

Minneapolis Recommended Outcomes

- Provide opportunities for community to connect to BLRT and development in a joyful way
- Create opportunities for community ownership and being able to measure levels of community ownership
- Empower community to have control over decision-making throughout the corridor
- Provide opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place and feel supported
- Grant reparations to the Harrison neighborhood for the harm caused by the previous iteration of the alignment

Minneapolis Recommended Outcomes

(continued)

- Create and enforce structures of accountability for government agencies along the alignment
- Ensure there are sufficient resources to support policy implementation, organizing efforts, community development and ownership, and other anti-displacement strategies
- Ensure there is access to land, housing and businesses in the corridor throughout all phases of construction
- Ensure that 50% of jobs from the Bottineau Light Rail development are held by North Minneapolis residents
- Ensure that there is a continued role for ADWG members throughout all phases of the project

Policy Recommendations

Mandatory
Relocation
Assistance

Tenant
Opportunity to
Purchase

Limiting Investor
Purchasing/
Corporate
Ownership

Land Disposition
Policy

Right to Return

Rent Stabilization

Commercial and
Residential Land
Trusts

Financial
Resources for
Organizing/The
Right to Organize

Zero to Low
Interest Loans

Small Business
Grants/Small
Business Support

Workforce
Programs

NOAH
Preservation

Inclusionary
Zoning

Universal Basic
Income/
Guaranteed
Basic Income

Right to Counsel

Tenant Screening
Reform

Cultural
Placekeeping/
Placemaking