



November 29, 2018

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PHASE

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Overview of project activities and coordination
3. Public engagement update.
4. Health Impact Assessment update.
5. Environmental analysis update.
6. Draft connecting bus concept plan.
7. Downtown White Bear Lake station update.
8. Schedule review.
9. Public comment.
10. Next meeting.

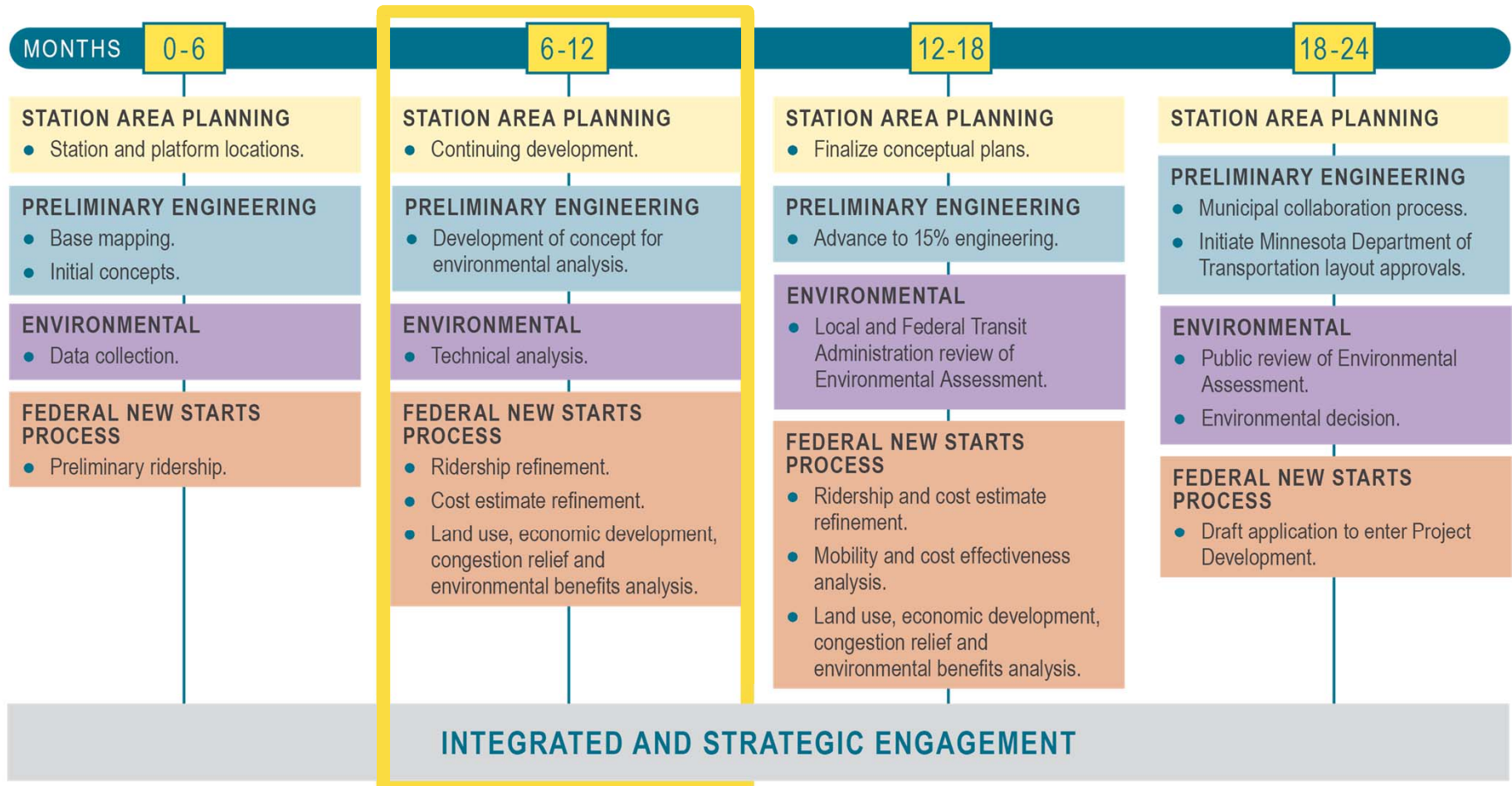
Recap of September Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

- September 27 meeting:
 - Public engagement and Community Advisory Committee update.
 - Project walk through.
 - Public comment.
 - **Action to confirm the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation on the project elements to be studied in the Environmental Assessment.**

Environmental Analysis Phase Schedule

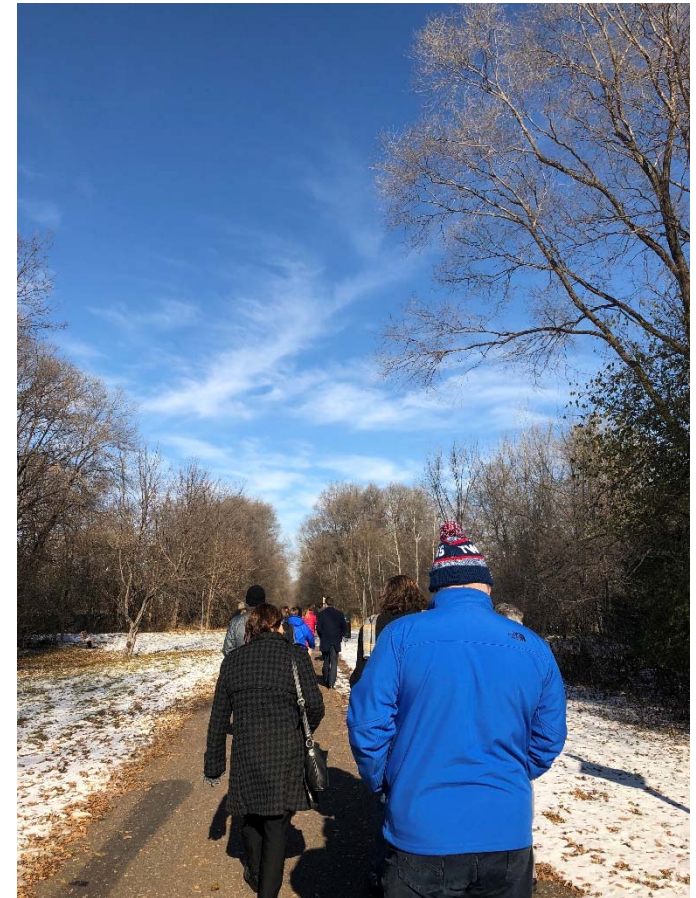


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Project Coordination

- Advisory committee corridor tour on November 14.
- Gold Line coordination.
 - Environmental analysis.
 - Ridership assumptions/inputs.
 - Platform design in downtown Saint Paul.
- Agency coordination.
 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
 - Watershed districts.
 - Saint Paul Planning Commission.



Advisory committee corridor tour, November 14

Recent Public Engagement Activities



White Bear Lake Listening Session, October 11

- October 4: Bruce Vento Trail meeting.
- October 11: Gladstone Phase III open house.
- October 11-12: White Bear Lake listening sessions.
- October 25: Bruce Vento Trail extension meeting.
- October 25: Railroad Island Task Force.

Recent Public Engagement Activities

- November 1: Maplewood Community Business Engagement Breakfast.
- November 1: White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.
- November 7: Pop-up at Century College.



Health Impact Assessment Workshop, October 30

Themes from Public Engagement (September – October)

- Interest in safety for pedestrians and bicyclists accessing stations and on the Bruce Vento Trail.
- Desire for improvements related to pedestrian safety and mobility and other traffic management around Highway 61.
- Concern about station location in downtown White Bear Lake and its potential impacts.
- Some enthusiastic support for improved transit options in the northeast metro.

Ongoing Public Engagement

- Interactive map (WikiMap) available for online input.
 - Received over 200 comments to date.

Rush Line BRT Project About & Help Leave a Comment on the Map Photo Stream

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **ADD** your ideas to the map by clicking on "points" to place icons using the menu bar below.
2. **DESCRIBE** your comment in the text box that pops up.
3. If desired, **SHARE** a photo of your idea or comment by uploading it to the map with your comment.
4. If you would like to **RECEIVE** a response to your comment, please email the Rush Line BRT Project team at info@rushline.org.

LEGEND

- Approximate Station Location
- BRT Route

PROVIDE YOUR INPUT!

- Provide comments on pedestrian safety/access.
- Provide comments on bicyclist safety/access.
- Identify what features you would like to see at stations.
- Neighborhood destinations.
- Identify any other areas of interest.

Upcoming Public Engagement

- Additional public engagement to be planned for White Bear Lake.
- Anticipated public engagement as part of the Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way Master Plan process.
- Multicultural engagement ongoing.
 - Meetings with Hmong Village leadership, Karen and Latino organizations pending in December.
- Saint Paul District Council updates in January.
 - District 2 on January 16.
 - District 5 on January 23.
- Next Community Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for January 17.

Rapid Health Impact Assessment

- Purpose:
 - Better align with the environmental work.
 - Utilize the committee structure.
 - Inform the process.
- Goals:
 - Create a tool to help educate policymakers and community members on the project's ability to achieve social equity, environmental and economic development goals.
 - Build capacity among planners, engineers and public health officials in achieving positive health outcomes throughout the corridor.

Health Impact Assessment Workshop

- Participants included project advisory committee members and public health professionals.
- Reviewed and discussed:
 - Data and demographics along the corridor.
 - How characteristics differ geographically – both between different segments and within areas in close proximity to each segment.
 - Differences that could influence health.
 - Health equity and existing inequities in Minnesota health outcomes.
 - Ways the project could support improved health.



Health Impact Assessment workshop, October 30

Health Impact Assessment Workshop

- Selected three topic areas for assessment:
 - **Connectivity.**
 - A broad topic area and may include physical connections in the transportation network, social connections, neighborhood cohesion and the like.
 - **Access/accessibility.**
 - Includes the ability to reach desired goods or destinations, including health care, parks/open space and jobs.
 - **Employment/jobs.**
 - Unemployment as a barrier to improved health.
 - Areas where jobs are available and labor is needed.
 - Potential opportunities to evaluate jobs, skills and language needs and match with potential workers.
 - Potential to maximize transit benefits to improve access for low English proficiency households.

Health Impact Assessment Next Steps


- Provide summary of meeting to advisory committee members/participants of workshop.
- Prepare preliminary report and recommendations based on peer reviewed evidence, literature review, expert insight and best practices.
- Finalize report.
- Recommendations to be shared with advisory committees and partner agencies to inform near- and long-term decision making (December/January).


Project Purpose and Need


- **Purpose:**


- Provide transit service that satisfies the long-term regional mobility needs for businesses and the traveling public and supports sustainable development within the study area.

- **Needs:**

 Planning for sustainable growth and development.

 Expanding sustainable travel options.

 Serving the needs of people who rely on transit.

 Meeting increasing demand for reliable, high-frequency transit.

Data Supporting Project Needs

Planning for sustainable growth and development.

- Forecast population and employment growth.
- Commute patterns.
- Local and regional objectives for growth and development.

Serving the needs of people who rely on transit.

- Age distribution.
- Income.
- Vehicle availability.

Expanding sustainable travel options.

- State and regional transportation policies.

Meeting increasing demand for reliable, high-frequency transit.

- Metro Transit ridership trends.
- Factors that increase travel time reliability.

Purpose and Need Review Process

- Reviewed by Technical Advisory Committee.
- Submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for review on November 20.

Field Activities

- Recent:
 - Traffic counts.
 - Wetland field review.
 - Archaeology Phase I work in Ramsey County rail right-of-way.
- Upcoming:
 - Continued archaeology investigations in Ramsey County rail right-of-way.
 - Continued work on Phase I architectural inventory.

Draft Connecting Bus Network Process

- Supports the effectiveness of the transitway investment.
- Start with draft 2040 connecting bus network.
- Then develop draft cost neutral (same number of service hours as currently operated in the project area) and opening day (limited growth) connecting bus network.
- Bus network is refined by Metro Transit approximately two years before a transitway's opening day through a separate process that includes public engagement.

Draft Connecting Bus Network Considerations

- Existing transit service in the project area.
- Metro Transit's 2017 Service Improvement Plan.
- Other transit-supportive factors.
 - Transit market areas.
 - Population density.
 - Population over age 65.
 - Job density.
 - Jobs paying less than \$40,000 annually.
 - Communities with low-incomes (population below 185 percent of poverty line).
 - People with disabilities.
 - People without regular access to a vehicle.



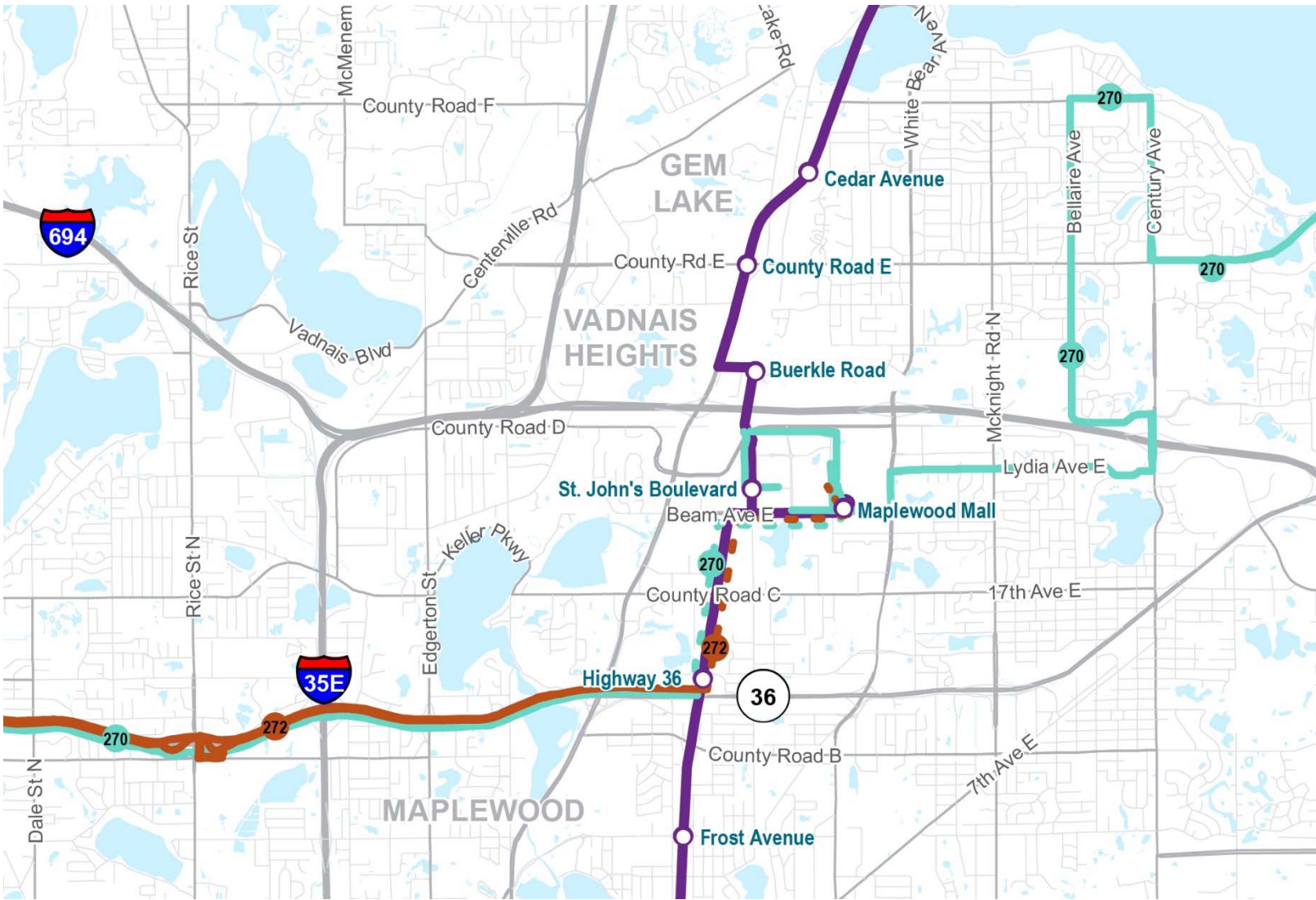
Draft 2040 Connecting Bus Concept Plan

- Metro Transit's 2017 Service Improvement Plan.
- Coordination with the draft 2040 METRO Gold Line bus network.
- Routes 270 and 272 could utilize the guideway if the Highway 61 & County Road C Park & Ride is relocated to Highway 36.

Draft 2040 Connecting Bus Concept Plan: Routes 270 and 272



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Draft 2040 Connecting Bus Concept Plan

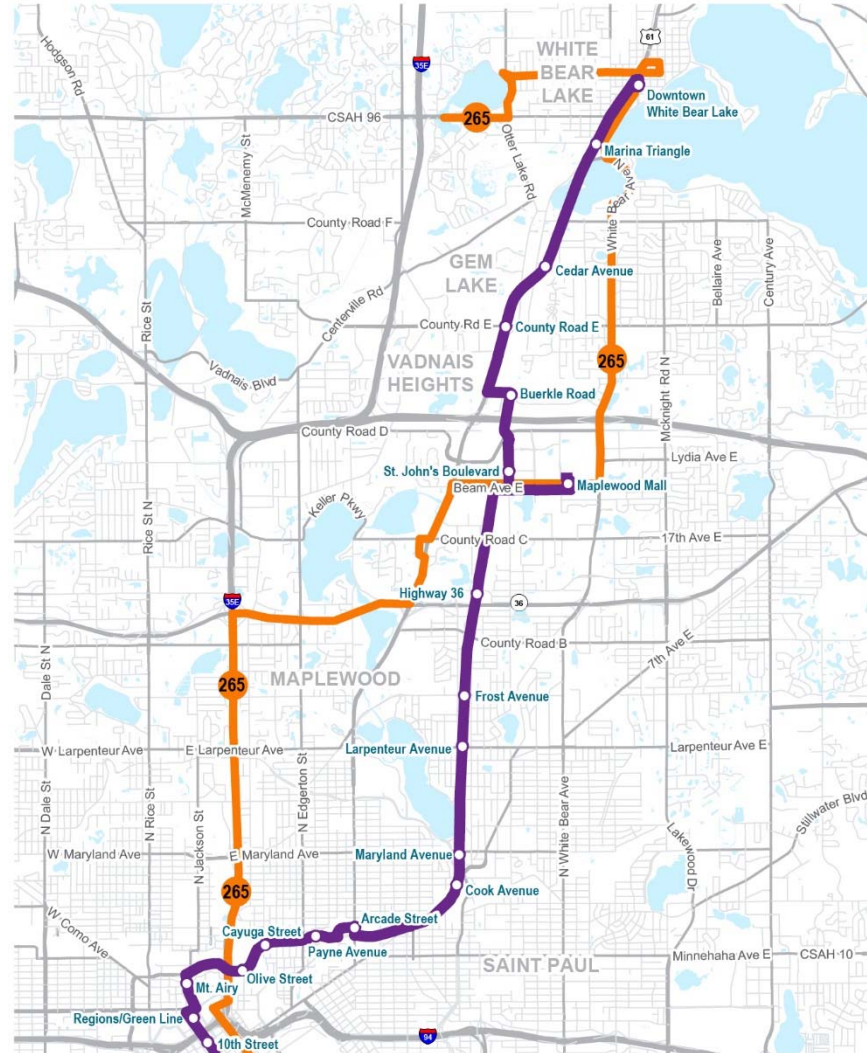
- Metro Transit's 2017 Service Improvement Plan.
- Coordination with the draft 2040 METRO Gold Line bus network.
- Routes 270 and 272 could utilize the guideway if the Highway 61 & County Road C Park & Ride is relocated to Highway 36.
- Exploration of refinements to Route 265.
- Potential new routes:
 - Route 224: County Road E and Century College.
 - Route 226: Existing local tail of Route 265.
 - Route 276: Express connection from White Bear Lake to Forest Lake via Hugo.
- Ongoing coordination with Metro Transit.

Existing Route 265

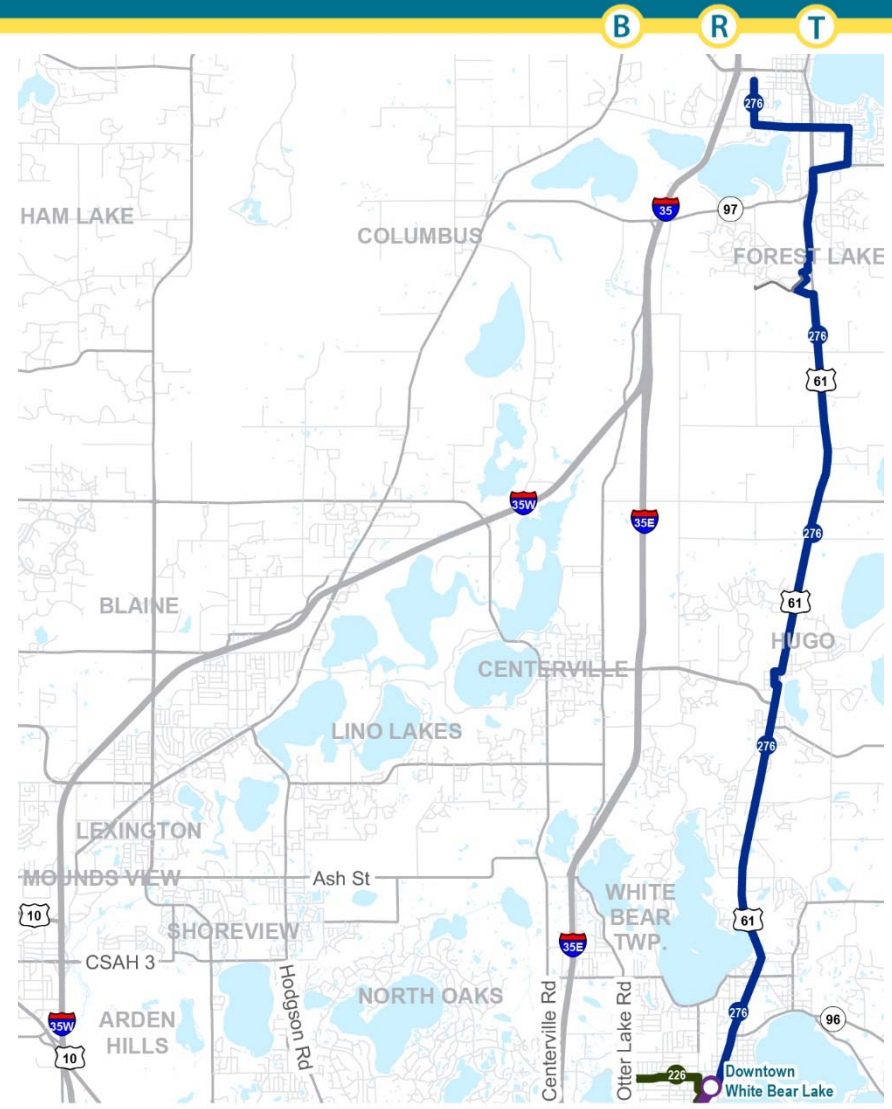
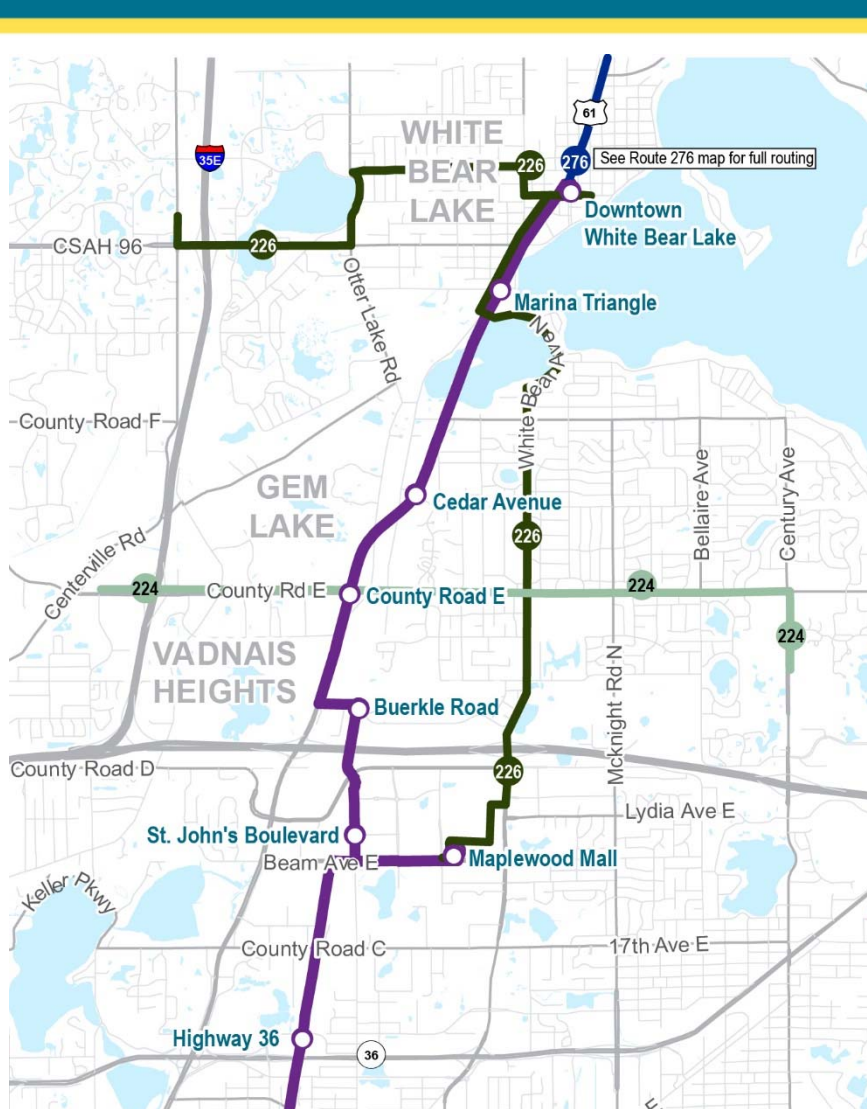


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- Ongoing coordination with Metro Transit.



Draft 2040 Connecting Bus Concept Plan: New Routes



- Ongoing coordination with Metro Transit.

White Bear Lake Station Area Planning Process – April through August

- Station area planning working group.
 - Formed by city leadership.
 - Comprised of residents, business owners, elected officials, planning commissioners and city staff.
 - Three meetings between April and August 2018.
 - Evaluated numerous potential downtown station sites.
- One-on-one meetings with over 20 stakeholders.
 - Business owners.
 - Residents.
 - Commercial property owners.
 - City leadership.
- Recommended advancing Clark Avenue station.



White Bear Lake Station Area Planning
Working Group, June 27

Station Location and Joint Parking Options



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Potential Sites:
6 identified within a 5 minute walk from the downtown core.



Station Location and Joint Parking Options



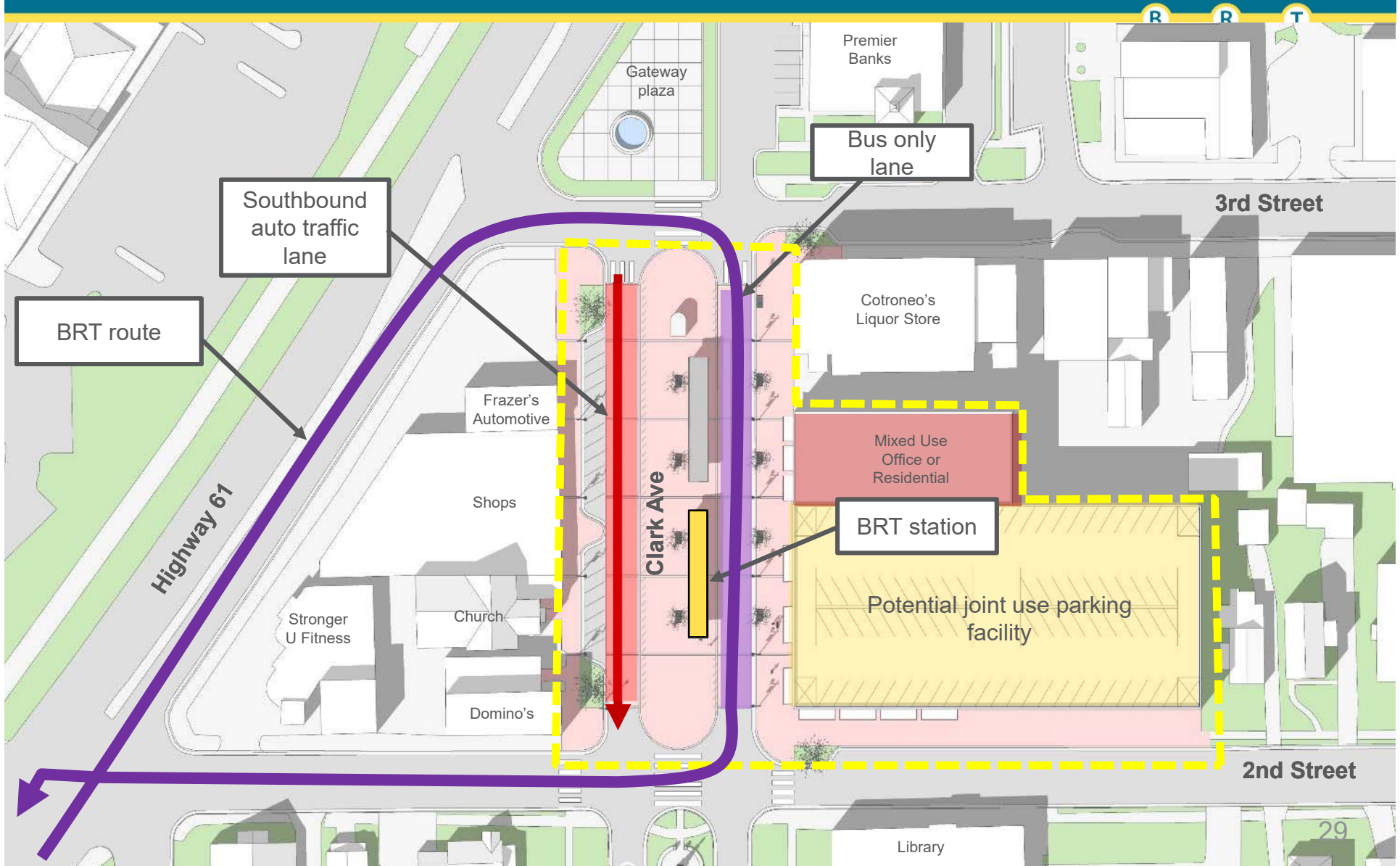
Northern Option Site:
Long Avenue

Downtown Option #3
4th Street and Bloom
Avenue

Downtown Option #2
Banning Avenue

Downtown Option #1
Clark Avenue

Potential Clark Avenue Station Platform



White Bear Lake Meetings

- Listening sessions October 11-12.
 - Strong interest in compatibility with historic downtown character.
 - Comments about potential joint use parking facility and potential traffic impacts.
 - Questions about proximity to residential neighborhoods.
 - Many general questions about bus rapid transit service: frequency, safety, vehicles, ridership.
 - Questions about timeline, planning and decision-making.
- White Bear Lake City Council meeting on October 23.
 - Received direction to look at additional options.
- One-on-one interviews with local stakeholders November 9 and 16.



White Bear Lake Listening Session, October 11

Downtown White Bear Lake Station Activities



Activity	Timeframe
Held two listening sessions and attended City Council meetings to understand local concerns and identify potential station options	October 2018
Conducted one-on-one interviews with community leaders and other local stakeholders	November 2018
Multi-agency team to conduct station evaluation (meeting on bi-weekly basis through end of 2018) and coordination with city of White Bear Lake	November-December 2018
Engagement with business community	December 2018
Broader public engagement in Downtown White Bear Lake	Early January 2019
Pursue recommendation on preferred station location from White Bear Lake City Council and Technical and Policy Advisory Committees. Intention is to carry forward one Downtown White Bear Lake station location in Environmental Assessment.	By January 31, 2019

Schedule Review

- Current schedule identifies December 2019 public distribution of Environmental Assessment.
- Project team currently assessing schedule extension to provide appropriate time to identify preferred station location in Downtown White Bear Lake.
- Environmental analysis of all other project activities is advancing.

Public Comment

- When commenting, please:
 - Be respectful.
 - Be brief. Limit comments to three minutes to give others an opportunity to speak.
- Public comments will be included in the Policy Advisory Committee meeting summary.
- The Chair reserves the right to limit an individual's comments if they become redundant, disrespectful or are not relevant to the Rush Line BRT Project.

Next Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

- Thursday, January 31.
- 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Location to be determined.
- Topics:
 - Market assessment.
 - Downtown White Bear Lake station.
 - Walkshed and bikeshed analysis.



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Line*

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Thank you!

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