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December 8, 2020

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING #10

Agenda

1. Virtual meeting procedures.
2. Introductions/icebreaker.
3. Project updates.
4. Visual Quality Manual.
5. Station site design update.
6. Future agenda items.

Virtual Meeting Procedures

- Mute your microphone when not speaking.
- All committee members and staff are panelists. Only panelists are able to speak and share video; attendees are only able to view and listen to the meeting.
- Project staff is not recording this meeting and there will be a meeting summary as usual. However, as with any in-person Community Advisory Committee meeting, members of the public may attend and record this meeting.
- Email avalenti@srfconsulting.com if you are having issues connecting.



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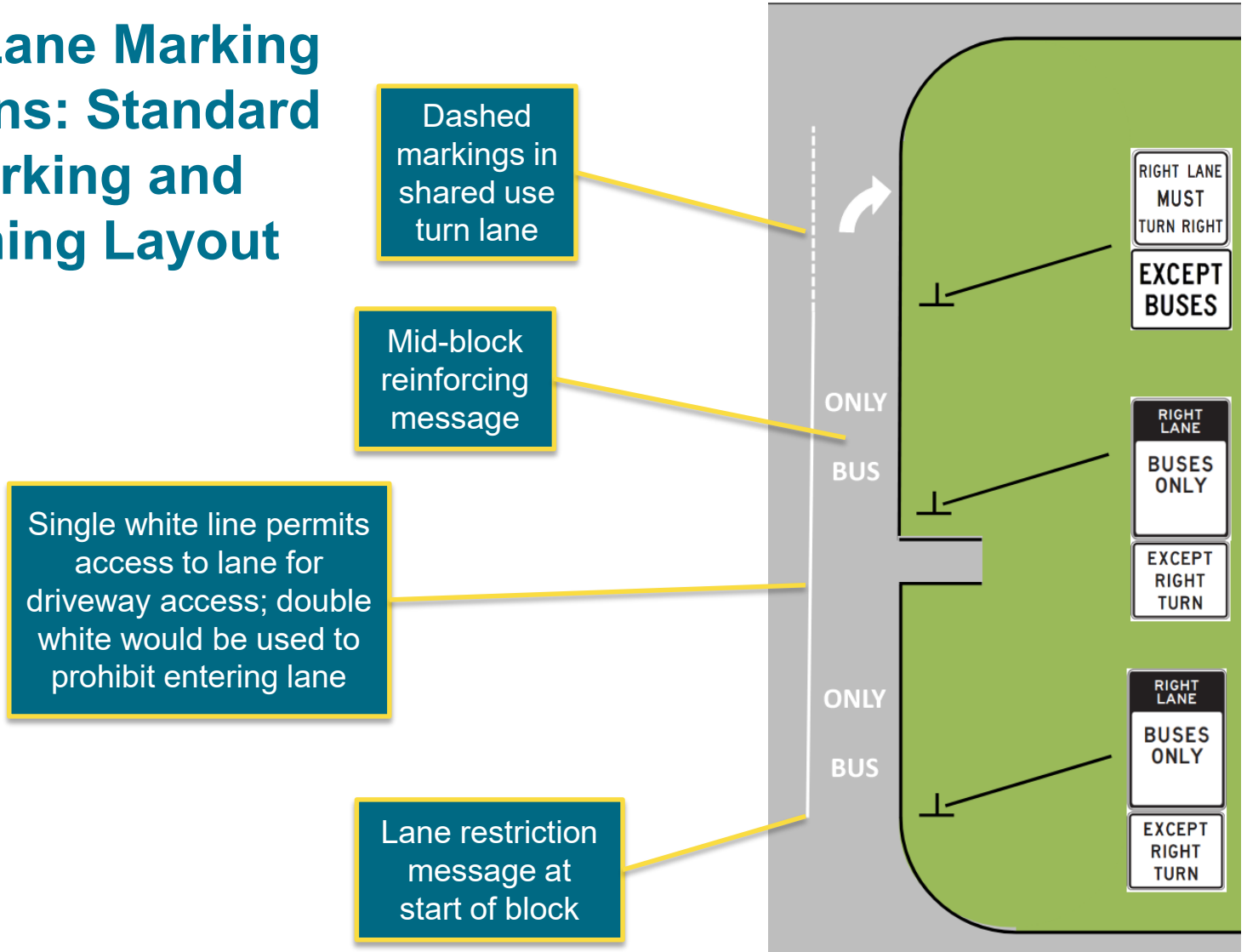
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Project Updates

Coordination Activities

- Saint Paul, Maplewood and Highway 61 Issue Resolution Team meetings.
- Continued coordination with Minnesota Department of Transportation staff for approval of layouts.

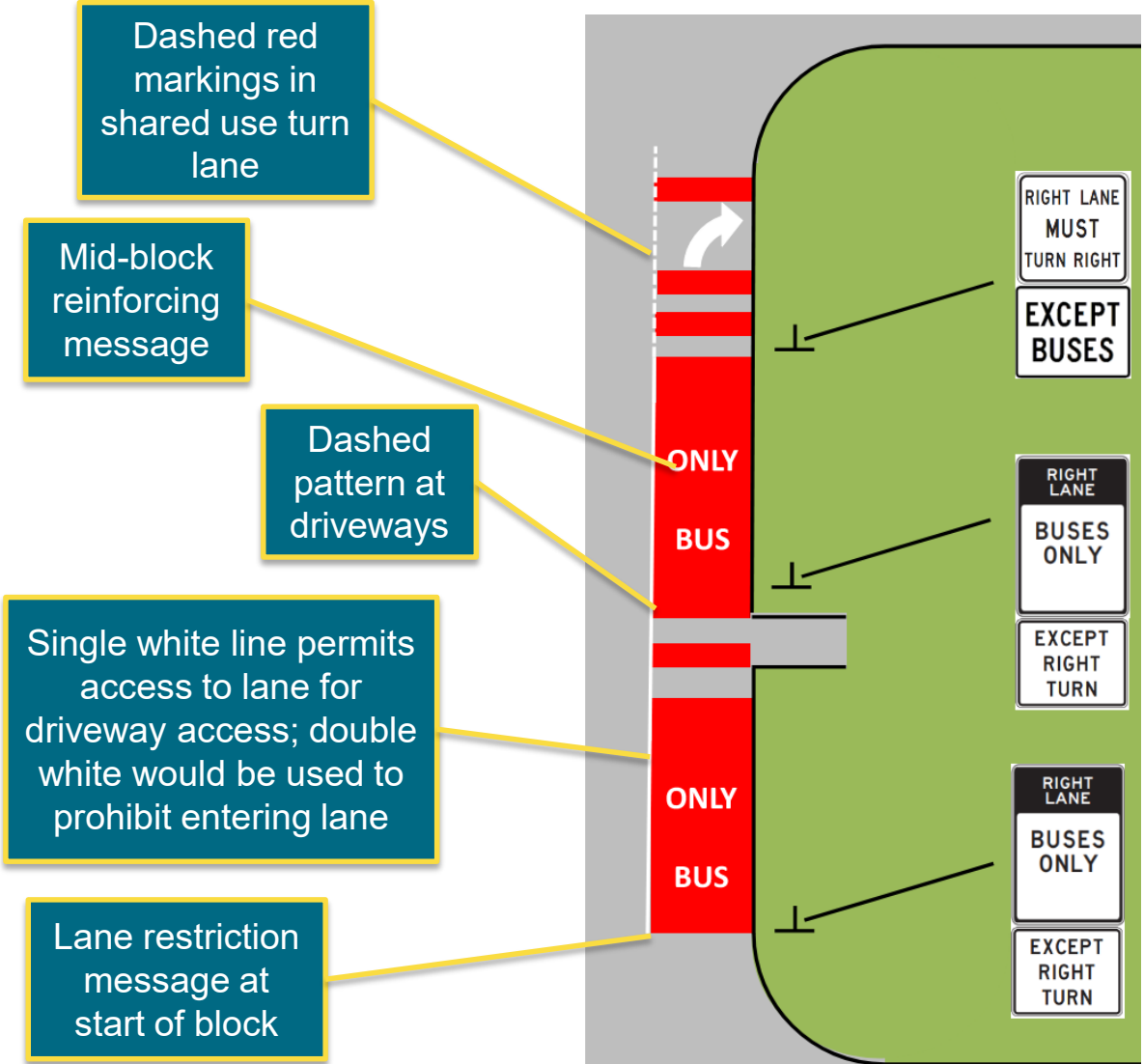
BAT Lane Marking Options: Standard Marking and Signing Layout



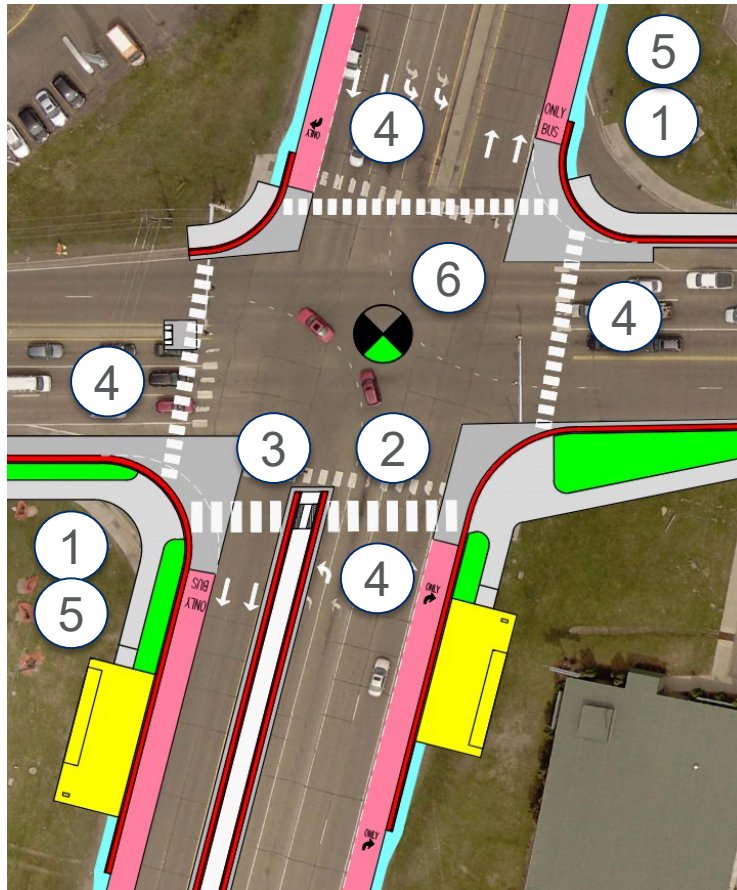
BAT Lane Marking Options: Red Marking and Signing Layout



City of Minneapolis Installation of Red Marking Treatment



Highway 61 Pedestrian Improvements



1. Remove right turn islands.
2. Install wider crosswalk.
3. Create median refuge by narrowing lanes.
4. Shorten crossing distance.
5. Tighten corner radii.
6. Add countdown timers to signals.

Upcoming Engineering Activities

- Design Refinement.
 - Advancing stormwater analysis.
 - Identification of red pavement treatment areas.
 - Refinement of station site design.
 - Advancing design of bridge plans after Minnesota Department of Transportation review.
- Refining capital, operation and maintenance costs and ridership estimates based on 15 percent plans.

Environmental Assessment Update

- Draft Environmental Assessment reviewed by Ramsey County, Metro Transit and Minnesota Department of Transportation.
- Cities reviewed supporting technical information.

Timeframe	Review
June 2020-April 2021	Federal Transit Administration administrative and legal reviews
May 2021	Publish Environmental Assessment and begin 45-day public comment period
June 2021	Environmental Assessment public hearings
October 2021	Anticipated environmental decision

Section 106 Process

- November 24: Consulting Party meeting 2.
 - Review Assessment of Effects report.
- Week of December 14: Consulting Party meeting 3.
 - Preliminary discussion on resolution of adverse effects.
- Current activities:
 - Review Assessment of Effects report by consulting parties, including State Historic Preservation Office.

Advanced Station Area Planning

- Federal Transit Administration awarded Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning in 2020.
- Request for proposals now expected in mid-2021.
- Two-year planning process expected from late 2021 to late 2023.
- Extensive public engagement and coordination with cities.



Advanced Station Area Planning

- Tasks:
 - Public and stakeholder engagement.
 - Real estate and housing gap analysis.
 - Station area concepts and development plans.
 - Implementation plan.
- What is a priority for your community that could be addressed through advanced station area planning?

COVID-19 and Ridership Background

- COVID-19 is changing both ridership demand and capacity for service.
- Pressures on demand:
 - Ridership has dropped, but many still rely on transit.
 - Uncertainty about when or if businesses, schools, other institutions can operate as normal.
- Pressures on capacity:
 - Distancing requirements on vehicles means they hold fewer riders.
 - Keeping operators safe.
 - Budget constraints.

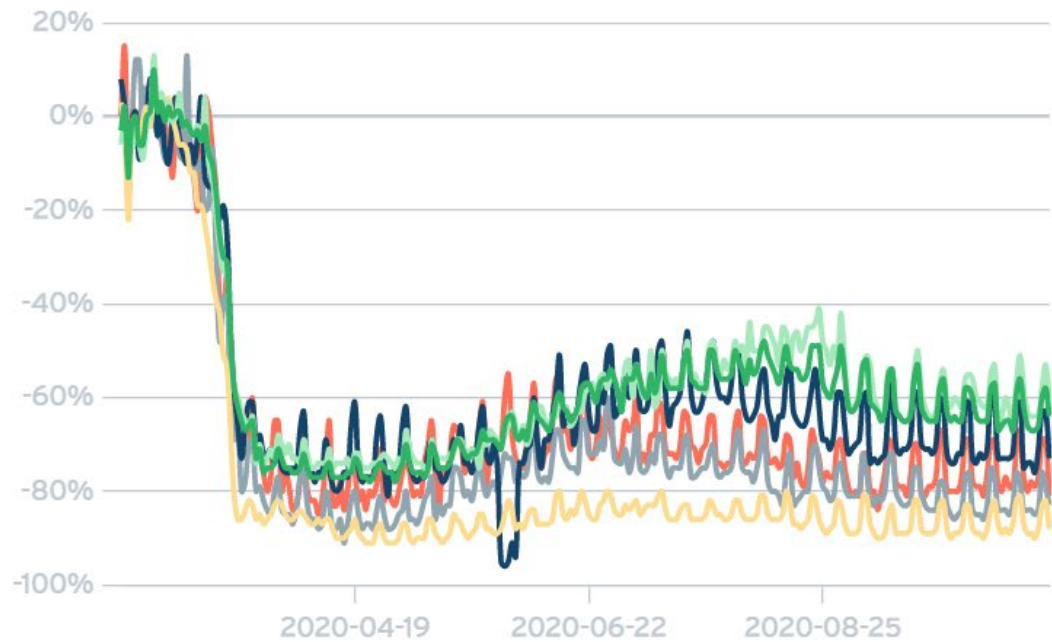
Metro Transit

- Drops in Metro Transit ridership, March-September 2020:
 - 50 percent for local bus service.
 - 75 percent for light rail.
 - 90 percent for express bus.
- Top routes retaining higher levels of ridership:
 - 5, 21, 18, 6, 3, 10, 22, 4, A, 54, C Line.
 - Local bus service is a lifeline for essential workers.
- Change in peak times: one afternoon peak instead of morning and evening commute hours.

National Trends

Compare to...

- All Cities
- New York City x
- San Francisco Bay Area x
- Minneapolis-Saint Paul x
- Denver x
- Austin x



Change in public transit demand
transitapp.com/coronavirus



Ridership decreases in the Twin Cities match national trends.

National Trends

- Ridership has dropped nationally.
- Women, people of color are still riding at higher rates than white men.
- Trends to monitor:
 - Perceptions of safety on transit: will people hesitate to ride transit because of perceived COVID-19 risk?
 - Teleworking and changes in commuting patterns: will there be a lasting increase in teleworking, and how will that affect express routes and peak hours?
 - Availability of government subsidies: what are the implications for transit budgets?



Rush Line Impacts

- 45 percent of forecasted Rush Line trips are non-commuter.
- Rush Line will serve a substantial market of zero-car households, who are more likely to keep using transit.
- Takeaway: Rush Line trips not likely to see as many COVID-19 impacts because of rider demographics and because the pandemic is expected to be over by the time operations begin.



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Visual Quality Manual (VQM)

Purpose and Elements

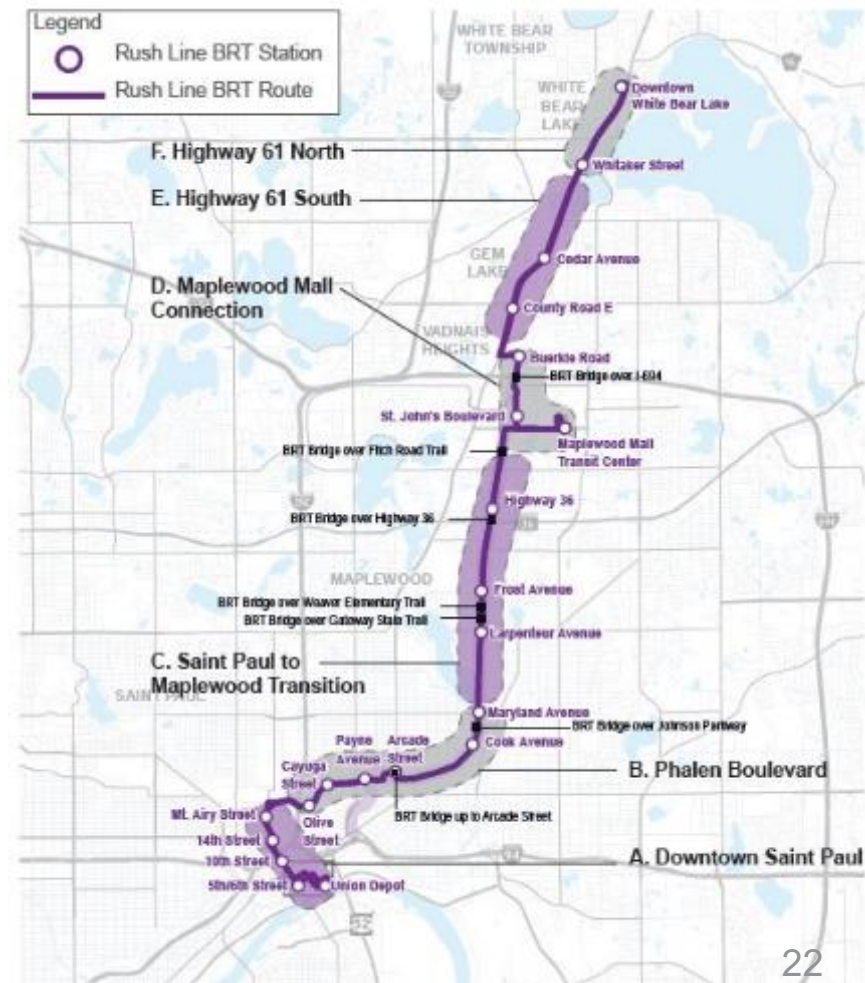
- Guides design of new project elements.
- Find balance between consistent Rush Line BRT identity while recognizing local context and character.
- Guides size, form, texture and color characteristics.
- Project elements included:
 - Station sites.
 - Bridges/walls.
 - Furnishings.
 - Lighting.
 - Landscaping.
 - Signage.
 - Pavements.
 - Fencing.

Limits and Guidance

- Expands the limits of design guidance to the entire project corridor.
- Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way Design Guide focused on rail corridor segment.
- VQM guided by previous engagement, and existing context and improvements.

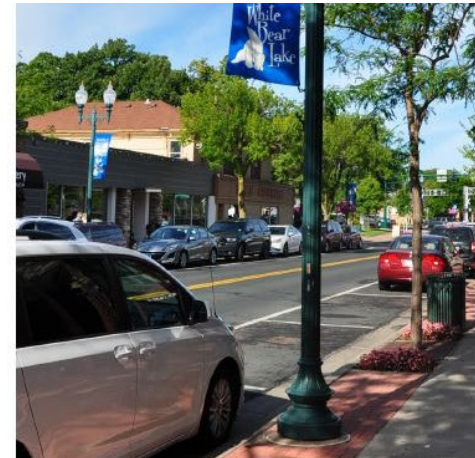
Context and Character Segments

- Considers distinctly and identifiable areas along the project route:
 - Downtown Saint Paul.
 - Phalen Boulevard.
 - Saint Paul To Maplewood Transition.
 - Maplewood Mall Connection
 - Highway 61 South.
 - Highway 61 North.



DRAFT Design Principles

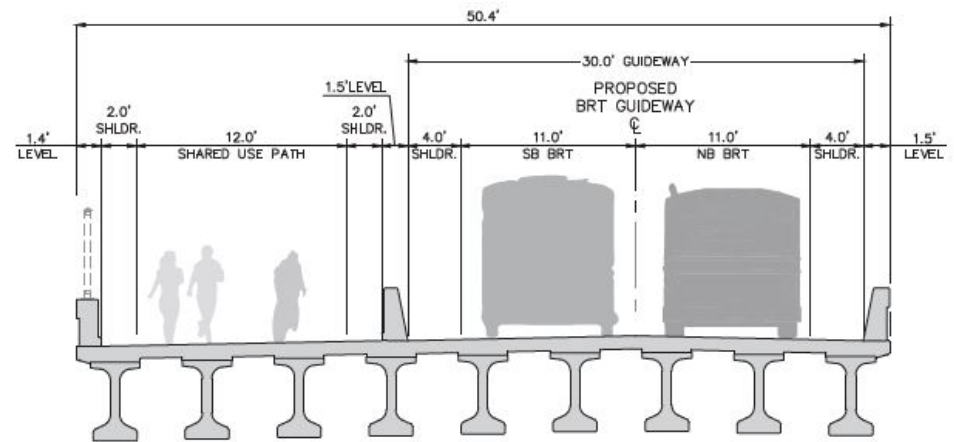
1. Support Rush Line BRT and Metro Transit brand identity.
2. Enhance transit rider experience.
3. Provide opportunities for locally unique aesthetic expression.
4. Highlight existing valued community features.
5. Design corridor edges appropriate to adjacent land uses.



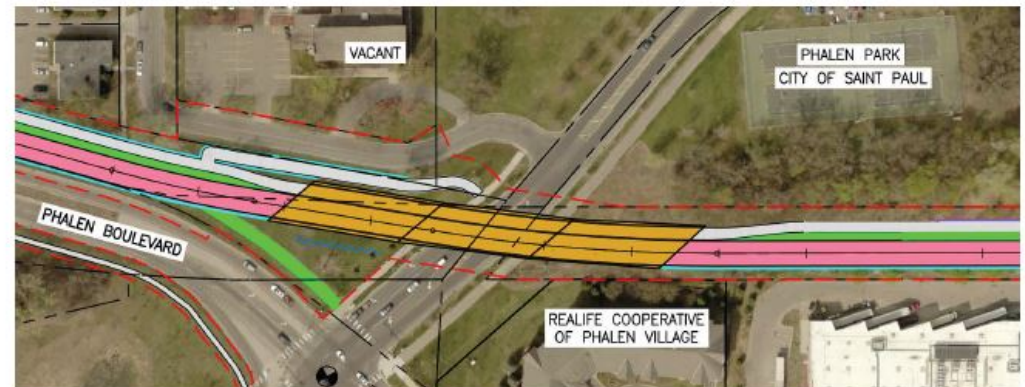
Bridges – Johnson Parkway



EXISTING EARL STREET BRIDGE



BRIDGE SECTION



BRIDGE LOCATION PLAN

BRT GUIDEWAY AND TRAIL BRIDGE
JOHNSON PARKWAY BRIDGE

DRAFT – WORK IN PROCESS

Fencing



EXAMPLE WOOD POST AND CABLE FENCE



EXAMPLE VERTICAL PICKET FENCE



EXAMPLE STATION FENCE WITH CUSTOMIZATIONS



EXAMPLE BLACK VINYL-COATED CHAINLINK FENCE



EXAMPLE VERTICAL PICKET FENCE ON CURB



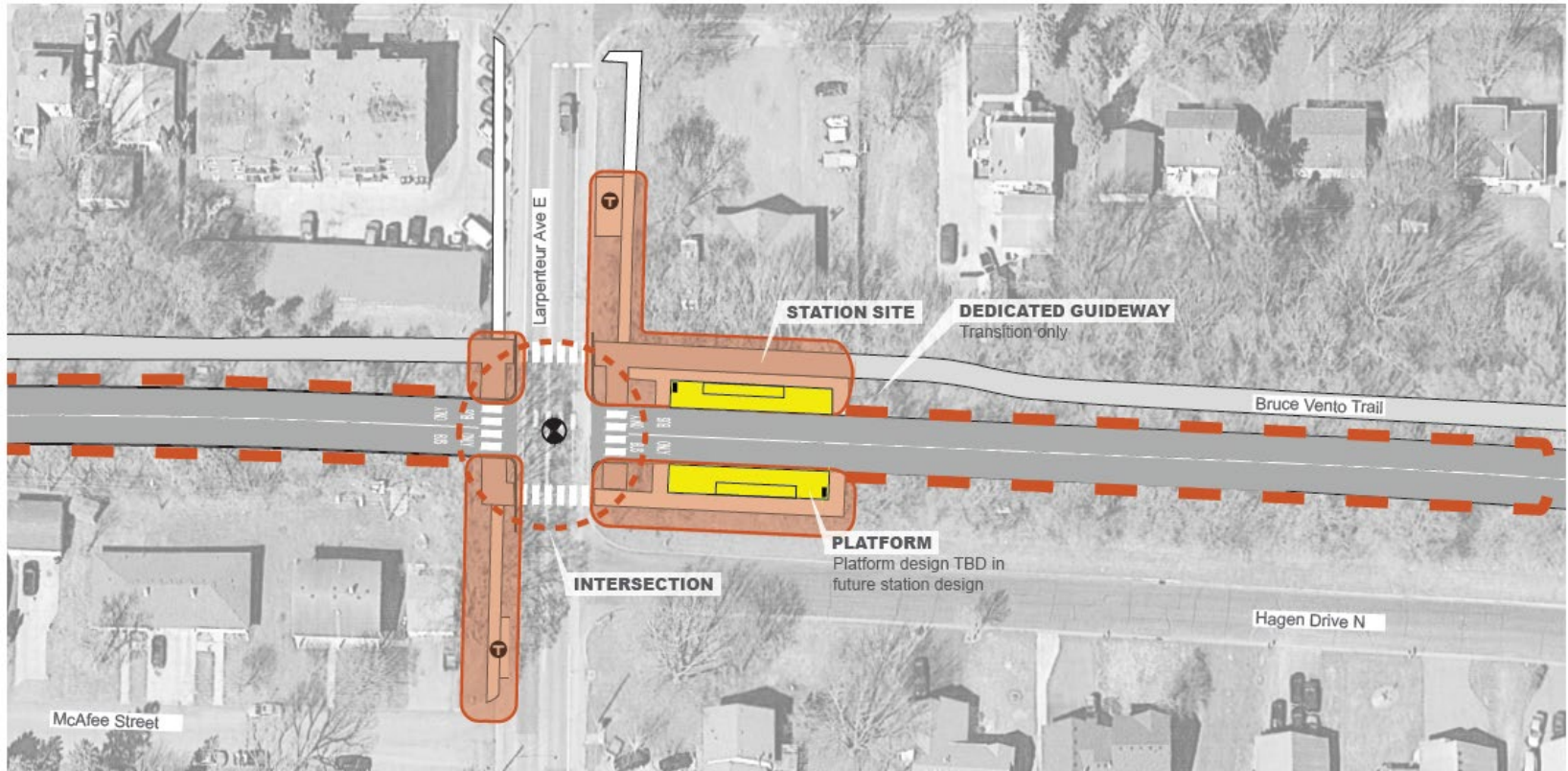
EXAMPLE COMPOSITE VISUAL SCREEN FENCE

RIGHT-OF-WAY

STATION SITE

VISUAL SCREENING

Lighting



PROTOTYPICAL OPPOSITE SIDE STATION: LIGHTING CONCEPT PLAN
 LARPEUR AVENUE STATION



DRAFT – WORK IN PROCESS

- Station Site Lighting
- Platform Lighting
- Roadway/Guideway Lighting
- Signalized Intersection
- Intersection Lighting

Status, Next Steps and Discussion

- Status.
 - Draft form and currently in project team review.
 - Additional review and finalize document in early 2021.
- Discussion.
 - Initial thoughts and questions.



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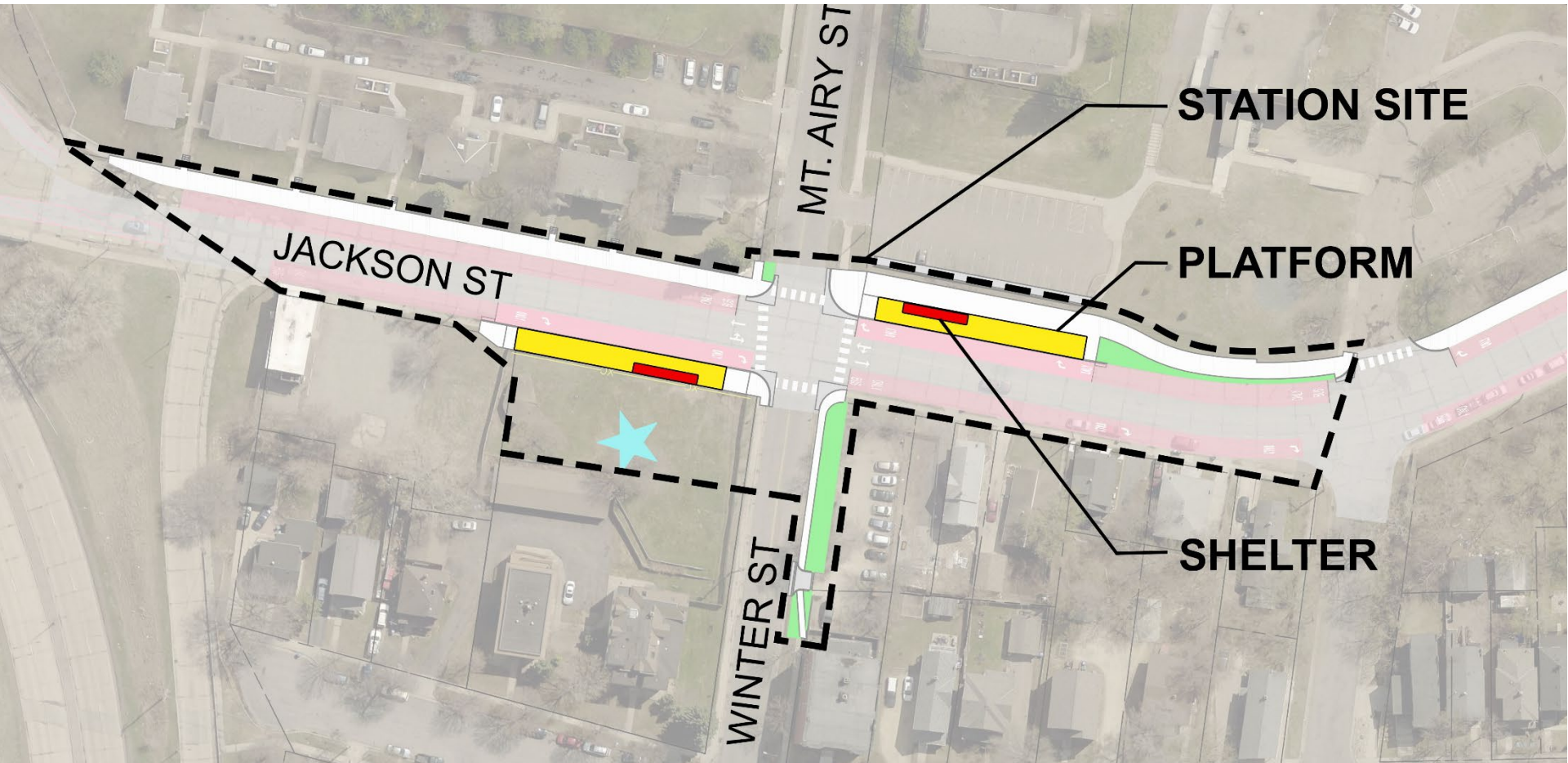
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Station Site Design Update

Station Site Design Topics

- Previous meeting discussions (May 12).
 - Defined station area.
 - Gold Line station design update.
 - Confirmed Community Advisory Committee station design statement.
- Online station design survey summary.
- Review station site design advancements.
 - Approach/activities
 - Additional design guidance.
 - Station site design prototype.
- Discussion.

Defining Station Site

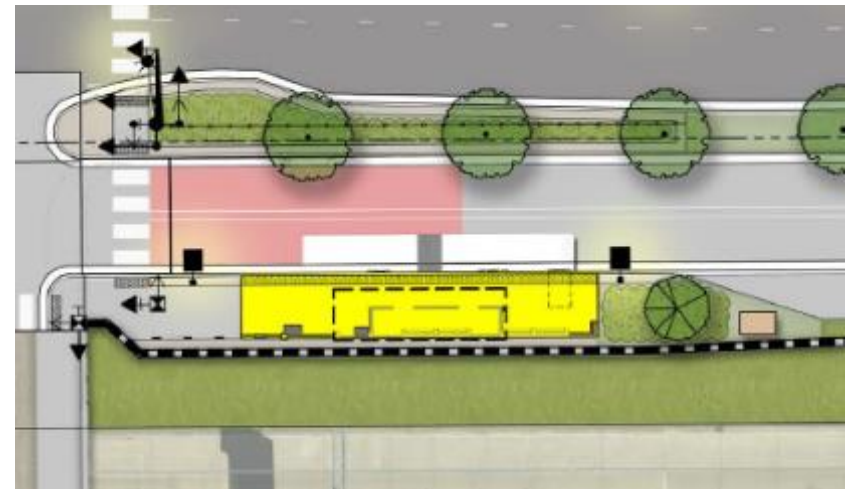


Gold Line BRT - Station Advancement Milestones: 60 Percent and Beyond

- Winter 2020: Shelter concepts.
- Spring 2020: Station site design.
- Summer 2020: 60 percent plans.
- Beyond 60 percent:
 - Shelter material/color.
 - Railings/fences.
 - Platform pavement.
 - Site furnishings.
 - Platform lighting.
 - Landscape.



Shelter design for all stations



60 percent rendered site plans

Draft Community Advisory Committee Statement on Station Design

- *As the design of Rush Line BRT stations advances in future project phases, the Community Advisory Committee supports a station design process that balances these two priorities:*
 - *Community engagement that gives communities along the route the opportunity to influence station design elements so Rush Line stations reflect the communities they serve.*
 - *Sufficient design consistency across Rush Line stations to facilitate efficient transit operations and maintenance and establish a recognizable transit system brand identity along the route.*

Online Station Design Survey

- Available June 24-August 1.
 - Available in English, Spanish, Hmong, Karen and Somali.
 - Promoted via social media, e-newsletters and signs on the Bruce Vento Trail.
 - 471 responses.
- Topics of interest:
 - Safety and security at stations.
 - Landscaping.
 - Bicycle access.
 - Enclosed shelters.
 - Parking.

What additional station amenities or features would improve your experience using Rush Line BRT?
Select up to three features.

<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle drop-off/pick-up zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle share station	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle tune-up station
<input type="checkbox"/> Secure bicycle parking	<input type="checkbox"/> Signs with directions to nearby destinations	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced landscaping
<input type="checkbox"/> Public art		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

Station design survey

Rush Line BRT Features and Amenities



- Top features that would encourage Rush Line use:
 - Safety at stations.
 - Safe pedestrian and bicycle connections to stations.
 - Convenient locations for drop-off and pick-up.
- Other suggestions:
 - More development.
 - Convenience of use (easy access and frequent service).
 - Accessible parking.
- Additional amenities and features:
 - Secure bicycle parking, wayfinding signage, public art and landscaping most desired.
 - Other: park-and-ride and security.

Additional Public Engagement Guidance

- Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way Design Guide.
 - Design guidance for rail right-of-way.
 - Gathered input through targeted public engagement.
 - Most common themes:
 - Maintain existing natural feel.
 - Promote safety and security for all users.
 - Preferred amenities: trash receptacles, drinking fountains, benches and informational kiosks.



Project and Station Design Timeline

- 15 percent plans completed July 2020.
- Station site plans currently under development.
- Design of vertical station elements (shelter, etc.) will begin in the next phase of the project after reaching 30 percent design; anticipated late 2021.
 - Metropolitan Council expected to be lead agency.



Station Design Activities

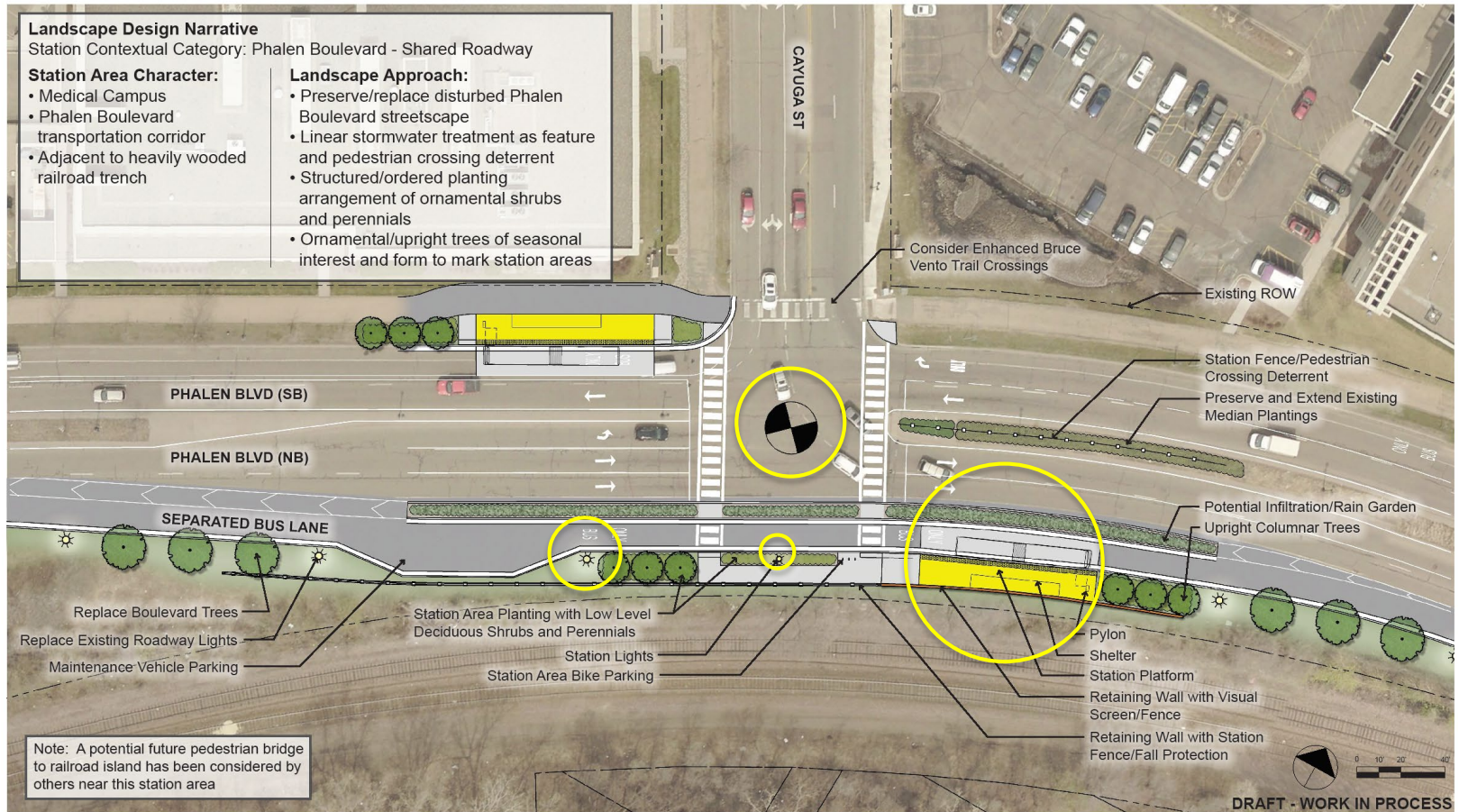
- Evaluate existing conditions of each site.
- Advance station site design for the stations.
- Plans to document stakeholder input and project efforts, and provide to future project design team.



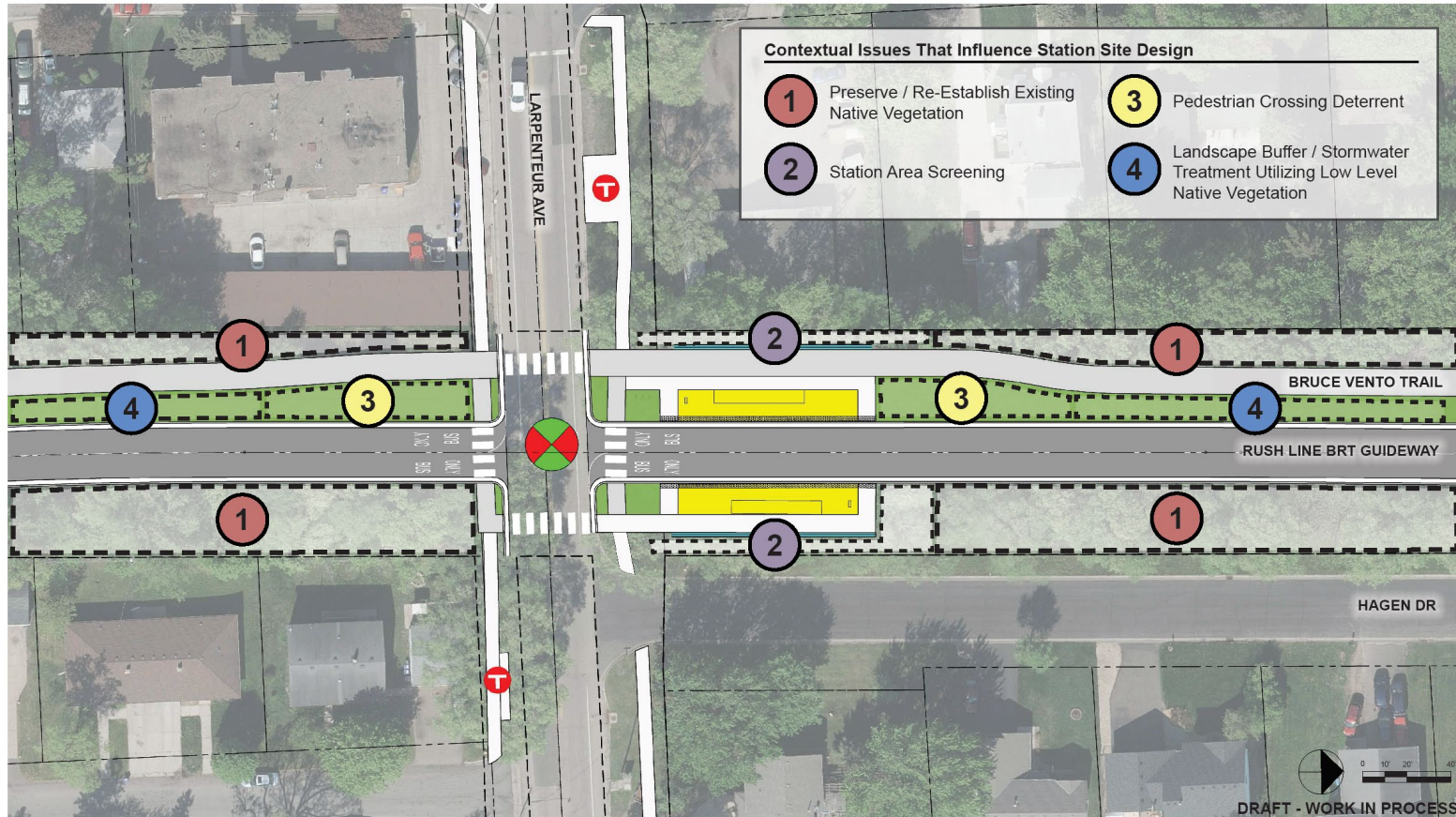
Station Site

- Broader context of station site, and includes:
 - Roadway and guideway.
 - Sidewalks and trails accessing station.
 - Lighting.
 - Landscaping.
 - Retaining walls.
 - Fencing/crossing deterrent.
 - Off-platform furnishings.
 - Stormwater facilities.
 - Additional information specific to context.

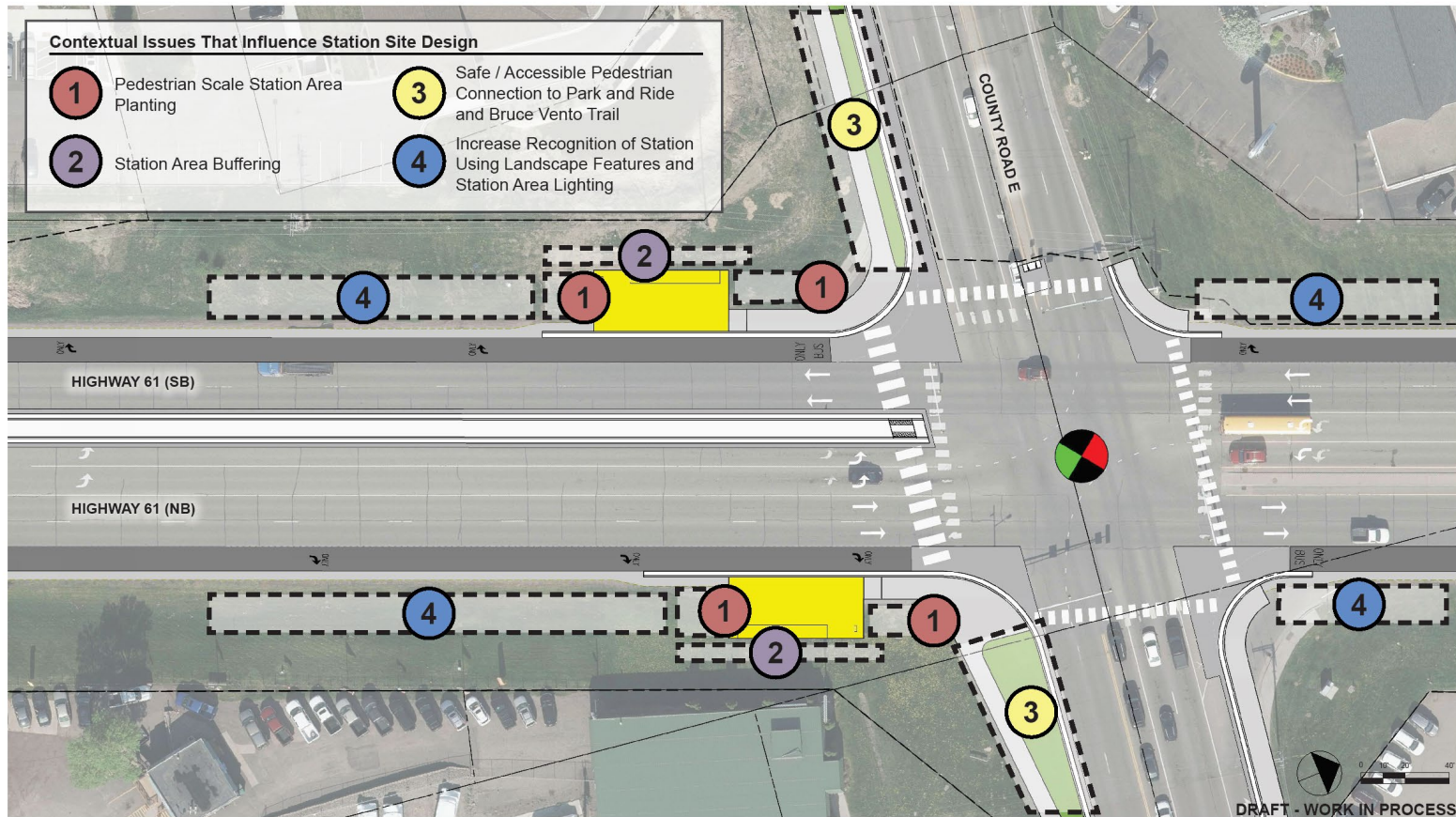
Station Site Prototype – Cayuga Street



Other Station Types – Context and Analysis



Other Station Types – Context and Analysis



Status, Next Steps and Discussion

- Status.
 - Draft form and currently in project team review.
 - Finalize plans in early 2021.
- Discussion
 - Initial thoughts and questions.
 - Any additional information to include at this level?

Next Meeting

- Future agenda items.
- A Doodle poll will be distributed for the next Community Advisory Committee in spring 2021.



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Thank you!

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