

# Corridor Management Committee

September 24, 2026



BROOKLYN PARK | CRYSTAL | ROBBINSDALE | MINNEAPOLIS



# Today's Topics

- Call to Order & Welcome
- Approval of August 6 Special Meeting of the CMC Summary
- Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program Board Update
- FTA Scope Reduction and Budget Update
- Third Party Agreements Status
- Real Estate Update
- Next Meeting



The public can submit written comments to BLE Outreach ([nkongo.cigolo@metrotransit.org](mailto:nkongo.cigolo@metrotransit.org))

# Approval of August 6 Special Meeting of the CMC Summary



The public can submit written comments to BLE Outreach ([nkongo.cigolo@metrotransit.org](mailto:nkongo.cigolo@metrotransit.org))

# Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program Board Update



# ACPP Expenditure Update - 2026

|                                      | Entities                                     | The Mpls Foundation<br>Awarded Match | ACPP Award  |                                                |                         |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                      |                                              |                                      | Total Award | Total Disbursed to Date<br>(Through August 31) | August<br>Disbursements |
| Business stability<br>\$600,000      | African Careers, Education & Resources, Inc. |                                      | \$127,500   | \$733                                          | \$733                   |
|                                      | Black Women's Wealth Alliance                |                                      | \$272,500   |                                                |                         |
|                                      | Northside Economic Opportunity Network       |                                      | \$200,000   |                                                |                         |
| Housing Stability<br>\$600,000       | African Careers, Education & Resources, Inc. |                                      | \$70,000    |                                                |                         |
|                                      | Harrison Neighborhood Association            | \$25,000                             | \$200,000   | \$189,932                                      | \$20,000                |
|                                      | Heritage Park Neighborhood Association       | \$50,000                             | \$50,000    | \$21,723                                       | \$2,416                 |
|                                      | Housing in Action                            |                                      | \$140,000   |                                                |                         |
|                                      | Northside Resident Redevelopment Council     |                                      | \$140,000   | \$83,925                                       |                         |
| Real Estate Development<br>\$800,000 | Amani Construction & Development             |                                      | \$200,000   |                                                |                         |
|                                      | Brown & Dupay Properties                     |                                      | \$75,000    |                                                |                         |
|                                      | Kirk's Cafe                                  |                                      | \$175,000   | \$94,658                                       | \$26,658                |
|                                      | Riverfront Development Partners              |                                      | \$150,000   | \$150,000                                      |                         |
|                                      | The Land Bank Twin Cities                    |                                      | \$200,000   | \$200,000                                      |                         |
| Total                                |                                              | \$75,000                             | \$2,000,000 | \$740,971                                      | \$49,806                |

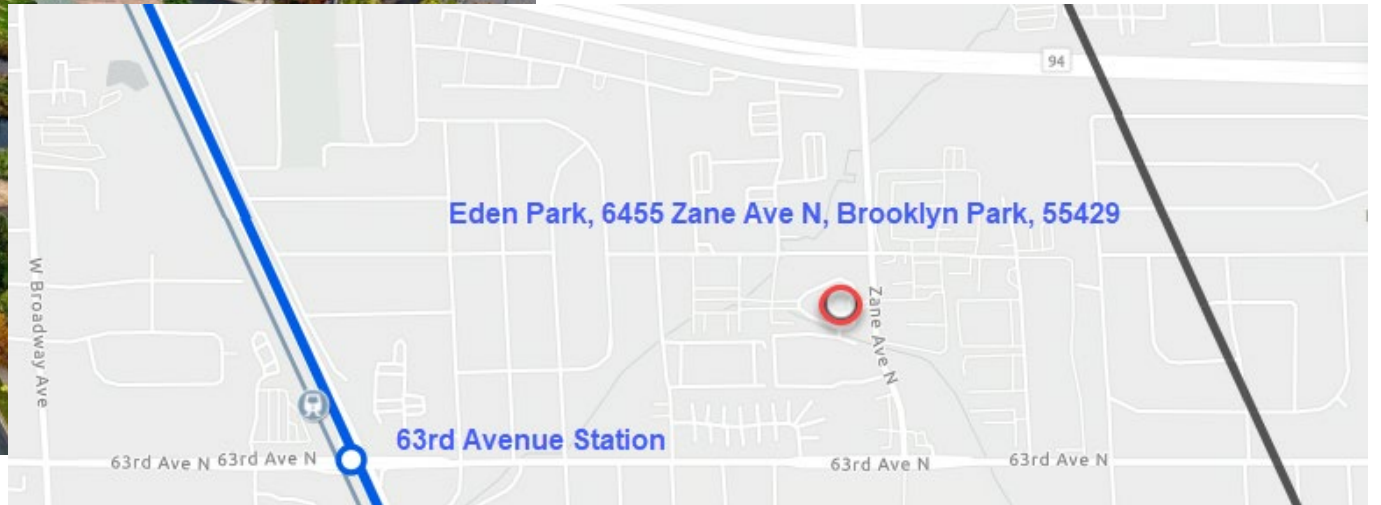
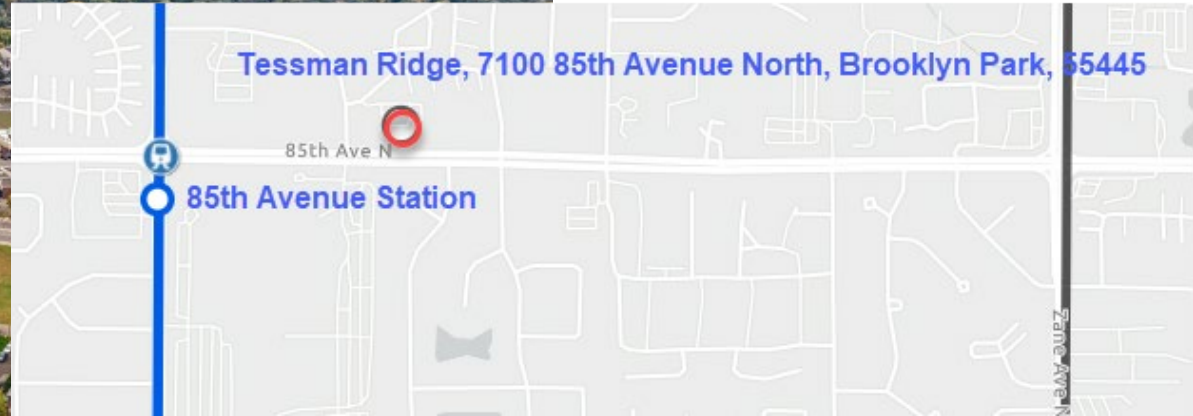
# Implementation Update

September 2026

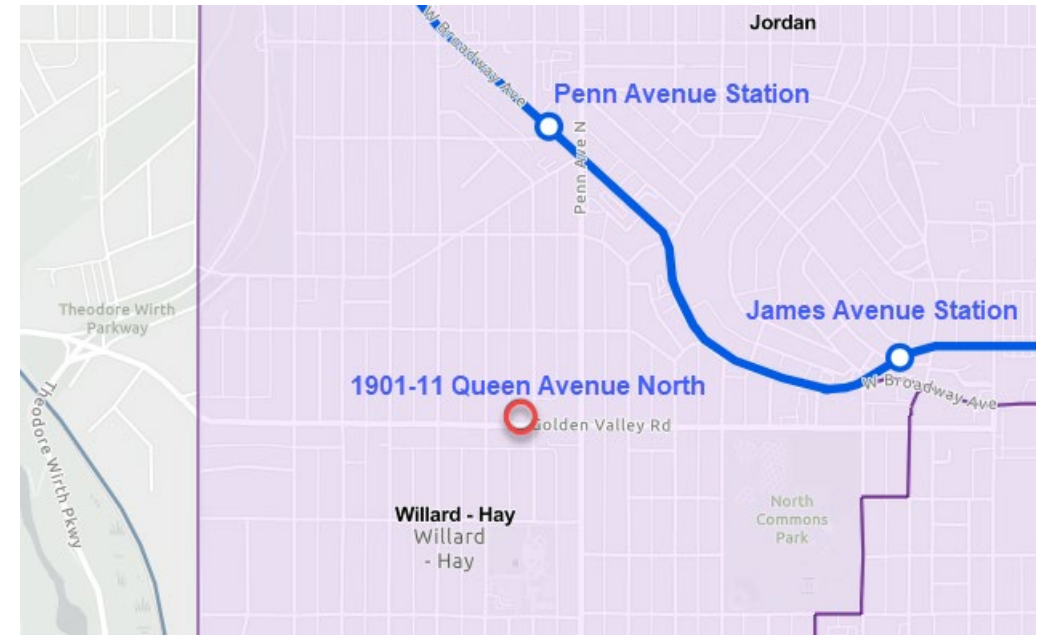
# ACER – business stability

- \$127,500 ACPP
- \$127,000 Hennepin County
- \$255,000 Total

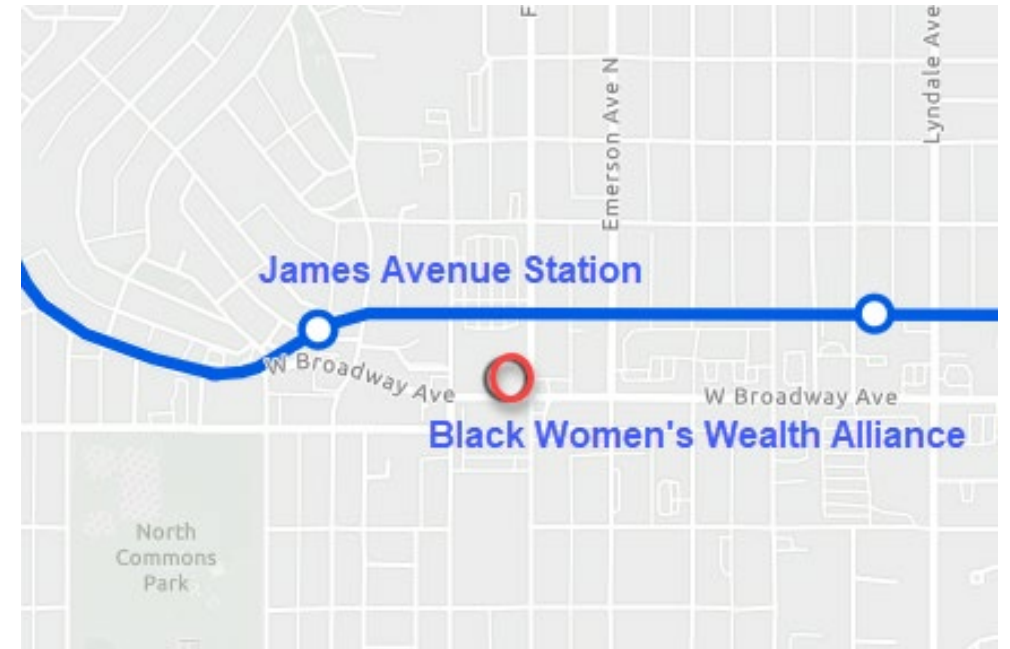
# ACER – housing stability



# Amani Construction & Development



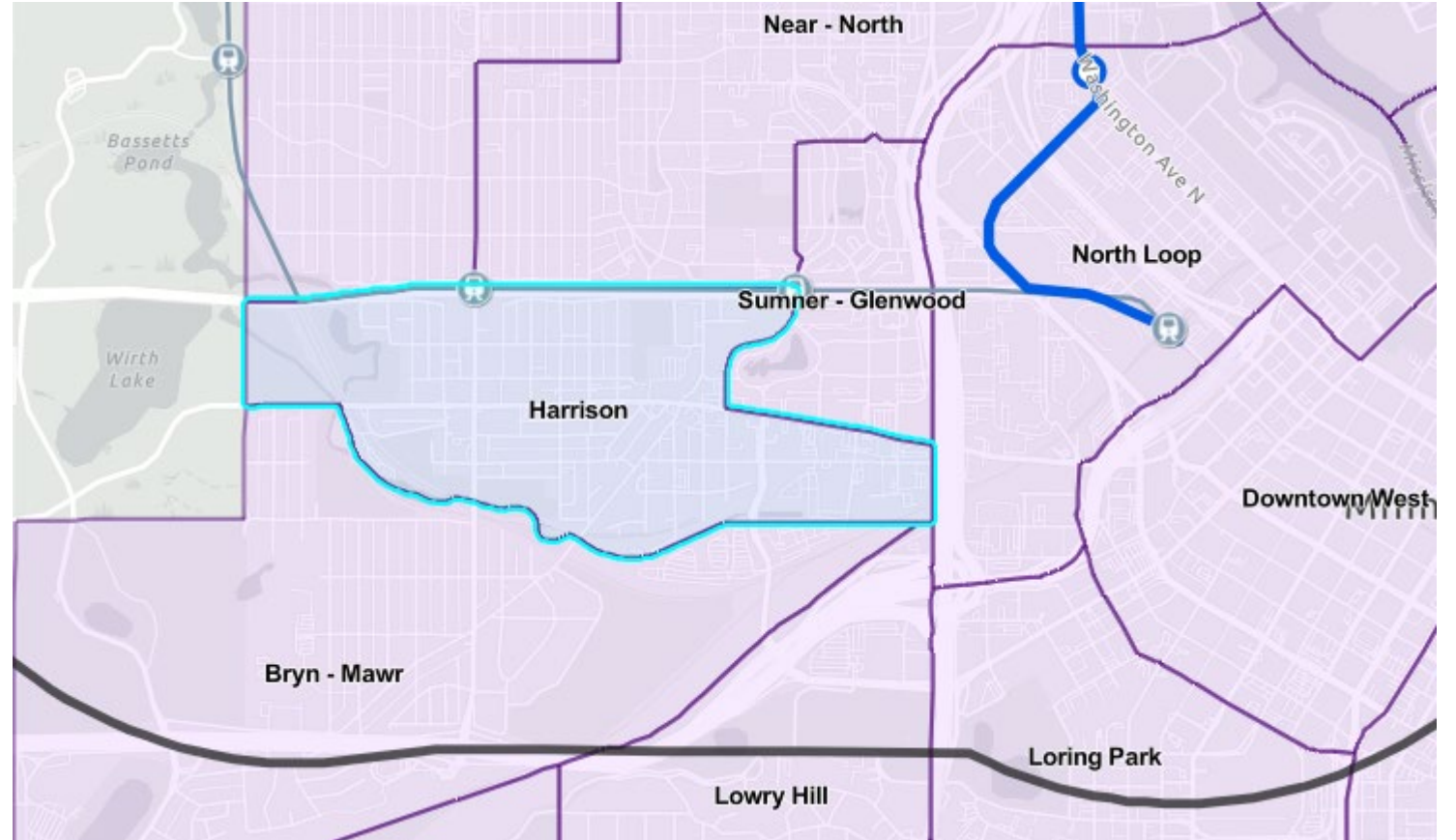
# Black Women's Wealth Alliance



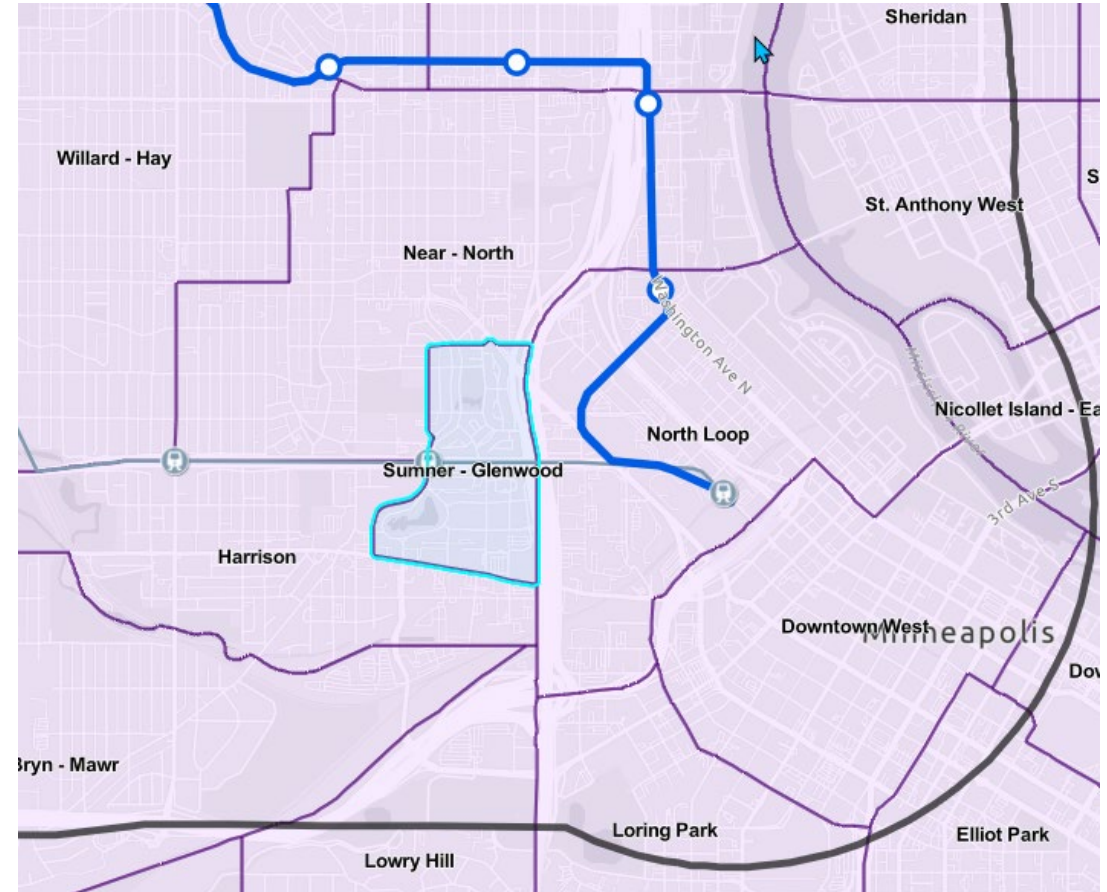
# Brown & Dupay Properties



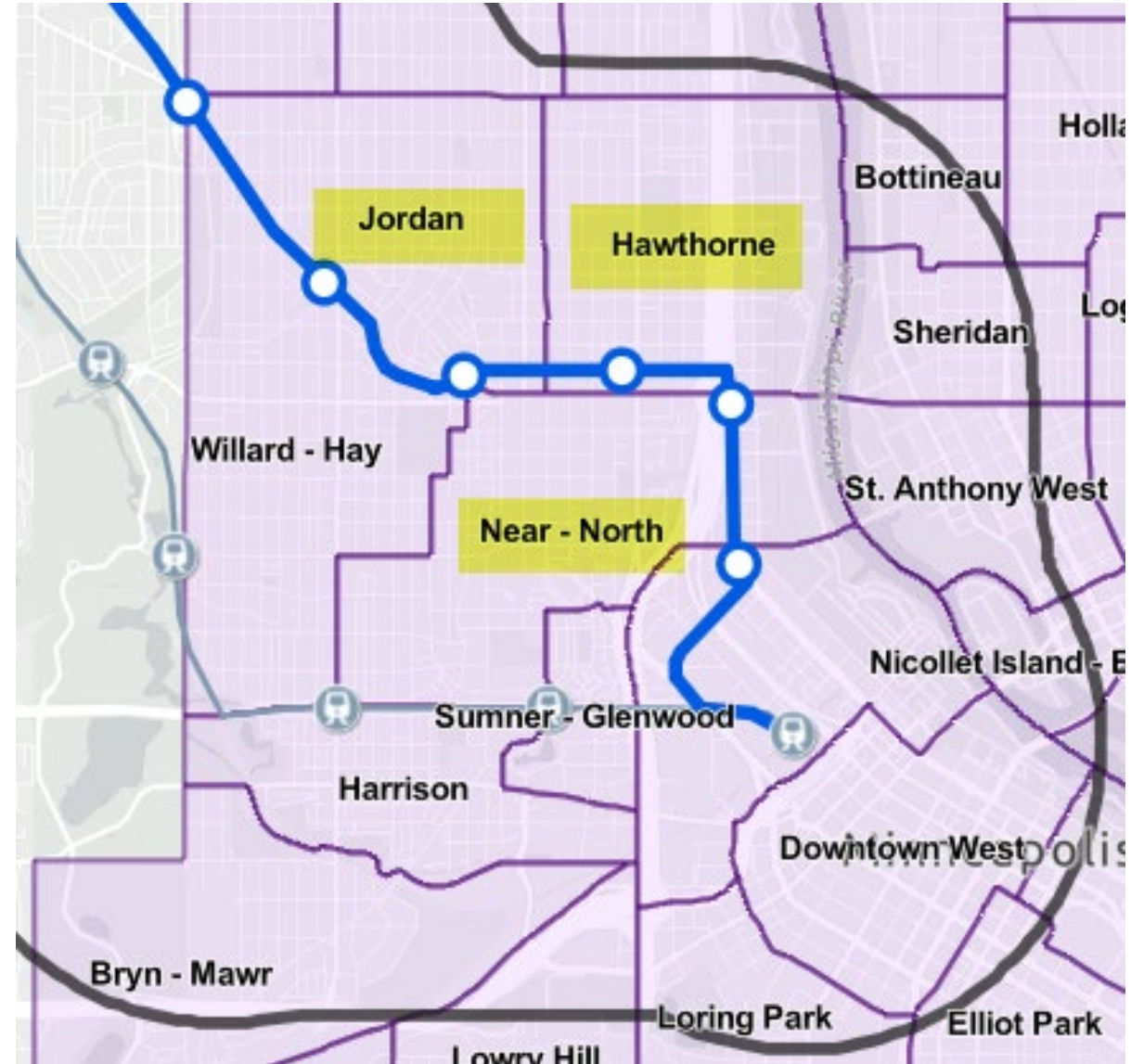
# Harrison Neighborhood Association



# Heritage Park Neighborhood Association



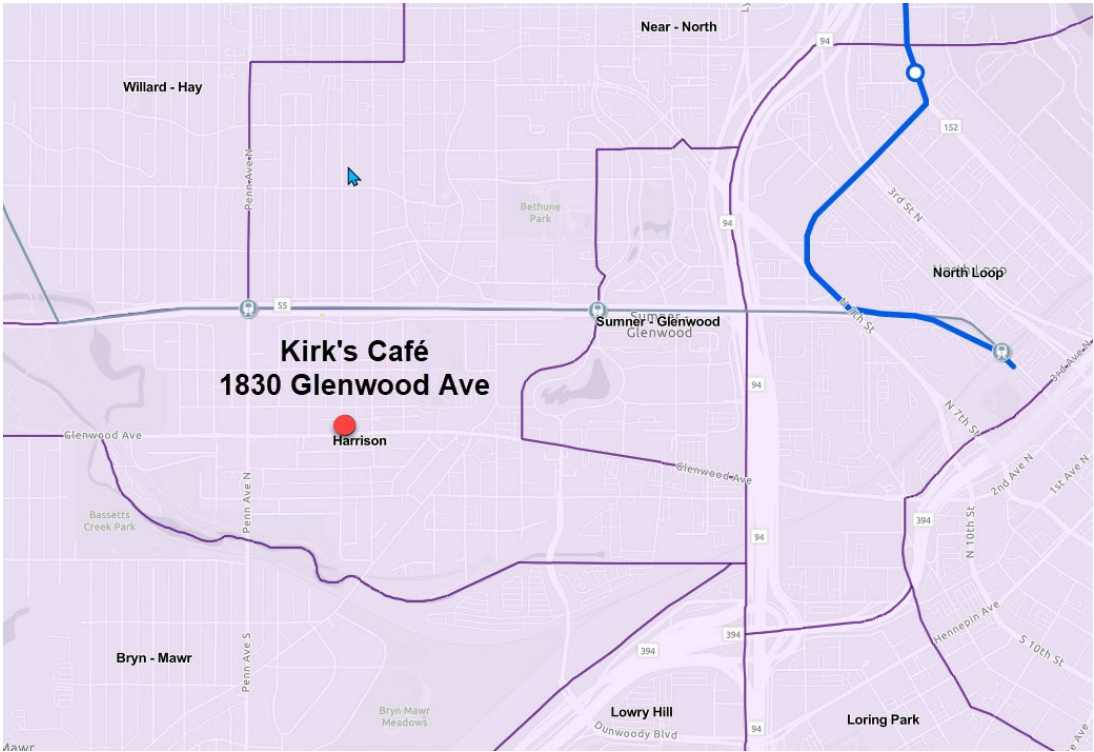
# Housing in Action



# Kirk's Cafe



Kirk Washington



# Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON)

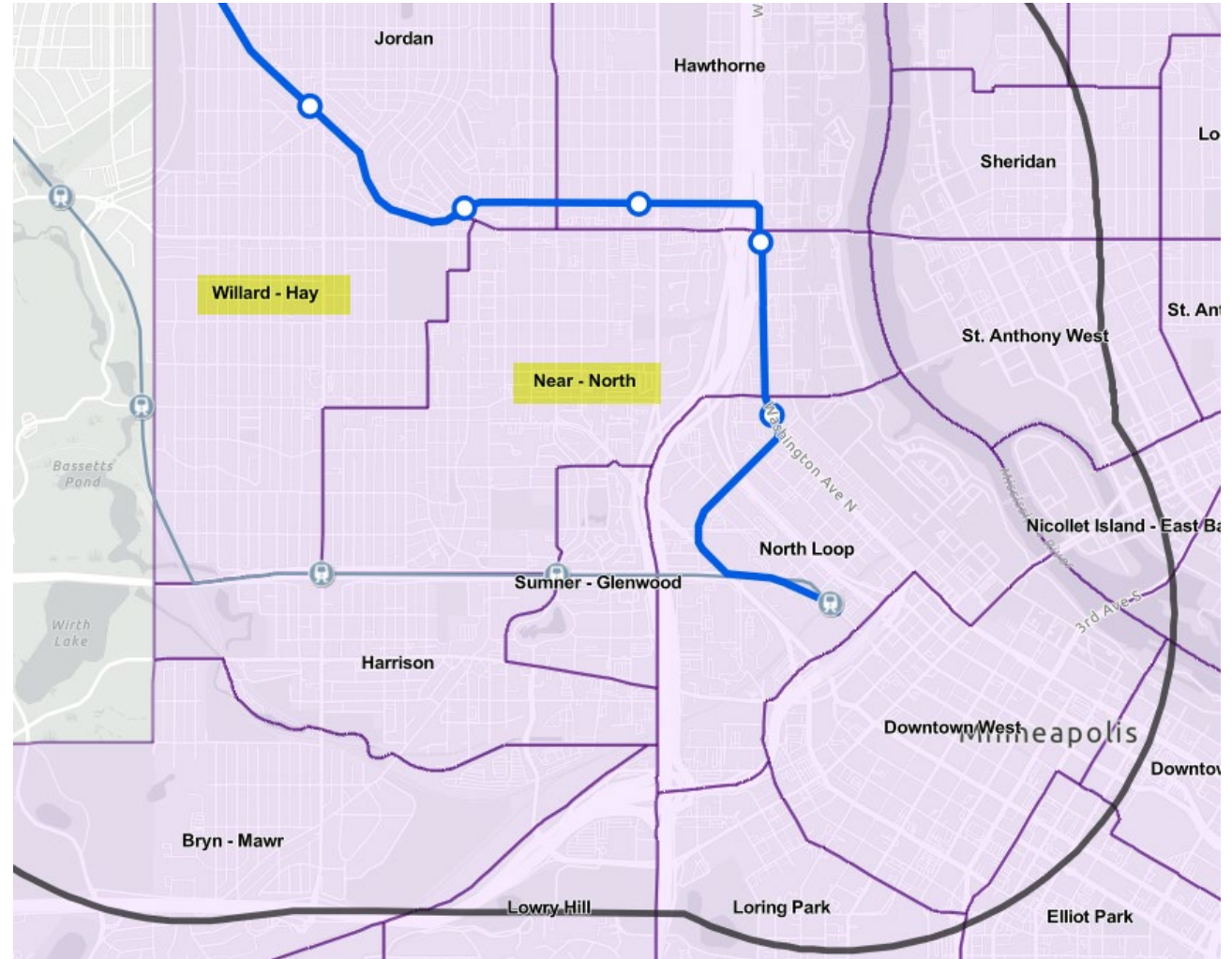


NEON's new 25,000-square-foot commercial kitchen and food business incubator.

Credit: Alaysia Lane/MSR

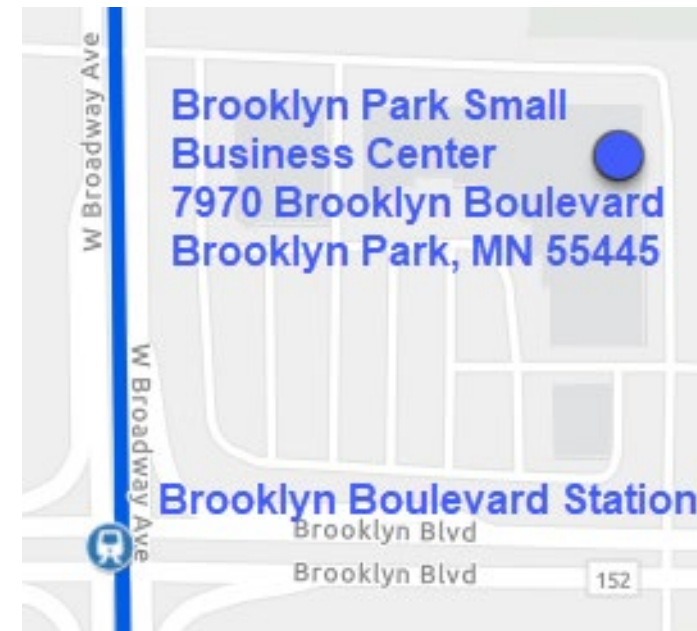


# Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)

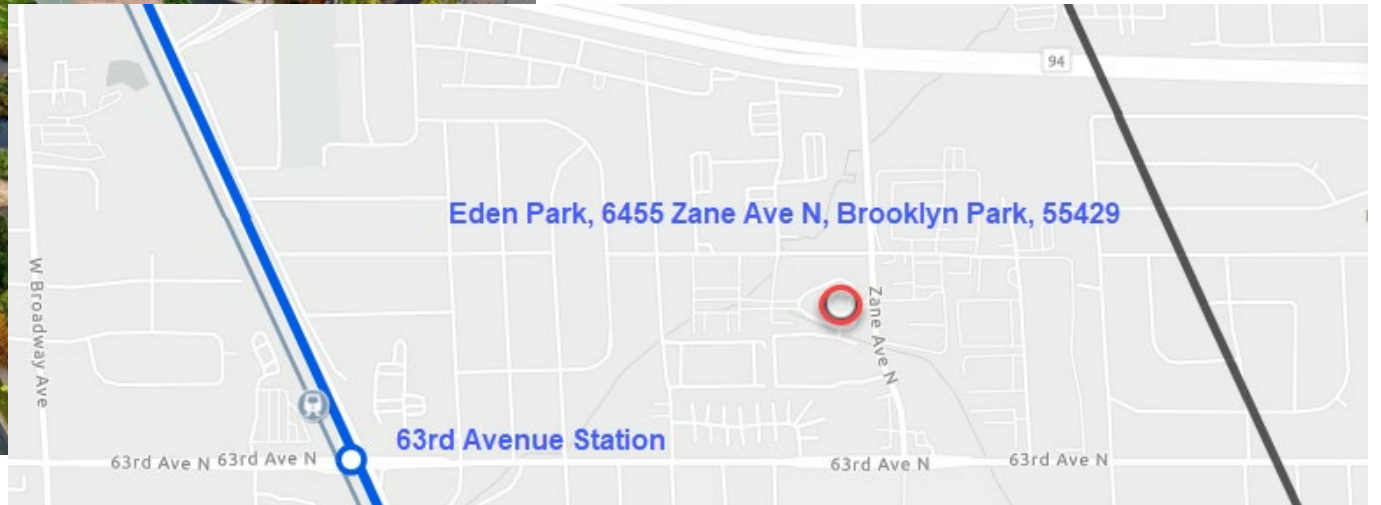
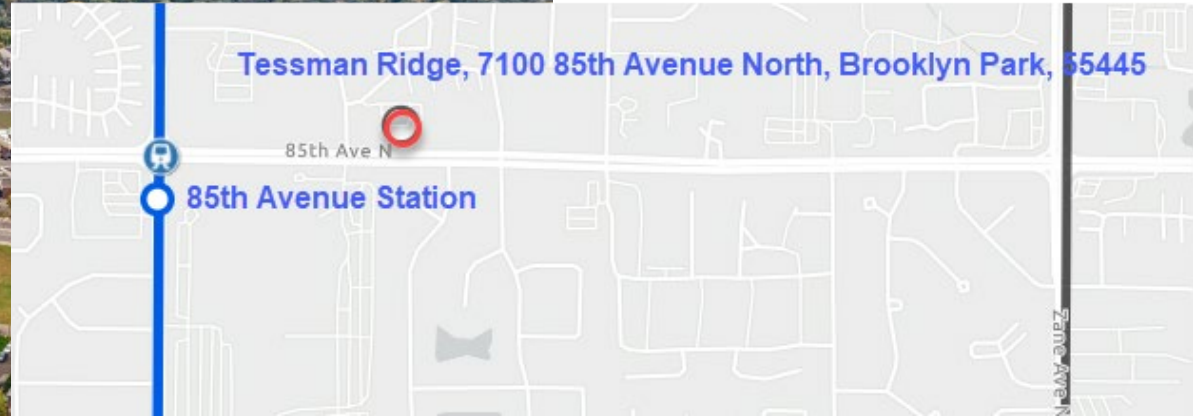


# ACER – business stability

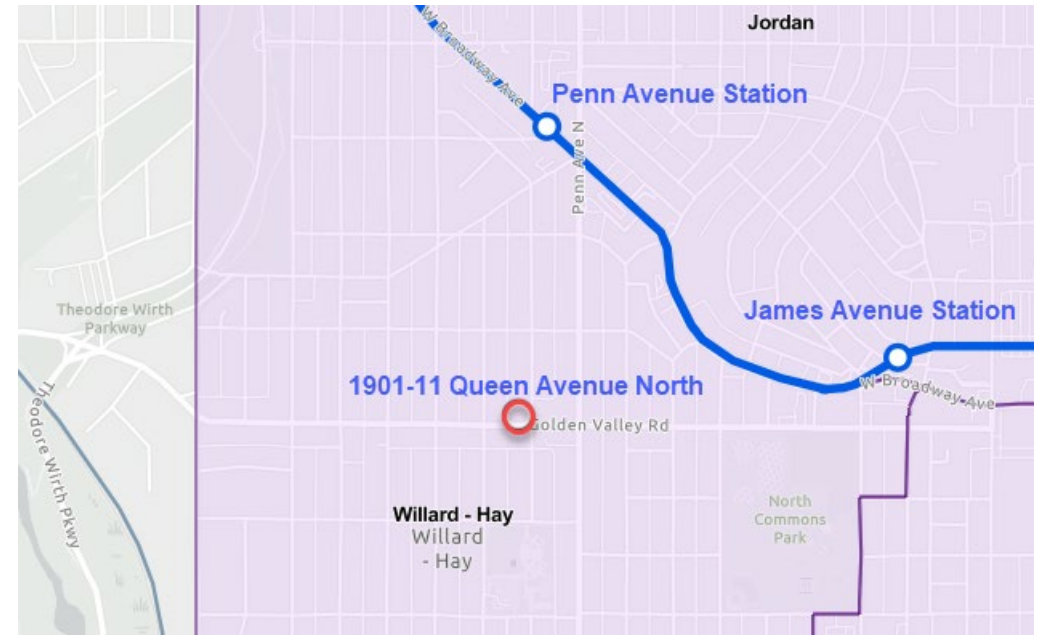
- \$127,500 ACPP
- \$127,000 Hennepin County
- \$255,000 Total



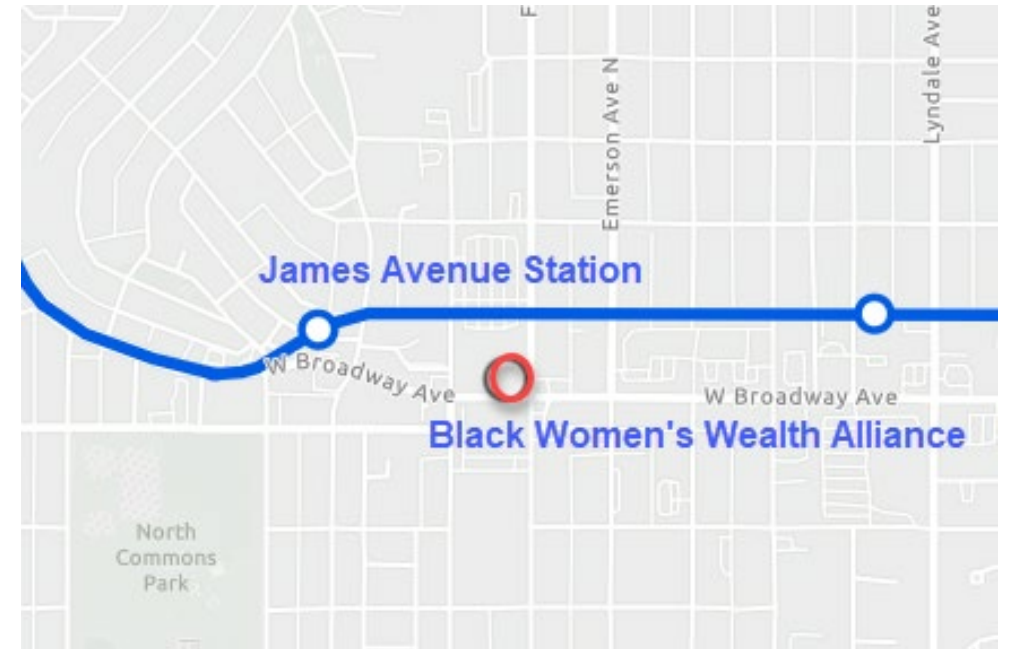
# ACER – housing stability



# Amani Construction & Development



# Black Women's Wealth Alliance



# Brown & Dupay Properties



# FTA Scope Reduction and Budget Update



# FTA Scope Reduction and Budget Update

---

- Council and Hennepin County have worked successfully together to identify scope element reductions to reduce the budget from \$3.58B. These elements include:
  - 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave Station Pedestrian Bridge (\$19.1M) – approved by FTA
  - Oak Grove Park & Ride (\$15.5M) – approved by FTA
  - Finance charges (\$75M) – approved by FTA
  - Systems construction reduction (\$80M) – Under FTA Review



# FTA Scope Reduction and Budget Update

- If all elements are approved by FTA:
  - Reduced scope of \$195M
  - Budget of \$3.38B
  - Anticipated Funding Gap of \$224M



# Hennepin County Request

---

- Hennepin County has made two types of requests to Council to close the capital funding gap
  1. Asked the Council to close the \$224M funding gap
  2. Asked the Council to fund some of the LRVs
- Council is limited in its ability to participate by:
  1. Capital Grant Agreement
  2. Impact on Regional Operations
  3. Council Policy
  4. Minnesota State Statute



# Council Proposal for Funding Gap (10%)

---

- Hennepin County has made two commitments of funding
  - Commitment #1 \$2.254B: Combined HC and HCRRA on 8/4
  - Commitment #2: 10% of project costs (\$358M) to fund future cost overages (Resolution 18-0500)
- FTA has not yet required this 10% Commitment #2
- Council requested Hennepin County obligate \$224M of the \$358M Commitment #2 to close the current local funding gap
- This Council proposal:
  - Solves the Local Funding Gap
  - Maintains Hennepin County's current financial commitment
  - Maintains project schedule
  - Minimizes project delay inflation (\$75M a year) and
  - Potentially retains \$30M of state funds in project



# FTA Terms and Conditions for FFGA

---

- FFGA Vehicle Requirement:
  - FTA requires the project to include capital costs of vehicles in the budget for an FFGA
  - FTA defines the purchases of vehicles as “construction” per FTA Circular 9300.1B
  - Moving capital costs outside project budget to a Council expense is not consistent with Council policy or with state statute whereby Council cannot spend funding on capital construction.
- Per FFGA terms and conditions, the Council must attest to maintaining regional transit system:
  - FFGA Financial Term: “The Council must maintain current levels of operation and maintenance of its system if awarded the grant for the new project”



# Impacts on Service

---

- The Council receives federal formula funds (Section 5307) for transit capital, operating assistance, and transportation related planning.
- Since 2024, State law and Council policy prohibit the use of these funds for new transitways
- If State law and Council policy were to change, and the Council contributed 5307 funding to fill the gap, that amounts to \$37 million per year over six years
- \$37 million per year would have major service impacts



# Third Party Agreements Status



# Third Party Agreements Overview

---

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) identifies agreements that must be executed prior to submitting a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) application
- FTA identifies critical third party agreements as essential to a project's success, requiring special overview and oversight. These agreements are often critical based on the project's needs and risks.
- FTA has identified three critical third party agreements for BLE with Xcel Energy, CPKC railroad, and BNSF railroad

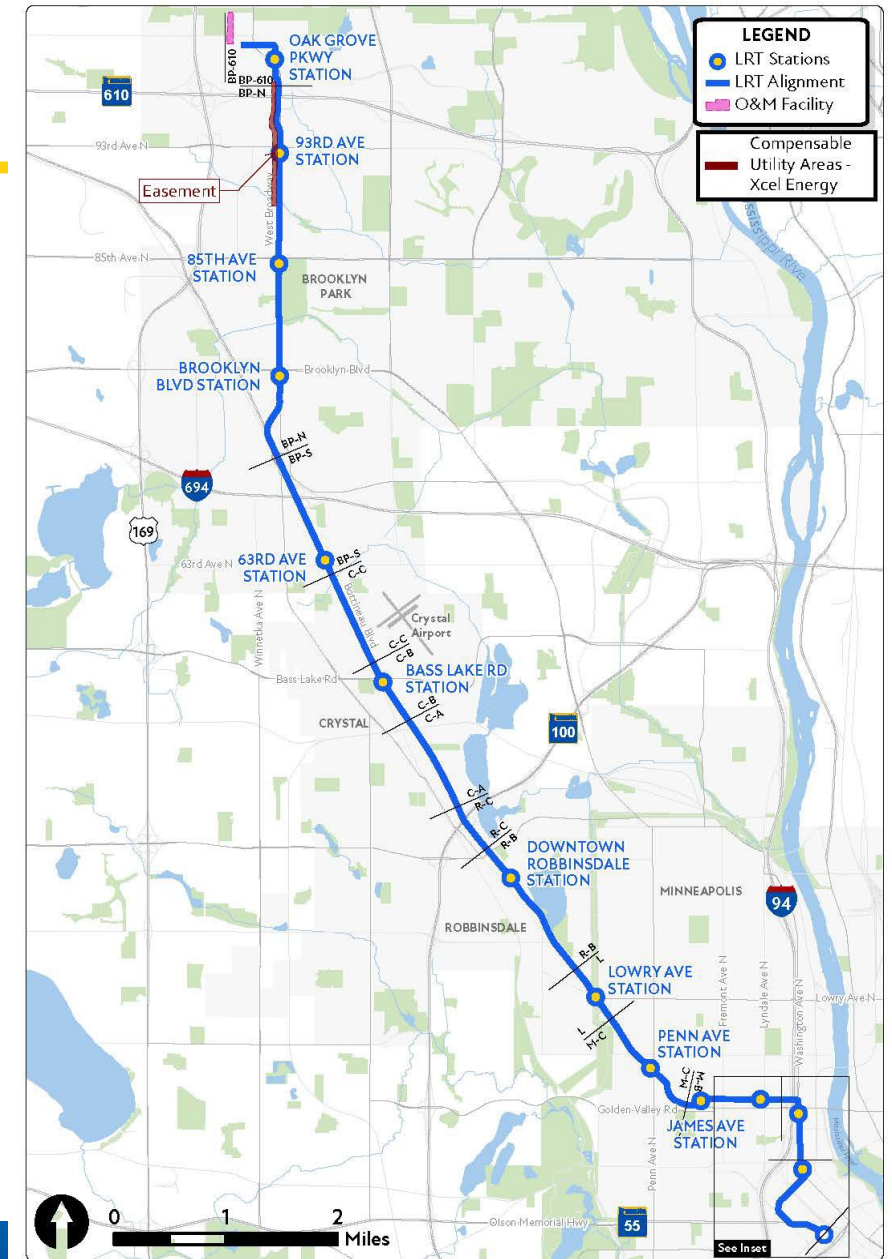


# Third Party Agreements Status - Xcel

- Xcel Master Utility Agreement
  - Provides work orders for compensable utility relocations
  - **Status:** Language reviewed by FTA Legal, agreement signed by Xcel and Council, pending concurrence with the Minnesota Public Utility Commission



## METRO Blue Line Extension Alignment Map



# Third Party Agreements Status - BNSF

- BNSF Construction & Maintenance Agreement
  - Provides the Council with a access for BLE construction activities, a mechanism to reimburse BNSF for required freight crossing improvements and flagging costs
  - **Status:** Draft from BNSF under Council review, next step FTA Legal review



63<sup>rd</sup> Ave and BNSF crossing

# Third Party Agreements Status - CPKC

- CPKC Construction & Maintenance Agreement
  - Provides the Council with a license to reconstruct the existing County Road 81 bridges with LRT over CPKC in Crystal; addresses ongoing maintenance obligations for the LRT bridge
  - **Status:** Pending redlines from CPKC, requires FTA Legal review



# Agreements and Key Milestones

---

- BNSF and CPKC Agreements to be reviewed by Council and FTA
- If either agreement exceeds \$2M, Council approval is required
- If either agreement exceeds \$500,000, Project Decisions Board approval is also required
- Completion of these agreements must be completed prior to grant submission



# Real Estate Update



# Real Estate Update

---

- Metropolitan Council authorization to begin acquisition of right of way is needed prior to purchasing right of way. This action will be requested once the FFGA is submitted.
- The BLE Project Decisions Board must also approve use of project funds for real estate acquisition.
- Work continues to advance on real estate. Progress includes:
  - Design and right of way staff have worked closely and continue work to minimize right of way impacts.
  - Work is advancing, such as completing title research, advancing title opinions, and completing parcel sketches.
  - Outreach continues to impacted property owners.



# Next Meeting



# Stay connected

- Engagement email:
  - [BLEoutreach@metrotransit.org](mailto: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
  - Facebook: MetroBlueLineExtension
  - X/Twitter: @BlueLineExt



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