

3rd Quarterly Meeting – Summary

Date & Time	August 19, 2026, 5 – 7 pm
Location	Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ 4200 Lake Road Robbinsdale, MN 55422
Attendance	14 members of the public, 8 project staff

Format: Presentation with an open-house-style format to review roll plots, Cultural Placekeeping boards, and have discussions with project staff.

Presentation topics:

- Project Overview
- Roll Plots for review and discussion
- Cultural Placekeeping
- Upcoming Engagement Events

Community feedback:

The Blue Line Extension Team shared a project overview, facilitated a review of the 90% design roll plots, presented cultural placekeeping updates, and outlined upcoming engagement opportunities. The presentation was followed by an open-house format to gather community feedback.

Common questions and themes:

- **Project Overview & Milestones**
 - Review of the 13.4-mile, 13-station route connecting Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park.
 - Single-seat ride to downtown Blue Line stops, MSP Airport, and Mall of America.
 - Focus on building community prosperity and anti-displacement strategies.
 - Progression following the signed Amended Record of Decision (August 2025), 90% design completion (May 2026), and updated budget release (June 2026).
- **Cultural Placekeeping**
 - Update on Phase 1 completion and the launch of Phase 2 (applying themes to design opportunities and station renderings).
 - Overview of station design processes and guiding themes (e.g., Lowry Ave station).
 - Identification of platform integration opportunities including station markers, interpretive windscreen panels, cabinet wraps, light pole elements, and railing infills. Station markers are the current focus of design efforts.
- **Upcoming Engagement Events**
 - **Quarter 4 Community Update Meeting:** Wed, Oct 14, 2026 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Metro Transit North Loop Garage (Room 104).

Roll plot comments:

- Concerns that the current timeline is not finalized and has changed since the Municipal Consent timeline.
- Audience Question Themes
 - Uncertainty about project funding: acknowledging financial unknowns while emphasizing efforts to secure necessary resources.
 - Pending steps to leading to construction: showing progress and the key actions still required
 - Construction timeline: presenting the anticipated schedule leading to construction
 - Project delivery timeline: outlining full project completion from construction to final delivery.

Cultural placekeeping photos & comments:

- “Will the guiding theme be directly placed somewhere on the station?”
 - No, guiding themes were a facilitation tool for the first phase of cultural placekeeping community engagement and a way to memorialize the feedback received from the cultural placekeeping working group. Artist work is not eligible for federal funds, so the design team is working to incorporate designs into function elements that reflect community cultures. Station designs will be interpretations of the guiding themes while also taking in larger community input from engagement events and public surveys.
- “What is a functional element?”
 - Functional elements are parts of the station design that are necessary. For example, station wayfinding is a necessary signage element that makes each station immediately recognizable as a landmark, and windscreen panels are necessary to protect patrons from the elements. Non-function elements are defined as purely aesthetic, for example an artist created mural or a sculpture in the landscape.
- “Will there be something on the station that describes what the cultural placekeeping designs mean and how they relate to the community input?”
 - Yes, our design team is working on a written element to be included on the stations that would provide context for each station’s design elements and how they were developed through community input. Accessible variations are under consideration.
- A Robbinsdale resident was pleased that the themes are going through further iteration and will not be directly applied to the stations as the original themes lack true diversity.
- Oak Grove Parkway station in Brooklyn Park - “I like that the heart of the tree and lines that represent bark also show movement.”
- Multiple participants were excited about the diversity of color.

1 GUIDING THEME

Cultural Placemaking work group outcomes

THEME: YOUTH MOVEMENT + PARK LIFE

Jenny Avenue's design celebrates youth as movement makers. The park isn't passive green space - it's where teenagers hang out, where Hospitality House extends care, where Jerry Gundersen's legacy lives in young people making change.

STATION ARTWORK

COMMUNITY VOICES

- Positive reactions to bright vibrant colors.
- North Commons reflected community character and history.
- Request to show multiple abilities.

See the artwork

See the artwork

See the artwork

2 DESIGN INTERPRETATION

How community themes become design language

INSPIRATION

Fast, fluid, intuitive graphic style and color palette create high-contrast visual elements.

Changing scales and orientations create playful moments of discovery.

Lines of movement informed by youth activities create sweeping curves, unexpected interactions, layered circulation patterns.

GRAPHIC EXPLORATION

MATERIAL EXPLORATION

3 DRAFT STATION ELEMENTS

How the design comes to life at the station

STATION MARKER

WINDSCREENS SHELTERS

1 GUIDING THEME

Cultural Placemaking work group outcomes

THEME: CURRENTS OF COMMUNITY

The design explores connection, belonging, and transformation within a neighborhood shaped by many cultures, generations, and experiences. Flowing shapes represent the movement of people, stories, and relationships, weaving LOWRY Avenue as a place where community paths intersect.

STATION ARTWORK

COMMUNITY VOICES

- Positive reactions to theme conveying humans and nature effectively, creating a harmonious relationship.

See the artwork

See the artwork

See the artwork

2 DESIGN INTERPRETATION

How community themes become design language

INSPIRATION

Branching lines abstracted from rivers and local trail and transit networks trace pathways to symbolize a collective network.

Transparent colors allow pathways to remain visible as they overlap.

GRAPHIC EXPLORATION

MATERIAL EXPLORATION

Layer cut panels Polycarbonate Resin Perforated Metal

3 DRAFT STATION ELEMENTS

How the design comes to life at the station

STATION MARKER

WINDSCREENS SHELTERS

1 GUIDING THEME

Cultural Placemaking work group outcomes

THEME: MAIN STREET CONTINUUM

The principal theme centers on Robbinsdale's longstanding identity as a welcoming Main Street community defined by connection, local business life, and shared civic pride. The emphasis is on continuity, renewal, and everyday movement through communal spaces.

STATION ARTWORK

COMMUNITY VOICES

- Positive response to tie to local businesses and birds.
- Would like to see the use of Robbinsdale blue.

See the artwork

See the artwork

See the artwork

2 DESIGN INTERPRETATION

How community themes become design language

INSPIRATION

Repetition, feather forms evoke growth, flight, and regeneration from a shared history.

Repetition builds continuity in motion.

Big bold graphic quality.

Familiar energy and movement of the Robbinsdale bird without literal representation.

GRAPHIC EXPLORATION

MATERIAL EXPLORATION

Perforated Metal Polycarbonate Resin

3 DRAFT STATION ELEMENTS

How the design comes to life at the station

STATION MARKER

WINDSCREENS SHELTERS

1 GUIDING THEME

Cultural Planning work group outcomes

THEME: HOME AND HERE TO STAY

A strong emphasis on homes. The main metaphors in these highlights are family, parks, and Crystal's unique layout star that represents its 14 neighborhoods.

People come into Crystal and end up staying, negotiating feelings of peace coming together around the home.

STATION ARTWORK

COMMUNITY VOICES

- Positive reactions to color choices, the star logo, and the central house graphic depicting family work, and the passage of the day.
- Add roof to shopping focused commercial cues.

2 DESIGN INTERPRETATION

How community themes became design language

INSPIRATION

Geometries of different housing types and the sprawling prairie of the Crystal Mall create a language of unity in diversity, highlighting Crystal's diverse neighborhoods and communities.

GRAPHIC EXPLORATION

MATERIAL EXPLORATION

Laser cut panels Polycarbonate Resin

3 DRAFT STATION ELEMENTS

How the design comes to life at the station

STATION MARKER

WINDSCREENS SHELTERS

1 GUIDING THEME

Cultural Planning work group outcomes

THEME: ROOTS TO ROUTES

The theme centers on migration, belonging, and the pathways that connect Liberton, immigrant, and multigenerational families to Broadway Park. It symbolizes how stories, journeys, and cultural identity flow into a shared community "house."

STATION ARTWORK

COMMUNITY VOICES

- Positive reactions to balance of color, symbols, and "roots to routes."
- Request for brighter colors and more place based clarity.

2 DESIGN INTERPRETATION

How community themes became design language

INSPIRATION

Colors and pattern inspire design pathways.

Roots represent distinct stories and how they contribute to an ever-growing shared community identity.

Journeys overlap, diverge, and connect. Lines trace the movement across moments of peace and re-direction.

GRAPHIC EXPLORATION

MATERIAL EXPLORATION

Polycarbonate Resin

3 DRAFT STATION ELEMENTS

How the design comes to life at the station

STATION MARKER

WINDSCREENS SHELTERS

1 GUIDING THEME

Cultural Planning work group outcomes

THEME: GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

Growth and development - this station, being the last stop on the Blue Line Extension, depending on when you're headed, is either the end or the beginning.

A water basin that flows and joins at the roof of a tree, which then depicts several branches extending in different directions. Leaf patterns in various colors also represent change.

STATION ARTWORK

COMMUNITY VOICES

- Positive reactions to nature connection, color palette, and leaf motifs representing diversity.
- Stronger connections between trees, river, and travel elements and suggested incorporating neighborhood or city names.

2 DESIGN INTERPRETATION

How community themes became design language

INSPIRATION

Repeating leaf modules with subtle variations that shift in shape to seasonal colors to create a larger whole.

Like leaves floating along a river, movement, overlap, and reflection create new relationships and meanings.

Potato farm lines root to the area's history and inform the lines of leaves.

GRAPHIC EXPLORATION

MATERIAL EXPLORATION

Laser cut panels Polycarbonate Resin Metal Accents

3 DRAFT STATION ELEMENTS

How the design comes to life at the station

STATION MARKER

WINDSCREENS SHELTERS

Event photos:

