



# DREAM Youth

The FUTURE belongs to YOU!



2025 DREAM Youth Report



# Your Connection to the Blue Line!



# What is the BLE?

The METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit project will connect Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and surrounding communities to fast, frequent, all-day service across the METRO system by providing a one-seat ride from Brooklyn Park to MSP Airport and Mall of America, connecting vibrant destinations and communities along the way.



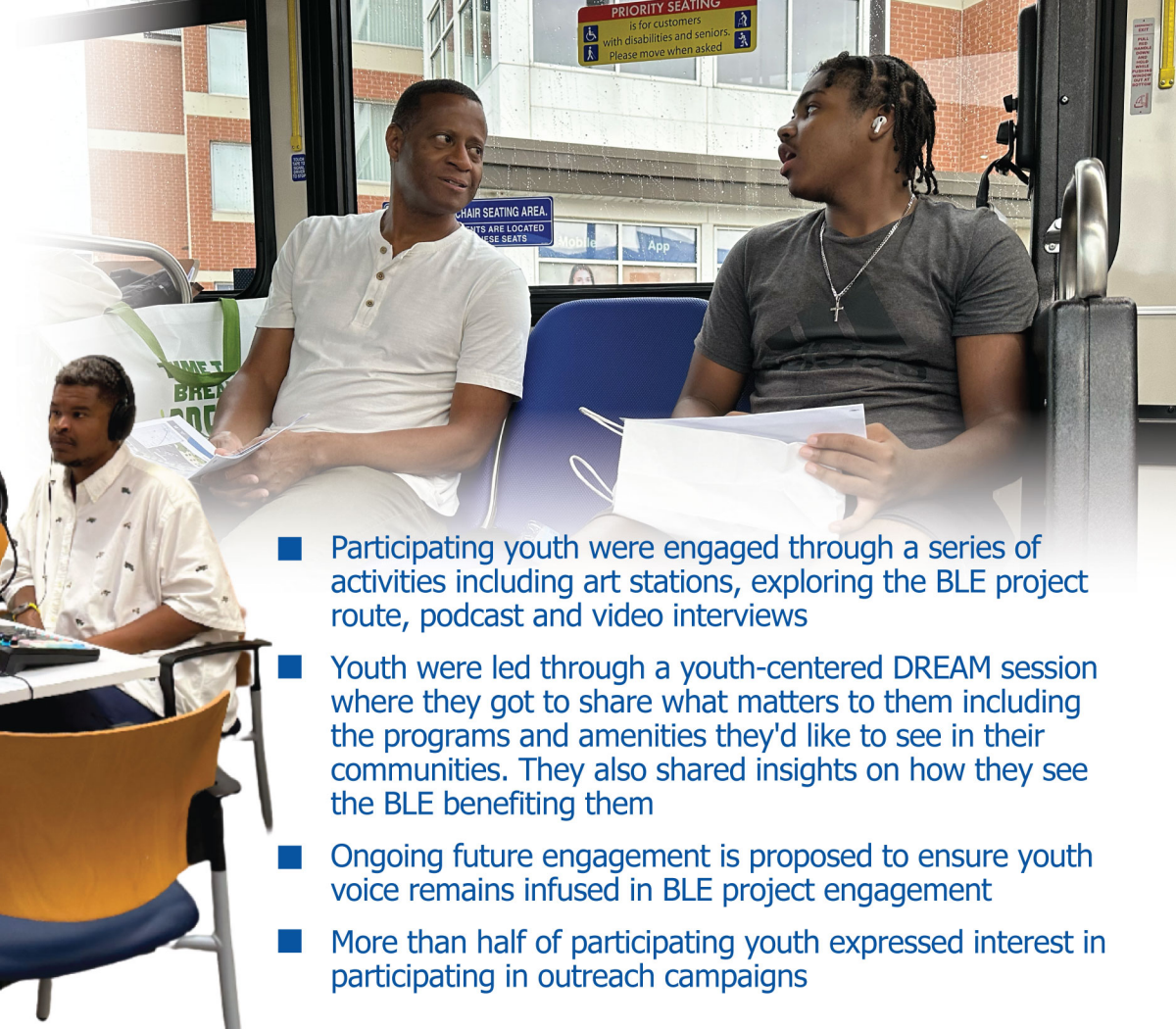
# DREAM Youth S U M M I T

- The BLE DREAM Team hosted a DREAM Youth Summit at the Northside YMCA August 9th
- The summit was in partnership with the Minneapolis Youth Congress, Northside YMCA, OneMN.org and others
- 38 youth from around the region attended
- The bus tour was eye-opening; participants were engaged, sparking questions and conversations. Many hadn't traveled that far out of their immediate communities



[www.yourblueline.org](http://www.yourblueline.org) & [www.bluelineext.org](http://www.bluelineext.org)





- Participating youth were engaged through a series of activities including art stations, exploring the BLE project route, podcast and video interviews
- Youth were led through a youth-centered DREAM session where they got to share what matters to them including the programs and amenities they'd like to see in their communities. They also shared insights on how they see the BLE benefiting them
- Ongoing future engagement is proposed to ensure youth voice remains infused in BLE project engagement
- More than half of participating youth expressed interest in participating in outreach campaigns

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2025



# How will light rail affect me?

## Benefits of the BLE train

Youth identified a wide range of benefits that the Blue Line Extension could bring:

- Access and opportunities: Helps youth and families reach jobs, internships, schools, recreation centers, and cultural events.  
*Especially important for those without cars*
- Affordability and savings: Seen as cheaper than driving—no gas, insurance, or traffic delays
- Community and connection: Connects communities, provides new experiences, and reduces isolation
- Environment and safety: More eco-friendly than cars, reduces carbon emissions, and provides safe, reliable transportation
- Exploration and freedom: Enables young people to explore new areas, visit friends, or attend events



**Winter 2024 - Summer 2025**

*Cultural Placekeeping Design Groups*

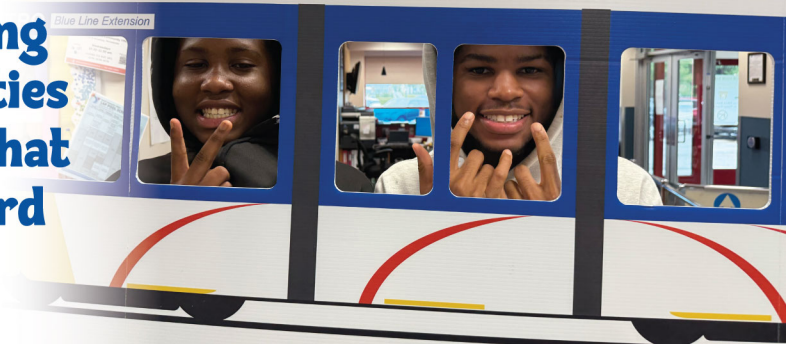


**“It’s good for the  
young people and it  
makes the  
communities come  
closer to each other”**

**“This could help my swim team members  
go to different competitions”**



**“Expanding  
opportunities  
for those that  
can’t afford  
a car”**



**“Some benefits are how accessible it is for the youth... without  
being hindered by transportation problems”**

**Spring 2025**

*Outreach on strategies to address impacts*



# What I want to see in my community

**“A program where a space is available for students to receive homework help, resumes, find jobs and connect with people for internships.”**



**“Support and equity: More youth programs, stipends for volunteers, programs for single parents, grocery access”**

**Spring 2025**

*Design review & feedback*





## Programs youth want in their communities

Youth highlighted a strong desire for educational, artistic, and supportive programs that would complement the BLE's accessibility

- Education and career readiness: Homework help, resume workshops, internships (especially healthcare & Metro Transit), financial literacy, scholarships, policy education

**"I plan on using the BLE train in the future. As someone who grew up using public transit. I'm excited for this project"**

- Arts and culture: Murals, art festivals, music, theater, crochet/knitting programs, community projects
- Community spaces and resources: Third spaces, park-and-rides, tutoring centers, spaces for youth to connect and grow
- Support and equity: More youth programs, stipends for volunteers, programs for single parents, grocery access

**Summer 2025**

*Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement / Amended ROD*

# DREAM Youth

Programs for Single Parents

YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Arts & Cultures**

**Community Projects**

Crochet/Knitting Programs

**MUSIC**

**Support & Equity**

**PARK-AND-RIDES**

**Education**

**Financial Literacy**

**Art Festivals**

**Grocery Stores**

**Homework Help**

**Internships**

**Theater**



Resume Workshops

**Murals**

Volunteer Work

**"I want to see big art festivals!"**

**Summer 2025**

*Updated Ridership Projections & Cost Estimate*

**Like us on Facebook  
@METROBlueLineExtension**

**1.**

**Talk about it with  
your friends, get  
them involved!**

**2.**

**Learn more at:  
[www.yourblueline.org](http://www.yourblueline.org)  
[www.bluelineext.org](http://www.bluelineext.org)**

**3.**

**Tap In!**

***Do you support BLE?  
Have some ideas to share?  
We want to hear from you!***



**2025 - 2026**

*Final Design*



# DREAM TEAM



## Special thanks to the DREAM BLE Team

Nkongo Cigolo, Catherine Gold, Kyle  
Mianiulli, Richelieu Morris

The multi-jurisdictional team representing  
Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County

The DREAMYouth Session was hosted by:  
Harold Mezile North Community YMCA  
1711 W Broadway, Minneapolis, MN



**JXTA**



**NOVALE NOIR**



YMCA OF THE NORTH

The DREAM model helps people come together to share ideas and make real change in their community. It's about working with neighbors—young and old—to create safer, greener, and stronger neighborhoods as the Blue Line grows.

