



Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

August 4, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Courthouse Room 220

WORKSHOP

1. Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit Workshop

[2026-264](#)

Sponsors: Public Works



Board Workshop / Discussion

Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

Item Number: 2026-264

Meeting Date: 8/4/2026

Sponsor: Public Works

Title

Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit Workshop

Attachment

1. Presentation



August 4, 2026

Bronze Line Bus Rapid Transit Workshop





Workshop Purpose

Goals:

- Provide an overview of the METRO Bronze Line project.
- Introduce the Capital Grant Agreement (CGA) and Cooperative Project Delivery Agreement (CPDA).
- Review the Public Works Staffing Plan.
- Prepare the board for future action to approve the agreements.



Workshop Agenda

- Project Overview and Project Delivery Approach.
- Capital Grant Agreement (CGA).
- Cooperative Project Delivery Agreement (CPDA).
- Discuss Technical Elements.
- Project Schedule and Next Steps.
- Public Works Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Plan.
- Discussion.

Building Stronger Together: Guiding Plans

Building Stronger Together directly advances and operationalizes key recommendations from:

- Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan.
- Climate Equity Action Plan.
- All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan.
- Transportation Improvement Program.



Building Stronger Together: Advancing County Goals

The METRO Bronze Line supports Ramsey County's long-term vision by creating transportation investments that strengthen communities and encourage economic growth.

Economic Competitiveness & Inclusion

- Improves access to jobs, education, healthcare, and services.
- Supports redevelopment and private investment along the corridor.
- Creates more attractive locations for businesses and housing.

All-Abilities Transportation

- Expands reliable transportation choices for all ages and abilities.
- Improves pedestrian, bicycle, and accessibility.
- Connects residents to the regional transit network.

Transportation Investment Plan

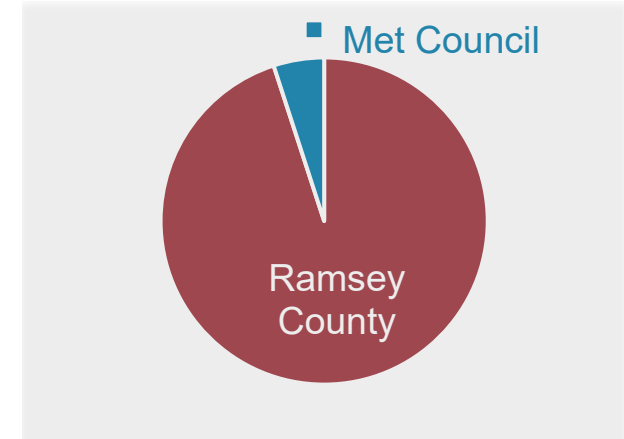
- Modernizes county transportation infrastructure.
- Reconstructs aging roadways, sidewalks, utilities, and signals.
- Coordinates investments to maximize public benefit.





Funding

- Approach:
 - 100% local funding.
- Ramsey County Transit Funding
 - Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) Levy.
 - Ramsey County ½-Cent Transportation Sales Tax.



Project Overview





Project Overview

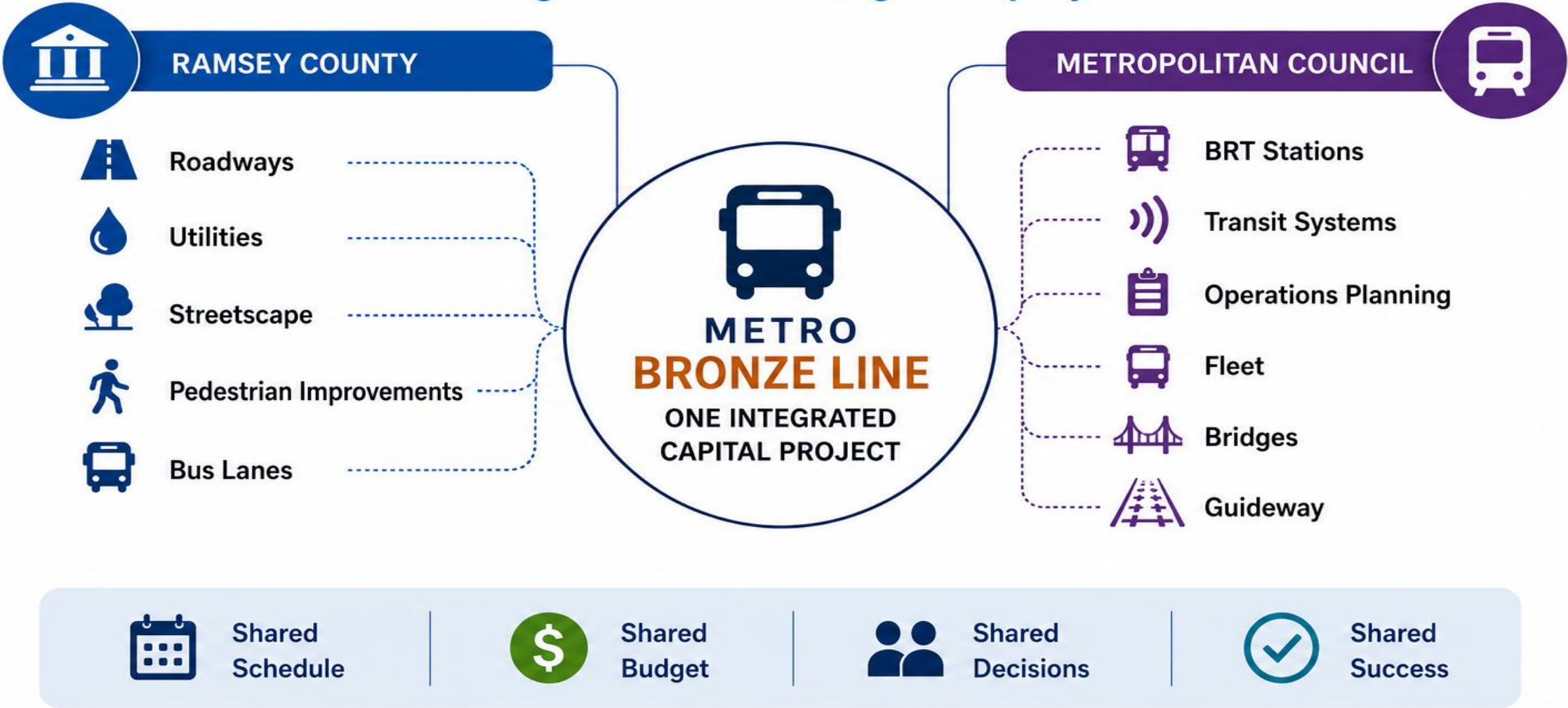
- **Route:** Union Depot (Saint Paul) → Maplewood Mall.
- **Mode:** Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) with dedicated lanes where feasible.
- **Length:** ~10 miles.
- **Stations:** ~22 total throughout the corridor (17 new, 5 pre-existing).
- **Service Goal:** Reliable, all-day rapid transit connecting downtown Saint Paul, East Side neighborhoods, and Maplewood Mall.

Project Delivery



Project Delivery

Two agencies. One integrated project.



Ramsey County Design Scope – Key Corridor Focus Areas

Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor Improvements (Saint Paul)

- Rice Street to Mississippi Street — Advance roadway reconstruction and multimodal corridor improvements from approximately 30% design to final design, including drainage, utilities, streetscape elements, and integration with Bronze Line infrastructure.

Phalen Boulevard (Saint Paul)

- Mississippi Street to Neid Lane - Mill and overlay pavement improvements coordinated with corridor operations and Bronze Line infrastructure.

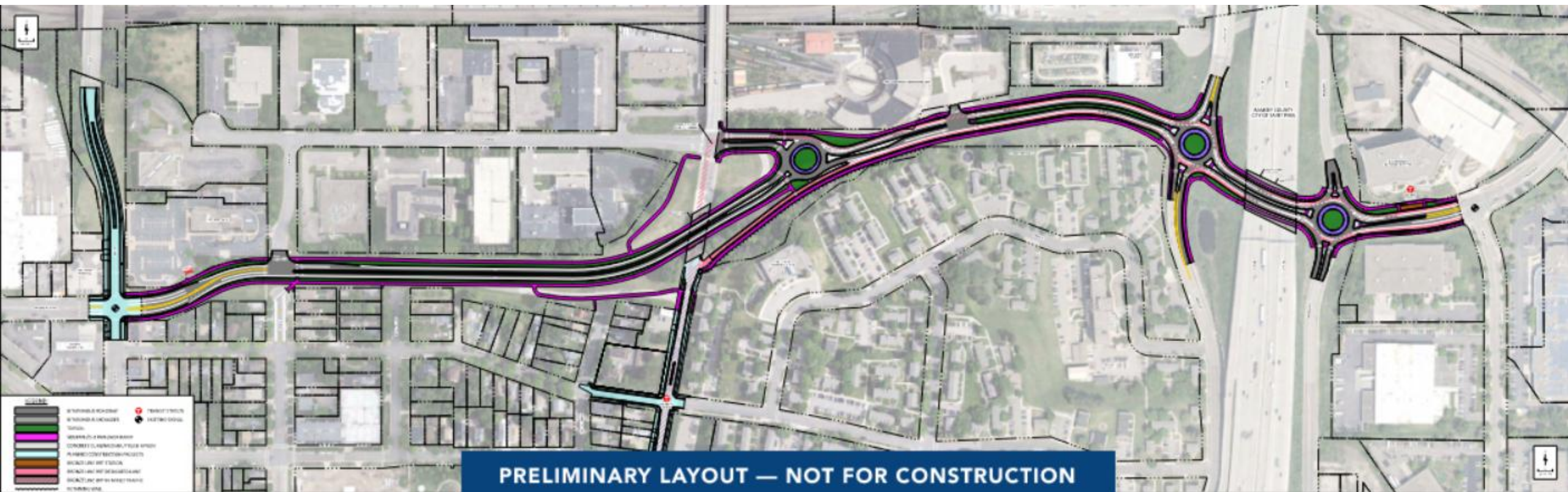
Maryland Avenue/White Bear Avenue Corridor (Saint Paul)

- Full roadway reconstruction to the back of sidewalk, including utilities, drainage, multimodal improvements, and integration with Bronze Line infrastructure.

White Bear Ave Pavement Replacement (Maplewood)

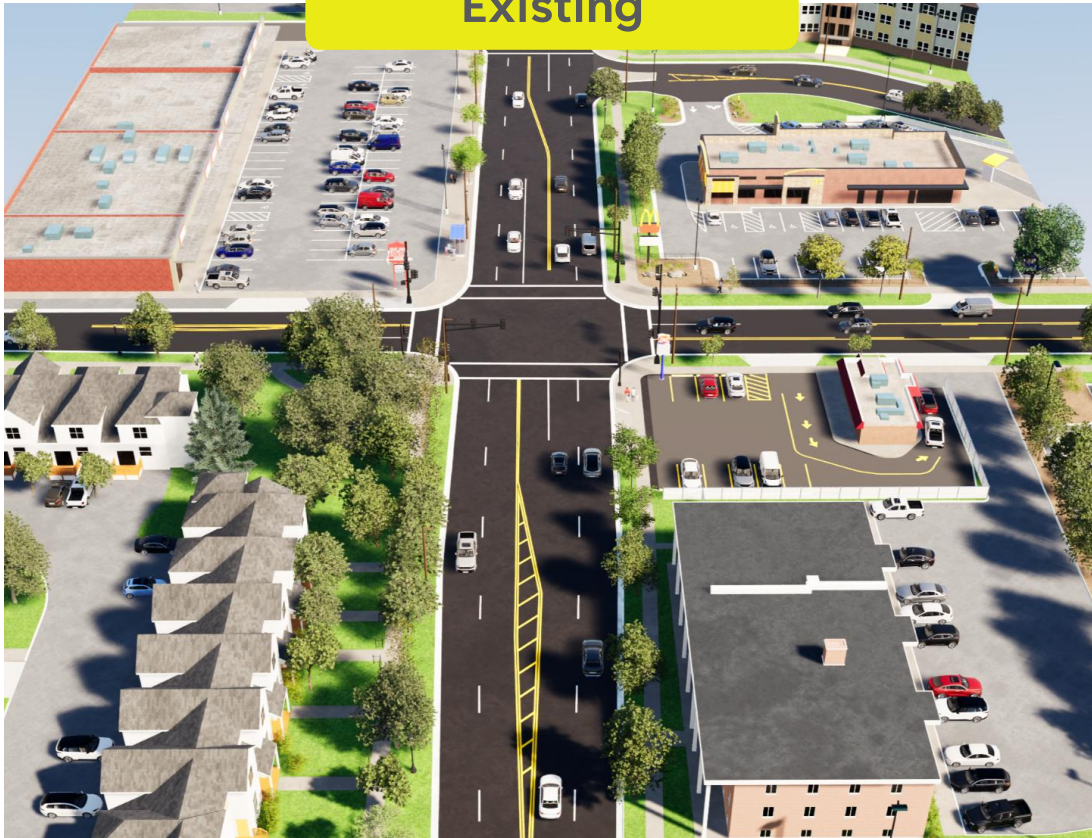
- Frost Ave to Beam Ave — Pavement replacement within the Bronze Line corridor coordinated with Metro Transit station infrastructure, utilities, and City of Maplewood roadway improvements.

Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor Improvements (Saint Paul)

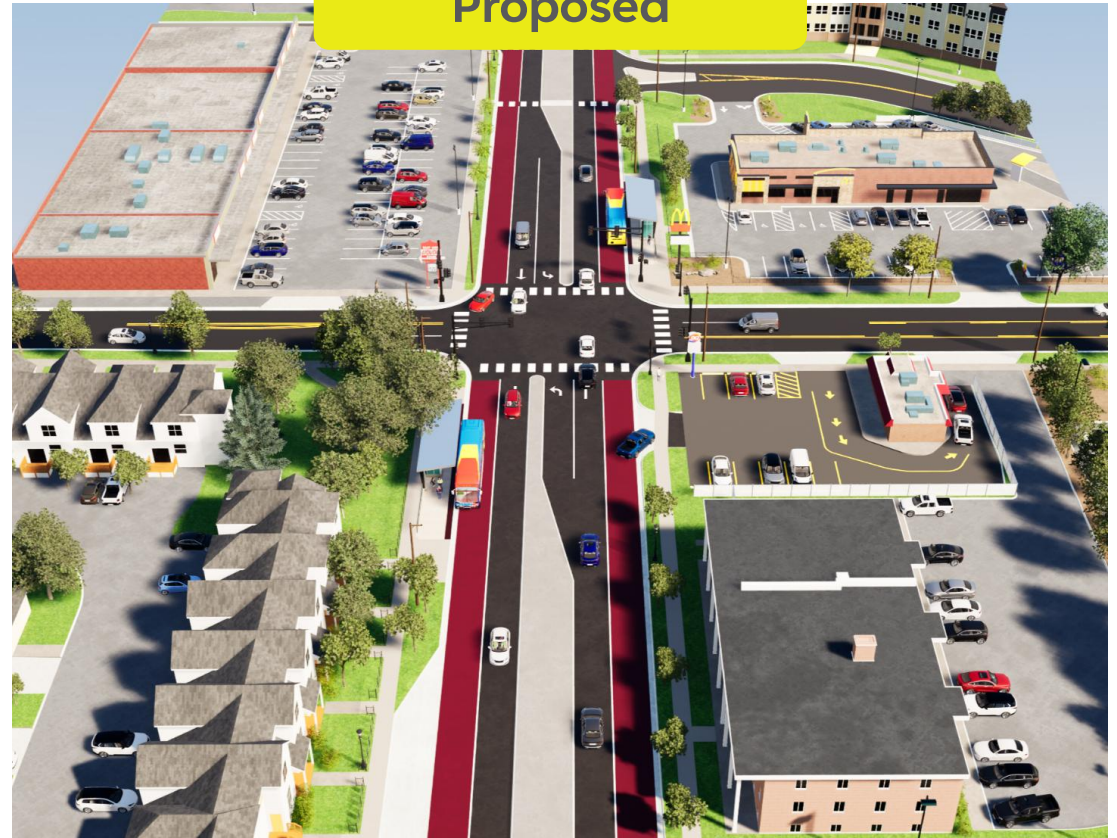


Maryland Avenue (St. Paul)

Existing

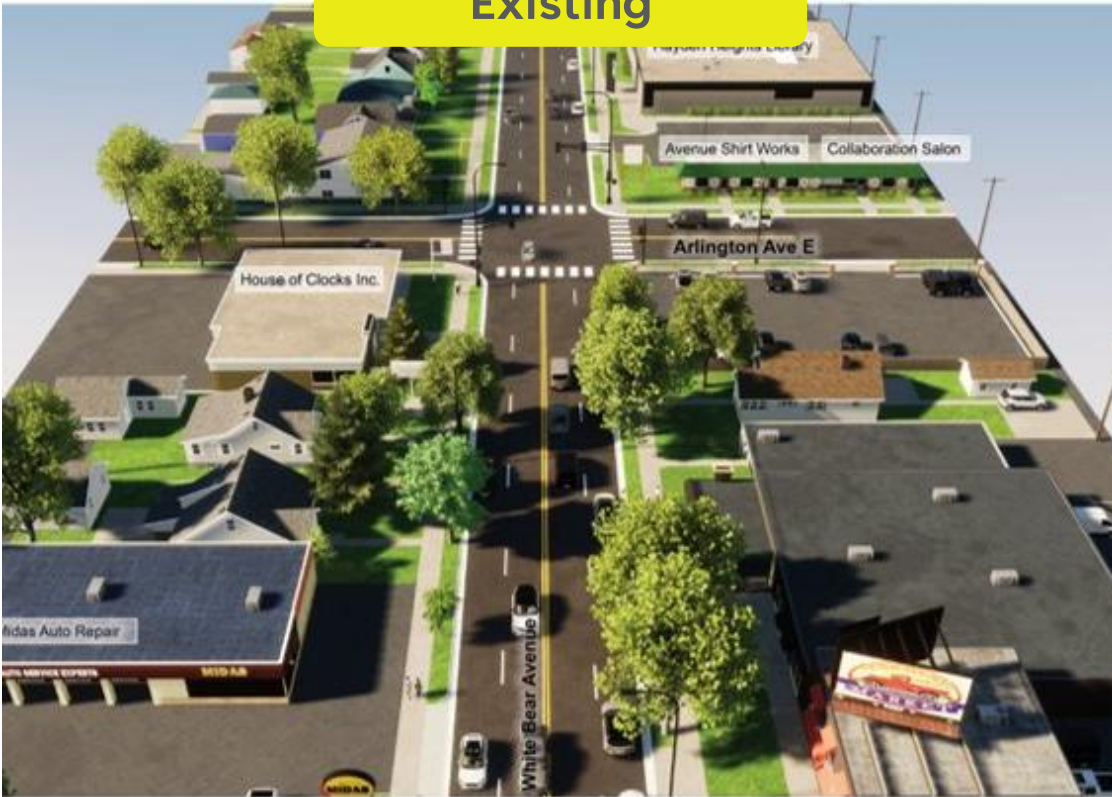


Proposed

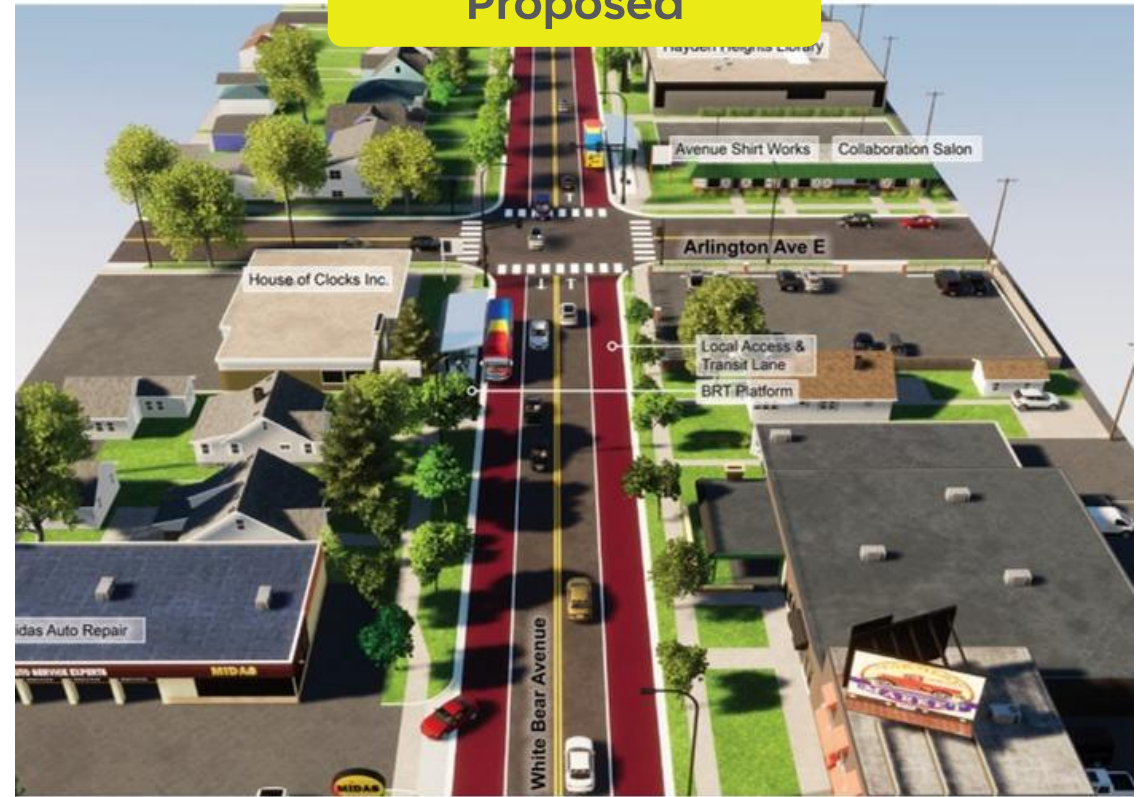


White Bear Avenue (St. Paul)

Existing



Proposed



Metro Transit Design Scope – Key Corridor Focus Areas

Stations (Saint Paul)

- All station locations in St. Paul approximately 12.

Stations (Maplewood)

- All station locations in Maplewood and accessibility improvements at station intersections approximately five.

Transit Safety and Security (St. Paul and Maplewood)

Bus Guideway(Saint Paul)

- Full reconstruction of Bruce Vento Trail and co-locating a bus guideway along side.

Guideway Bridges (Saint Paul)

- Two new bus only bridges with pedestrian features at Arcade and Johnson Pkwy.

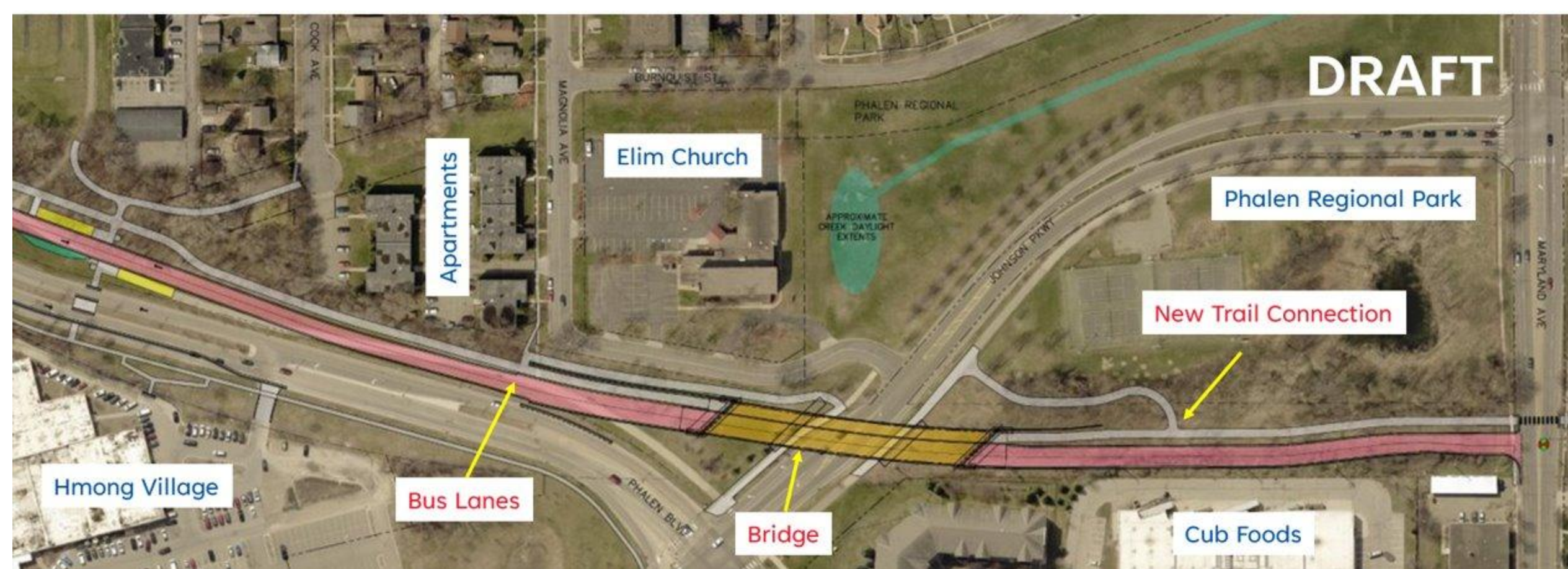
BRT Station Features



Arcade Street Station Area



Bronze Line & Trail Bridge over Johnson Parkway



Johnson Parkway Bridge (Artist Rendering)

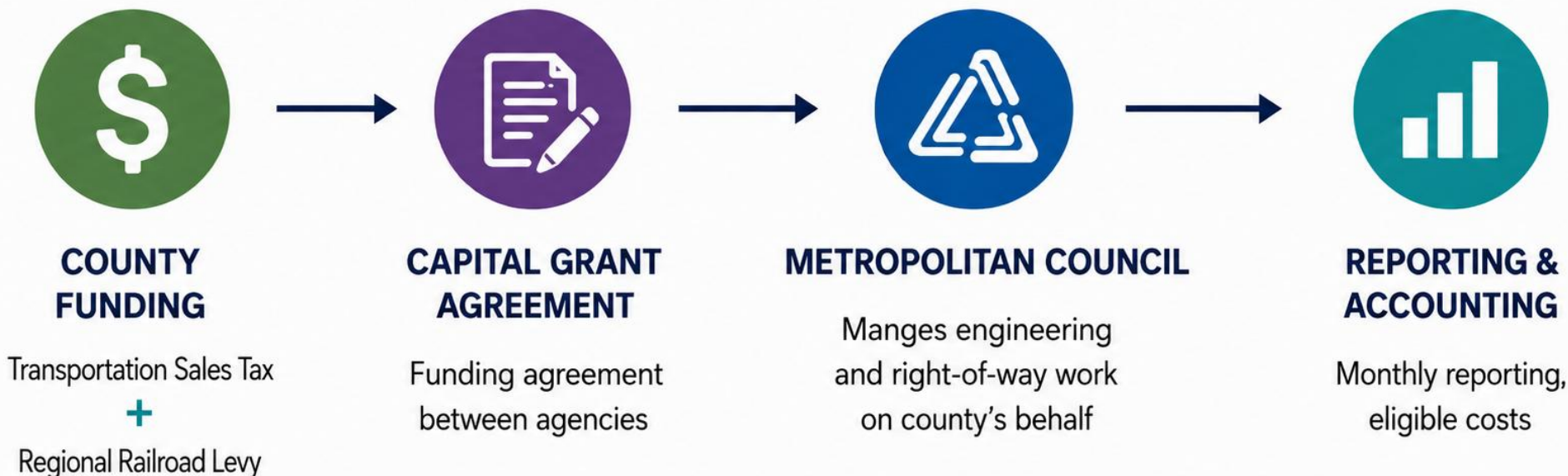


Capital Grant Agreement (CGA)



Capital Grant Agreement (CGA)

Establishes the funding framework for engineering and right-of-way activities.



FUNDING

County funds reimbursed to Council for eligible project expenses



REPORTING

Regular financial reporting and documentation



ACCOUNTABILITY

Ensures proper use of public funds and project compliance



OVERSIGHT

Audit rights and financial oversight protections

Cooperative Project Delivery Agreement (CPDA)



Cooperative Project Delivery Agreement (CPDA)

Establishes how Ramsey County and the Metropolitan Council jointly deliver one integrated project.



GOVERNANCE

Defines roles, responsibilities and governance structure



DECISION MAKING

Establishes decision-making process and escalation path



COORDINATION

Aligns two consultant teams to deliver one integrated project



ACCOUNTABILITY

Clarifies accountability and issue resolution process

Technical Issues



Arcade Station



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Bridge geometry and design refinement
- Trail alignment and user experience
- Neighborhood and business connections
- Utility coordination



OUR APPROACH

Collaborate with partners and the community to deliver a safe, reliable bridge that supports transit, trail users, and the neighborhood.



Wakan Tipi – Daylighting Creek Project



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Cultural and community significance
- Space constraints and shared uses
- Environmental restoration and daylighting
- Construction coordination



OUR APPROACH

Work in partnership with Wakan Tipi, Watershed District, and St. Paul Parks & Recreation to align shared goals and protect this important corridor.



Johnson Parkway Bridge



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Structural design
- BRT guideway integration
- Trail crossing and connections
- Traffic staging during construction
- Environmental coordination
- Landscaping, Safety and Security
- Realife Cooperative



OUR APPROACH

Design and construct a modern, durable bridge that improves safety and supports transit, trail users, and the community.



COMMUNITY PARTNER

Realife Cooperative

Ongoing engagement and coordination to support community priorities and successful project delivery.



Maryland Ave / White Bear Ave Full Reconstruction



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Right-of-way impacts to properties
- Tree impacts and preservation
- Business access throughout construction
- Station and platform integration
- Construction staging and traffic management



OUR APPROACH

Minimize impacts to properties and trees, maintain business access, and coordinate with stakeholders throughout design and construction.



Business Connection during Design and Construction



Business Support

Partnering with businesses to minimize impacts and keep customers coming.



Our approach focuses on **communication**, **access**, and **coordination** to help businesses stay informed, visible and successful throughout construction.



WHAT WE DO NOT PROVIDE

This program provides support and resources to help businesses navigate construction.
It does not provide payment, loans or grants.



NO PAYMENTS



NO LOANS



NO GRANTS



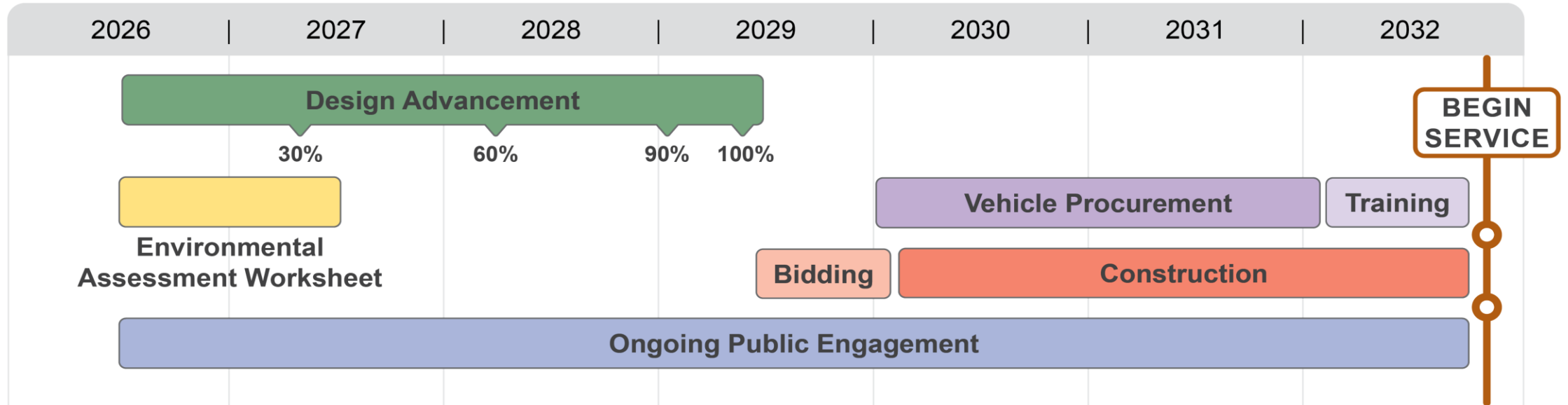
TOGETHER, WE BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Your business is important to our community today, tomorrow and beyond.

Schedule and Next Steps



Proposed Schedule





Next Steps

- Approve Capital Grant Agreement (CGA) 8/18/2026.
- Continue negotiation and development of Cooperative Project Delivery Agreement (CPDA) with Metropolitan Council.
 - Estimate approval by board Fall/Winter 2026.

Public Works FTE Plan



Staffing Needs – Bronze and Beyond

- Bronze Line.
 - Engagement.
 - Community, Business engagement.
 - Support for Transit engagement.
 - Traffic and general engineering (specific to Bronze Line).
 - Right of Way.
 - Communications – position in Comms to support expanded program.
- Public Works Program.
 - Project Management.
 - Construction engagement.
- Total FTE needed – 7.5 (non-levy funded).

Discussion

