



Response to Top 8 Consolidated Groups of Questions

Workshop #3 | March 8, 2023

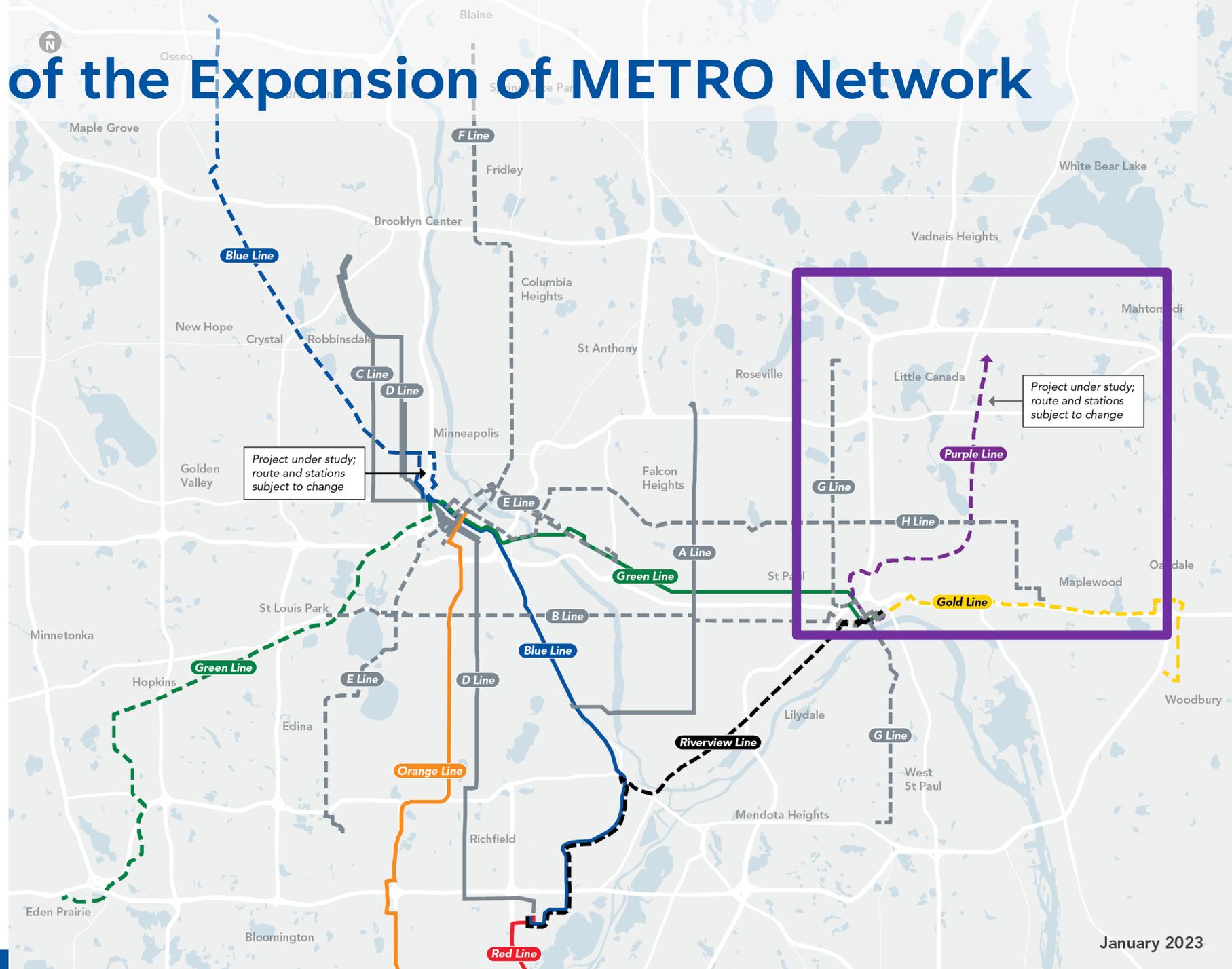
Purple Line Part of the Expansion of METRO Network

Current METRO network

- A Line
- Green Line
- C Line
- Orange Line
- D Line
- Red Line
- Blue Line

Planned METRO network

- Planned BRT
- Gold Line
- Purple Line
Project under study; route and stations subject to change.
- Green Line Extension
- Blue Line Extension
Project under study; route and stations subject to change.
- Riverview Line



Top 8 Consolidated Groups of Questions

- 1) Benefits of Purple Line to Maplewood (Q37)
- 2) Purple Line Riders (Q34)
- 3) Purple Line Alongside the Bruce Vento Regional Trail (Q21/Q22)
- 4) Transit Service Types (Q25/Q38/Q46)
- 5) Transit Funding (Q27)
- 6) Purple Line Engagement & Decision-Making Process (Q39)
- 7) Transit Safety & Security (Q24/Q45)
- 8) Project Next Steps & Timeline (Q1)

*****All 47 questions received will be responded to in writing by March 17th.*****

Benefits of Purple Line to Maplewood

Facilitates Maplewood's Growth Vision (Q37)

- Supports sustainable growth and development like the North End Vision and Gladstone Redevelopment Plans.
 - Approved Myth Night Club redevelopment 4-story, 241 Unit Market Rate Housing Complex
 - Approved Reuter Walton 5-story, 150 Unit Market Rate multi-family Housing Complex
 - Proposed JB Vang affordable multi-family housing
 - Future Moose Lodge and Sears redevelopments
- Higher density development and redevelopment occurring throughout already developed areas requires support by a multimodal network.



Catalyst for Maplewood's Reliable Transit Vision (Q37)

- Supports Maplewood's priority of having reliable transit access by providing fast, frequent service throughout the day, including evenings and weekends.
- Serves the needs of people who rely on transit and emphasizes Maplewood's priority of being a welcoming community for all.
- Lays the groundwork for additional multimodal connections in the future.
 - New or restructured local connecting bus routes
 - Metro Transit micro service area
- Provides access to key destinations throughout Maplewood and St. Paul, including jobs, schools, grocery stores, medical facilities and community parks, as well as connection to Metro Transit's expanding METRO system for access to further communities and destinations.

Purple Line Riders: Who are they & Why are they riding?

Purple Line Riders: Who & Why (Q34)

- Purple Line Riders
 - 27% from households without access to an automobile
 - 63% making trips from home or other locations to non-work destinations
 - 67% with origins or destinations in Maplewood
- Twin Cities Transit Users
 - 52% are ages 18-34; 18% have a disability;
 - 55% are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)
 - 64% come from household earning less than \$35k annually
 - 77% could not have made the trip by automobile
- Reflective of the Maplewood Community At Large
 - 42% BIPOC; 38% Ages 20-49; 22% Below Federal Poverty Level

Purple Line Alongside the Bruce Vento Regional Trail

Purple Line & Bruce Vento Regional Trail (Q21)

Corridor

Enhancements:

- Improved intersection sightlines and lighting
- Roadway crossing treatments
- New trail amenities and trailhead parking
- Additional sidewalk and trail connections



View near Hagen Dr.

Note: rendering depicts approximately 10-year growth for vegetation

Project Approach to Corridor Vegetation (Q21)

Generally, one-third or more of the corridor vegetation will remain. Our plan is to:

- Preserve existing landscape wherever possible.
- Revegetate the corridor to emulate a natural feel. Our approach is to follow the [Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way Design Guide](#).
- Revegetation will be a mix of different size and species of trees and understory plants that are pollinator friendly, ecologically beneficial, seasonally diverse, low maintenance, and resilient.
- Vegetation restoration will maintain safe crossings (for bicyclists, pedestrians, vehicles, and wildlife) and open sight lines through deliberate selection of plant height and density in key locations.

Protecting Endangered Species (Q22)

Measures to minimize and mitigate impacts to habitat were developed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and MN Department of Natural Resources.

Impacts will be reduced by:

- Winter tree clearing to avoid active season for bats
- Certain construction activities scheduled to avoid turtle hibernation and the active season for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee
- Education for contractors to implement avoidance measures
- Protocols for contractors for reporting sightings of endangered species

Enhancements post construction include:

- Re-seeding with pollinator friendly plants

Opportunities for additional pollinator habitat enhancements will be coordinated with entities such as the U of M Bee Lab and MnDOT Office of Environmental Stewardship.



Northern Long-eared Bat



Rusty Patched Bumble Bee



Blanding's Turtle



Monarch Butterfly
(Candidate for the
Endangered Species List)

Transit Service Types: Different Solutions for Different Trip Purposes by Different User Groups

Current Maplewood Transit Services (Q25/Q38/Q46)

Provided by Metro Transit

- **Local bus:** operates in urban and suburban areas with many stops, short distances apart (example Route 54). Fare: \$2.00 to \$2.50.
- **Commuter/Express bus:** travels between suburbs (often from park-and-rides) and urban centers with very few stops. Fare: \$2.50 to \$3.25.

Provided by Metropolitan Council or Others

- **[Metro Mobility](#):** shared ride public transportation service for riders who are unable to use regular fixed-route buses due to a disability or health condition. Fare: \$3.50 to \$4.50.
- **[Transit Link](#):** shared-ride public transportation where regular route transit service is infrequent or unavailable.
- **[MObility4All](#):** innovative new service providing personalized ride services for older adults.

Other Transit Services (Q25/Q38/Q46)

Provided by Metro Transit

- [Metro Transit micro](#): on-demand, multi-passenger service to improve connections to existing transit service and point-to-point trips within a service area ([current pilot in north Minneapolis](#))
- **Transitways**: commuter rail, light rail, streetcar, bus rapid transit (dedicated, highway, arterial)

Provided by Metropolitan Council or Others

- [Newtrax](#): group transportation services to specialty groups

Transitway Funding

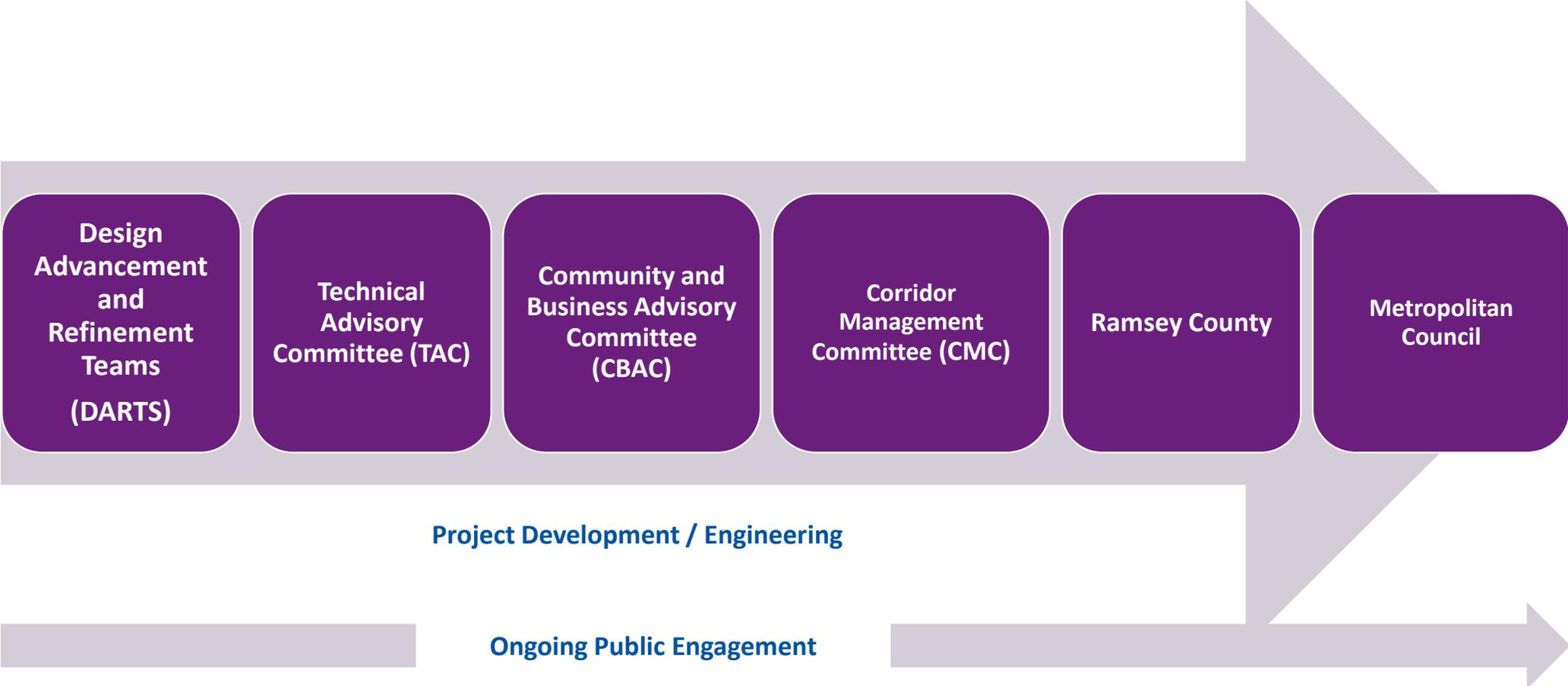
Transitway Funding (Q27)

Transitway Type	Capital Funding Sources	Operations & Maintenance Funding Sources
Commuter Rail Light Rail Transit Modern Streetcar Dedicated Bus Rapid Transit Highway Bus Rapid Transit	49% FTA Capital Investment Grant Program 51% Host County(ies)	50% Host County(ies) 50% Metro Transit
Arterial Bus Rapid Transit	A mix of various federal, state and local programs; mix is different for each project.	100% Metro Transit

- There is no dedicated source of funding for Arterial BRT projects.
- County funding provides a stable funding source for the construction and operation of new transitways, excluding arterial BRT.

Purple Line Engagement & Decision-making Process

Engagement & Decision-making Process (Q39)



Design Advancement and Refinement Teams (DARTS)

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Community and Business Advisory Committee (CBAC)

Corridor Management Committee (CMC)

Ramsey County

Metropolitan Council

Project Development / Engineering

Ongoing Public Engagement

- Individual and group business/property owner meetings
- Paper and online fact sheets/handouts/maps and translated materials
- Outreach to neighborhood/community groups
- Pop-ups/community events and hosted open house events
- Canvassing at existing transit facilities
- Website, social media, news release, email, postcard updates

Active Participation & Project Affirmation (Q39)

- 5/25/17: Rush Line Policy Advisory Committee, chaired by then Maplewood Mayor Nora Slawik, recommended selection of the Locally Preferred Alternative
- City Council Actions Supporting the BRT Project
 - 6/26/17: Resolution of Support for Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
 - 5/11/20: Resolution of Support for 15% Design Plans
- City Council Actions Recognizing the BRT Project
 - 2007: Adoption of Gladstone Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan
 - 2019: Adoption of 2040 Comprehensive Plan
 - 2019: Adoption of North End Vision Plan
- City Council Actions Leveraging the BRT Project
 - 2022: Application for \$1M in Livable Communities Demonstration Account Transit Oriented Development Grant funds (***City was only eligible to apply because of Purple Line***)

Transit Safety and Security

Transit Safety & Security (Q24/Q45)

Safety and Security Issues Associated with Transit in Maplewood

- No significant issues reported on bus routes serving Maplewood
- Homelessness and narcotics use in the Maplewood Mall Transit Center
 - Upper levels and elevator lobby are closed off

Safety & Security Action Plan

- Working closely with law enforcement partners
- Making it more enticing to become a Metro Transit Police Officer
- Expanding our use of contracted security
- Introducing non-police personnel
- Hiring more cleaners to clean vehicles and facilities

Project Next Steps & Timeline

Project Next Steps: Decisions, Approvals, Funding Requests, Timelines (Q1)

- 2023: Focusing on coordination with the City of Maplewood and other project stakeholders
- 2023: Establish Revised Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
- TBD: Complete Design & Request Federal Construction Grant Agreement
- TBD: Start Construction & Receive Federal Construction Grant Agreement

Contact Us

For more information:

www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project

[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @PurpleLineBRT

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