



B R T

RUSH LINE PROJECT UPDATE: WHITE BEAR LAKE CITY COUNCIL


TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018


Project Purpose and Need


- **Purpose:**


- Provide transit service that satisfies the long-term regional mobility needs for businesses and the traveling public and supports sustainable development within the study area.

- **Needs:**

 Planning for sustainable growth and development.

 Limited sustainable travel options.

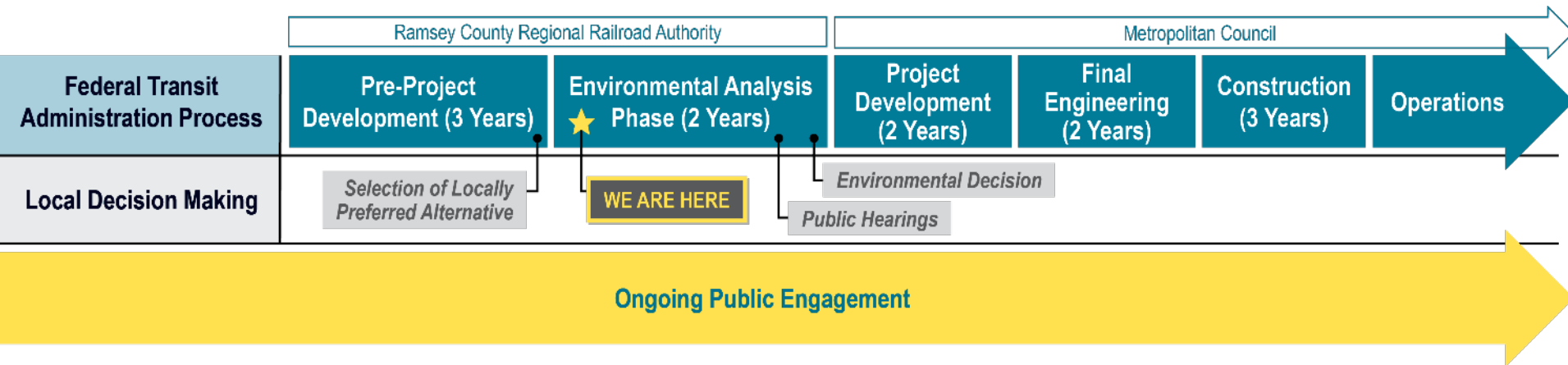
 Serving the needs of people who rely on transit.

 Increasing demand for reliable, high-frequency transit.

Transitway Development Process



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Project Definition for EA analysis



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- Dedicated guideway Bus Rapid Transit.
- Phalen Boulevard and Robert Street into downtown Saint Paul.
- Ramsey County Regional Railroad right-of-way (shared with Bruce Vento Trail).
- Highway 61 north of I-694 into White Bear Lake.
- Explore future connections to the north and other system improvements.



What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

B R T

High-quality service

- Operates in own lane.
- Frequent and reliable.
- Upgraded stations and vehicles.



Metro Transit's A Line BRT service between Roseville and Minneapolis

BRT vehicles

- Easy boarding at all doors.
- Electric / hybrid-electric.
- Quiet, low-emissions.
- Fare collection on platform.
- Bike storage.
- Right-sized for ridership.



Public Engagement

- Goals:
 - Inform and collect input from people in the study area.
 - Use input to shape the project.
- From March through September 2018:
 - Conducted or staffed 87 events.
 - Engaged with over 1,300 community members, businesses and other stakeholders.
 - Recorded over 700 comments.
 - Documented in public engagement summary.



End of Summer Celebration in Maplewood

White Bear Lake Events

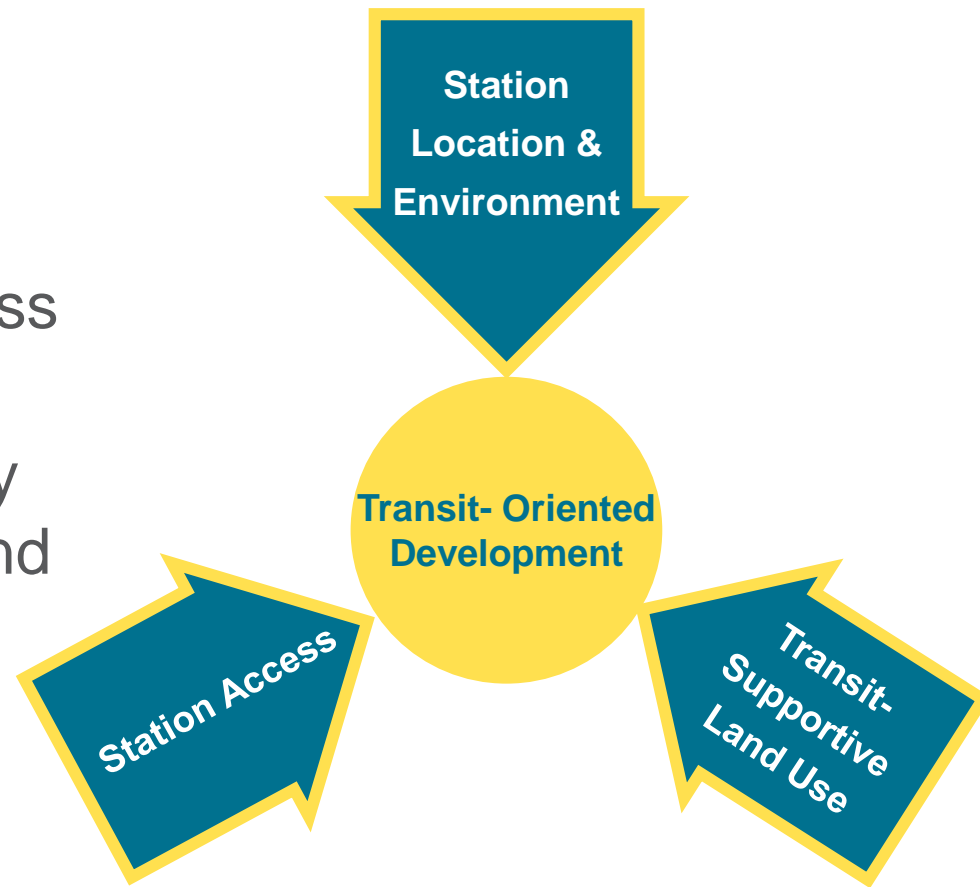
- Public engagement to date:
 - Station area planning working group meetings.
 - Stakeholder interviews.
 - Downtown walk-and-engage.
 - Northeast Community Expo.
 - MarketFest.
 - Listening sessions.
- Themes from White Bear Lake:
 - Significant general support for the project and its long-term value for the community.
 - High level of interest in Downtown White Bear Lake station.



MarketFest July 2018

Station Area Planning Objectives

- Identify station platform locations to maximize access and ridership.
- Increase transit connectivity consistent with the plans and objectives of each community.
- Analyze potential for development in context of current built environment.



White Bear Lake Station Area Planning

- Station area planning working group.
 - Formed by city leadership.
 - Comprised by residents, business owners and city staff.
 - 3 meetings between April and August 2018.
- One-on-one meetings with more than 20 stakeholders.
 - Business owners.
 - Residents.
 - Commercial property owners.
 - City leadership.



White Bear Lake Station Area Planning Working Group, June 27

What's a “terminus” station ?

- Identifiable, distinctive destination to anchor the route.
- Good walking proximity to destinations and connections (e.g. walkways, trails, local transit service).
- Efficient mainline road/route access in both service directions with nearby intersections designed to reduce congestion and facilitate mobility and safety.
- Bus operator usually “lays over” at station for a few minutes to maintain schedule timing and break (electric charging possible).
- No bus maintenance or storage on site; station regularly monitored and maintained.

Station design

- Comfortable, safe passenger waiting and easy access.
- Clear identification and real-time route information.
- Well-lit and designed for highest level of visibility for passengers, bus operators and others nearby.
- Regularly cleaned and maintained.
- Clearly marked pedestrian crossing and waiting zones.
- Multiple security cameras and notification 'callbox' system.
- Opportunities for beautification through landscaping and public art.



Bus operations

- Professional, commercially licensed bus operators.
- Modern, clean, quiet, comfortable vehicles.
- Ongoing communications contact with control center, law enforcement.
- Lighting and high-visibility features on bus to improve safety.
- Routes and vehicles are regularly patrolled and maintained.



Criteria

- **Adequate parcel size** – 100 parking spaces (minimum 35,000-40,000 square feet) + 4 bus bays + platform (12' x 80') + operator restroom/break room.
- **Site availability** – vacant, underutilized or redevelopable parcel.
- **Compatible form, massing, and height** – consistent with existing regulations/adjacent uses.
- **Viable ground floor mixed-use** – along busy street (5,000-15,000 average daily drive-by auto trips).
- **Good pedestrian access** – safe 5 minute walk (maximum) between structure/station platform and downtown core.
- **Easy access for buses and autos** – convenient route.
- **Integrated station and parking** – 1000' maximum separation.

Parking Structures: Compatible Character



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Lincoln, Nebraska



Whitefish, Montana



Station Location and Joint Parking Options



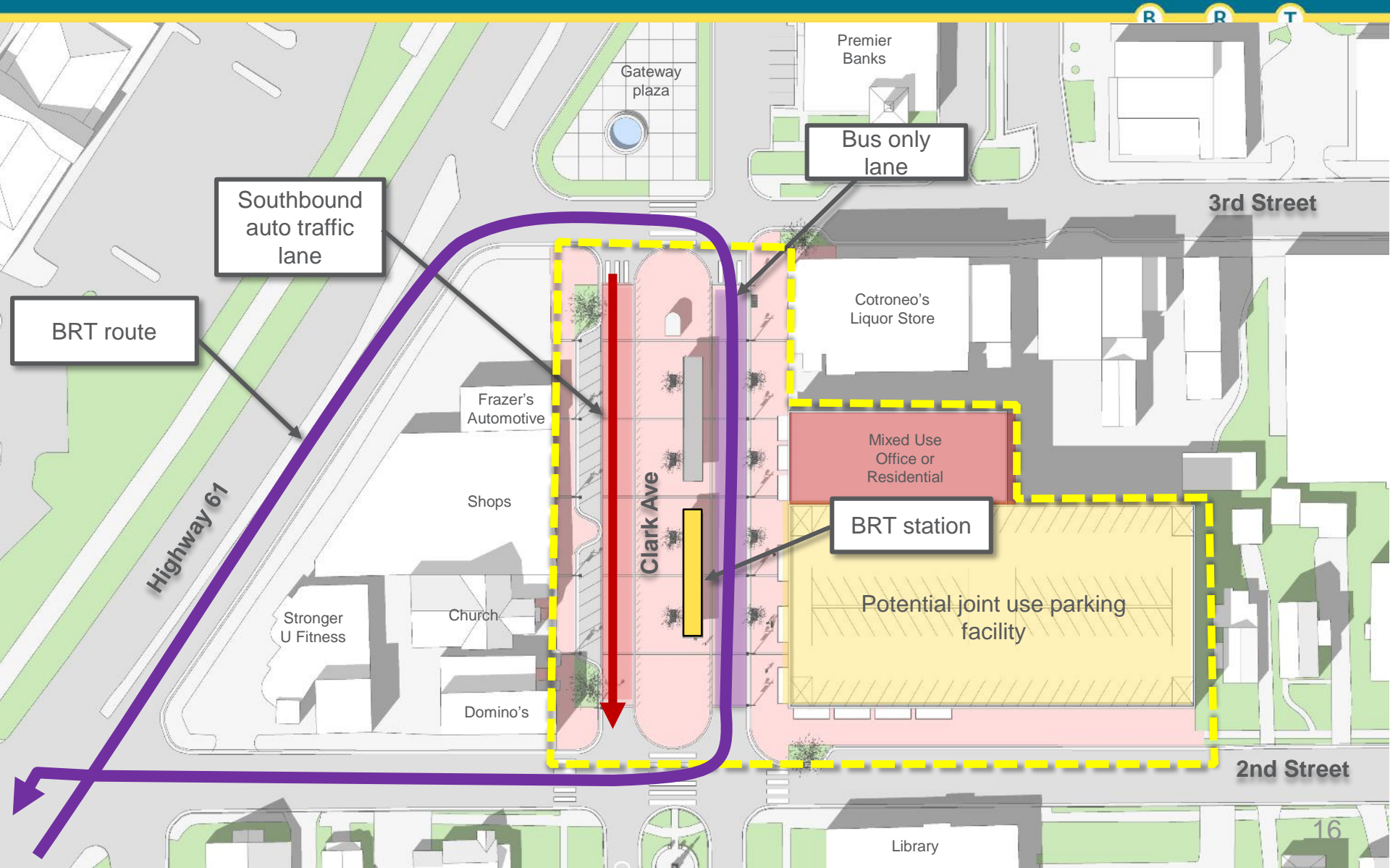
Northern Option Site:
Long Avenue

Downtown Option #3
4th Street and Bloom Avenue

Downtown Option #2
Banning Avenue

Downtown Option #1
Clark Avenue

Potential Clark Avenue Station Platform



Potential Clark Avenue Station Platform

- Serves the downtown well and has opportunity for additional parking, place-making and convenient pedestrian and bike access.
- Concerns about new development (building heights) impacting adjacent homes.

White Bear Lake Meetings

Listening sessions October 11-12:

- Strong interest in compatibility with historic downtown character.
- Comments about joint use parking facility and potential congestion.
- Questions about proximity to residential neighborhoods.
- Many general questions about bus rapid transit service: frequency, safety, vehicles, ridership.
- Questions about timeline, planning and decision-making.



White Bear Lake Listening Session, October 11

Next Steps by the Rush Line Project Team

- Broader look at downtown station options.
- Consider feedback provided on benefits and concerns.
- Identify top candidates.
- Bring other top candidates and analysis back to the community.