June 26, 2019

RUSH LINE BRT PROJECT UPDATE

SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL

Agenda

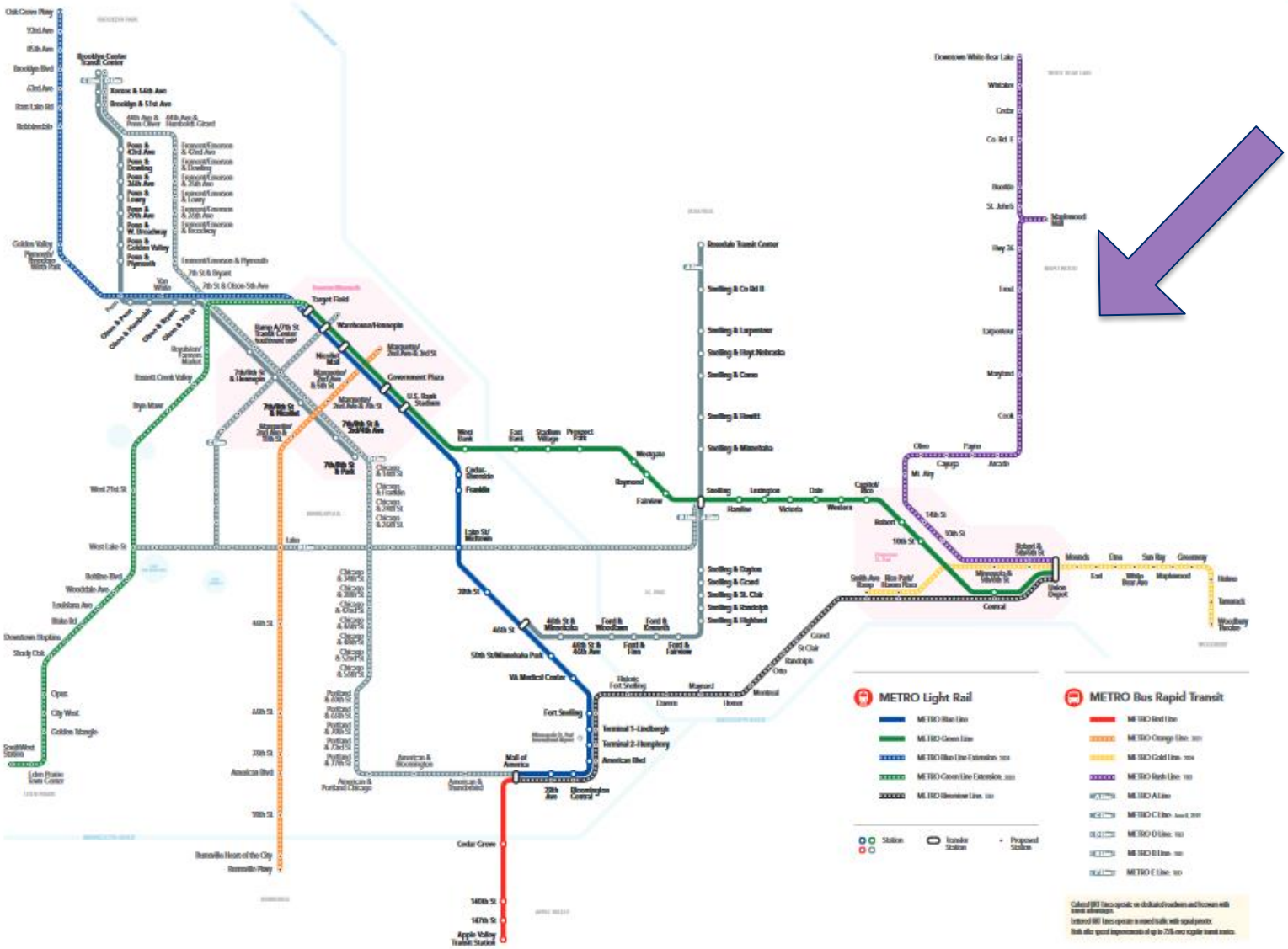
- Rush Line BRT Project overview.
- Public Engagement
- Focus Areas
  - Downtown Saint Paul Activities
  - Arcade Street Station area Concept
- Next steps.
- Comments/questions.

Locally Preferred Alternative

- Dedicated guideway BRT.
- Phalen Boulevard and Robert Street into downtown Saint Paul.
- Ramsey County rail 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.

* Project assumes co-location with Bruce Vento Trail

Future Rapid Transit Network



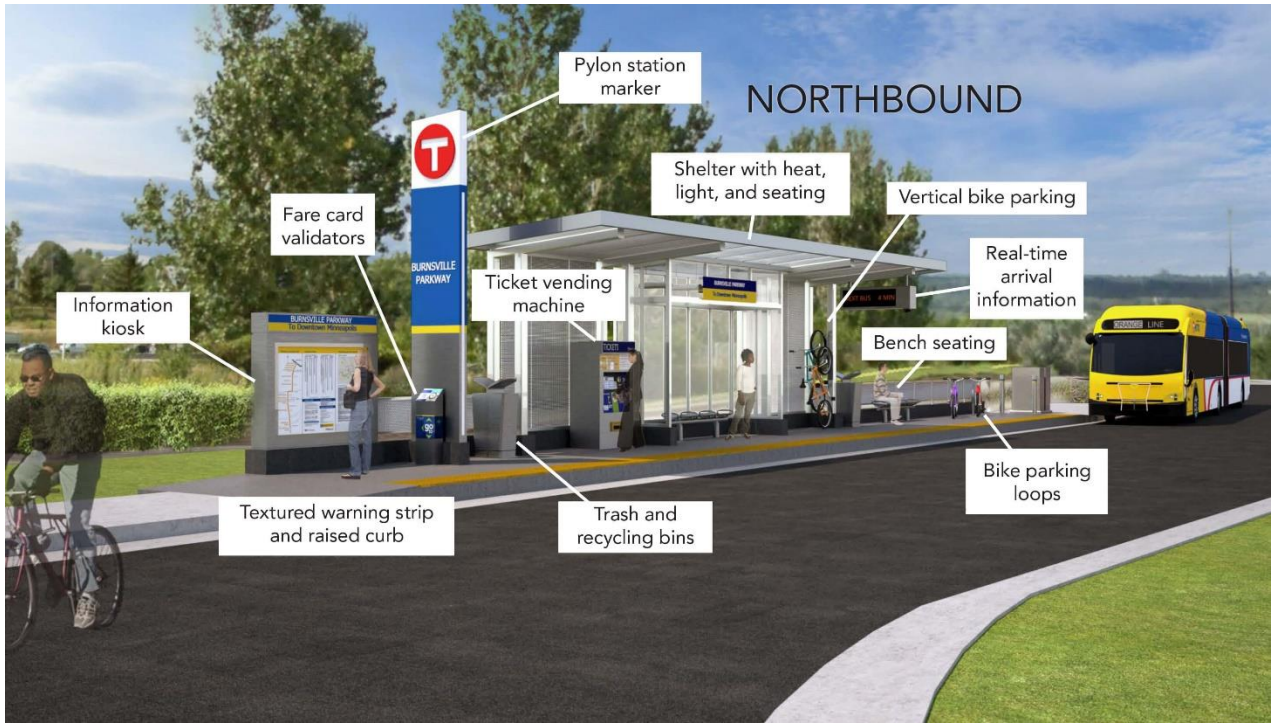
What is Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)?

- **High-quality service.**
  - Operates in own lane.
  - Frequent and reliable.
  - Upgraded stations and vehicles.
  - Serves a different market than commuter express service.
- **BRT vehicles.**
  - Easy boarding at all doors.
  - Electric / hybrid-electric.
  - Quiet, low-emissions.
  - Fare collection on platform.
  - Bike storage.
  - Right-sized for ridership.

A Line BRT service between Roseville and Minneapolis
(Source: Metro Transit)

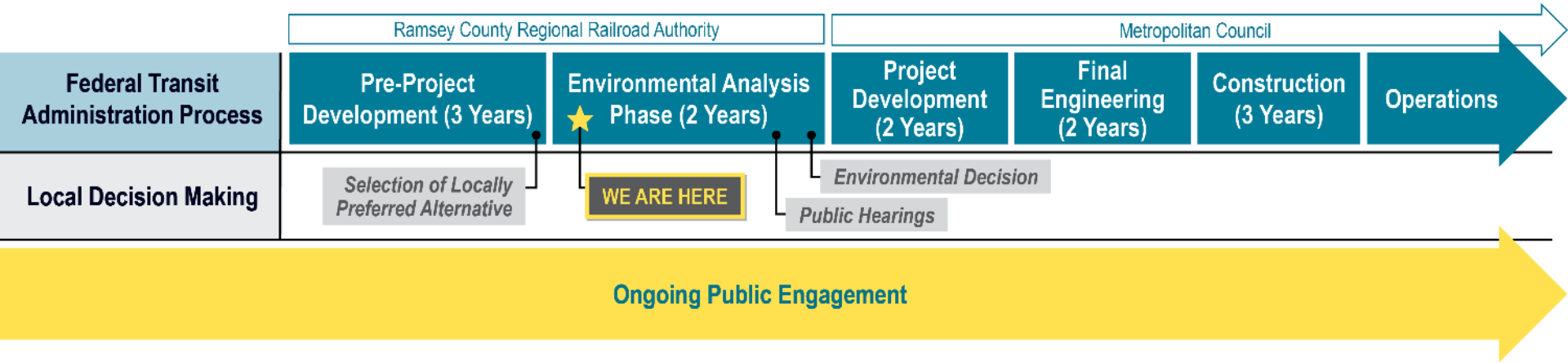
BRT Station Features

- NexTrip real-time departure signs.
- Raised platforms.
- Maps.
- Benches.
- Heat.
- Lighting.
- Bike racks.
- Trash and recycling bins.
- Ticket machines.



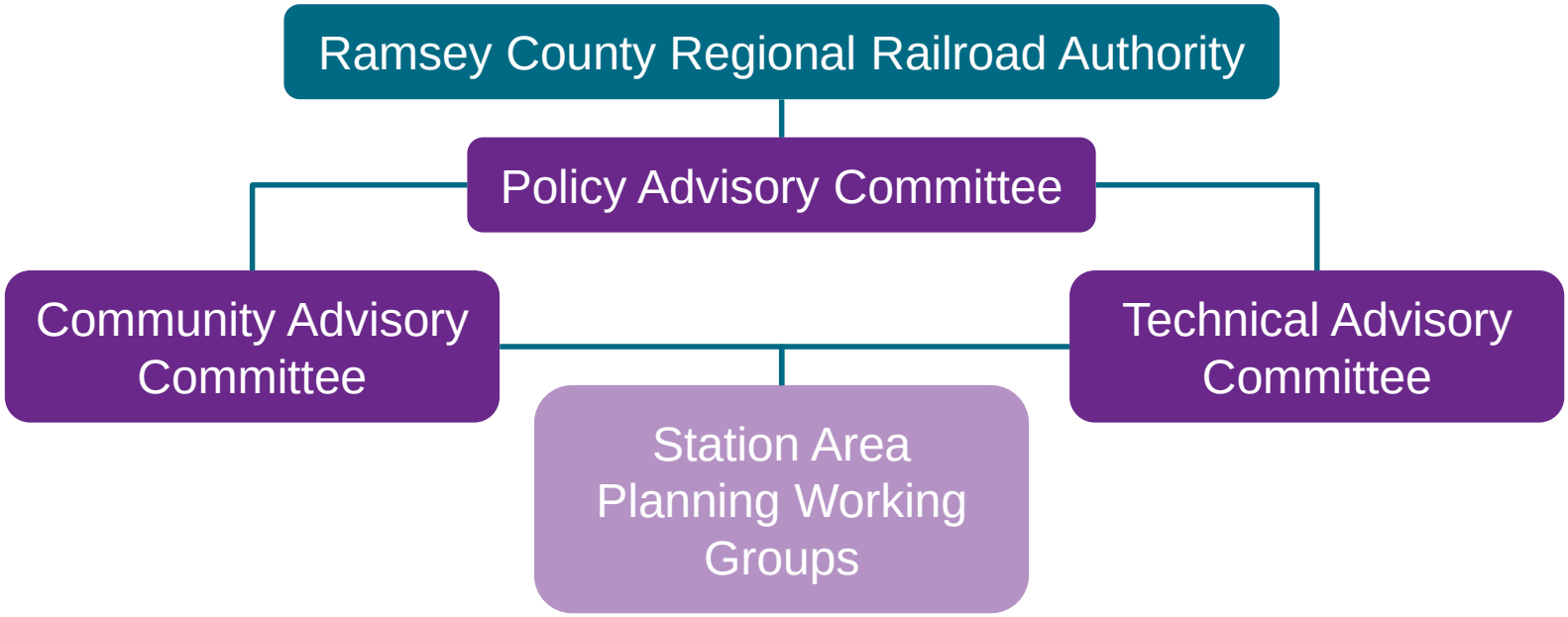
METRO Orange Line BRT I-35W & Burnsville Parkway station

Transitway Development Process



- Environmental analysis phase key tasks:
  - Environmental Assessment.
  - Engineering.
  - Station area planning.
  - Public engagement.

Environmental Analysis Phase Advisory Committees



Public Engagement

- Diverse corridor with regard to race, ethnicity, income and languages spoken.
  - Latino, Hmong, Karen and Somali communities in the corridor.
- Provide project information to under-represented communities and use their input to inform project decisions.
  - Station locations.
  - Guideway alignment.
  - Environmental impacts.
  - Health impacts.
  - Trail alignment and features.
  - Pedestrian safety.

Public Engagement

- Methods:
  - Pop-up meetings/tabling.
  - Targeted events.
  - Updates/briefings.
  - Open Houses
  - Email.
  - Website.
  - Social media.
  - Surveys.
  - Interactive map.
- March 2018 to present:
  - 142 in-person activities.
  - 2,500+ people engaged in person.
  - 1,200+ comments.

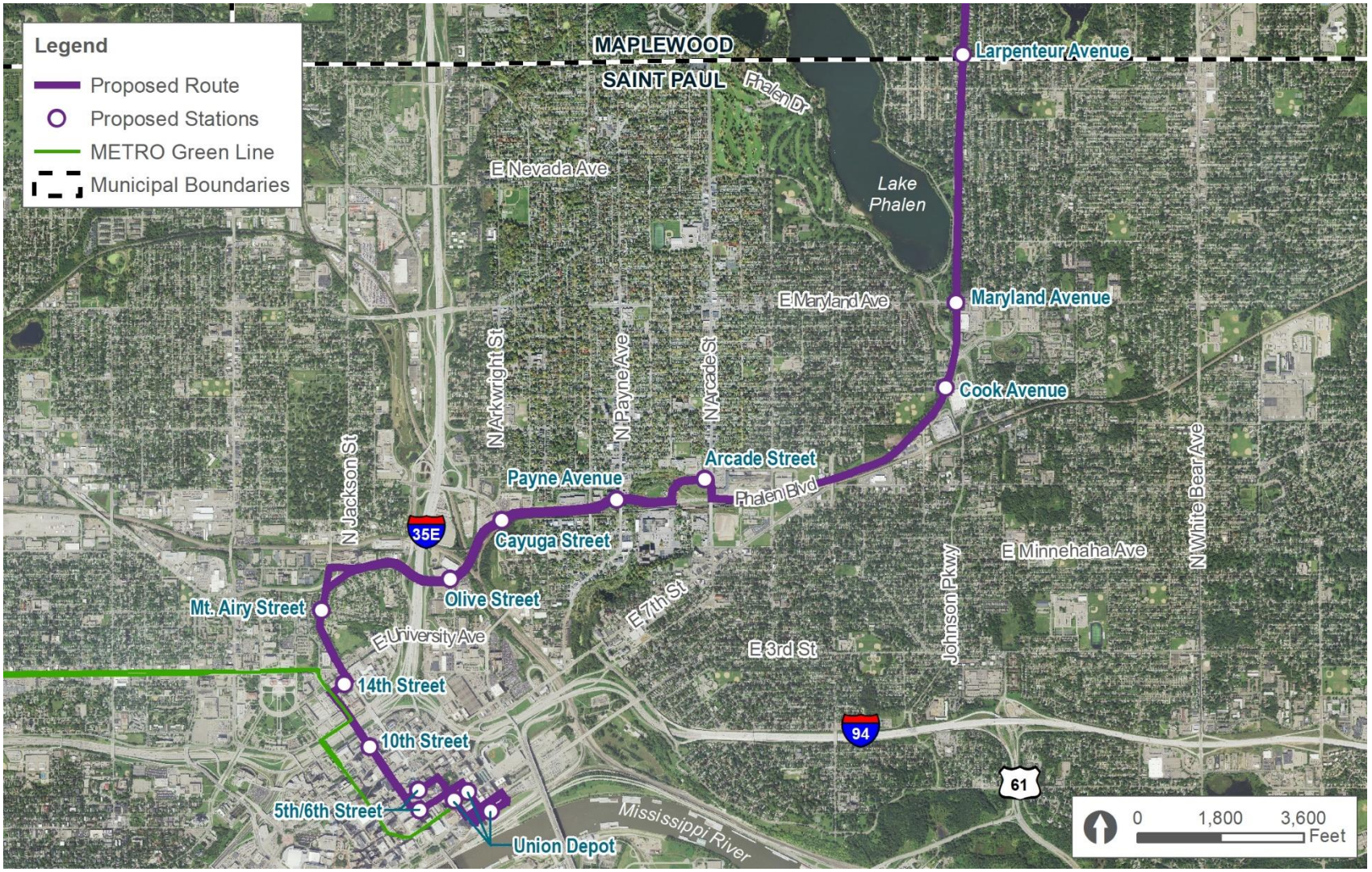
Johnson High School, May 21, 2018.

Public Engagement Activities

- Pop-up Meetings held at:
  - Saint Paul Farmers' Market.
  - Cinco de Mayo.
  - Mt. Airy Homes Spring Event.
  - Union Depot Train Day.
  - WaterFest.
  - Sun World Supermarket.
- Upcoming Events
  - Online interactive map and right-of-way survey – ongoing.
  - June 26: Hmong community event at Frost Lake Elementary School.
  - August 10: CLUES Fiesta Latina.

Mt. Airy Spring Event, May 17.

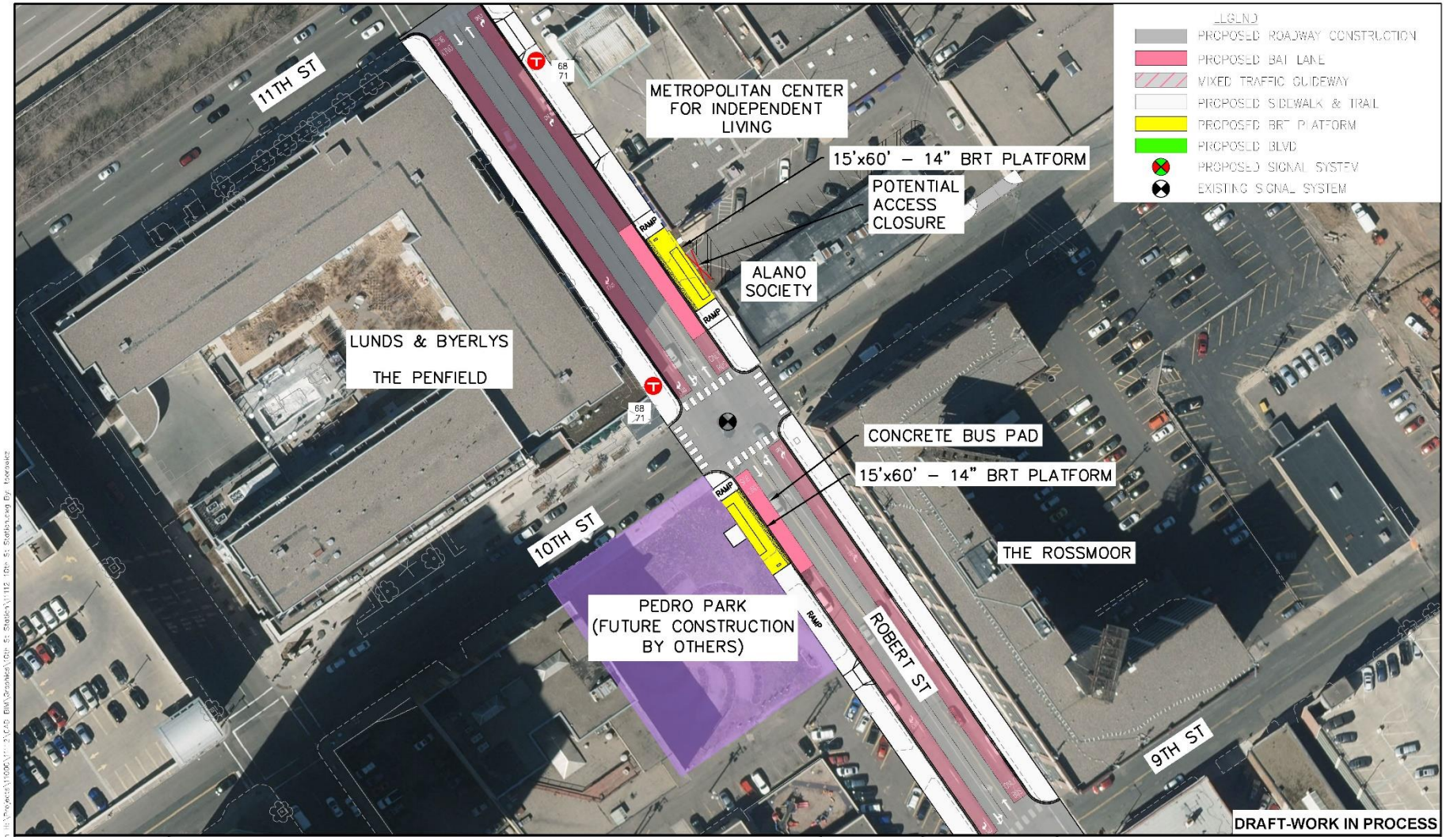
Rush Line BRT Project in Saint Paul



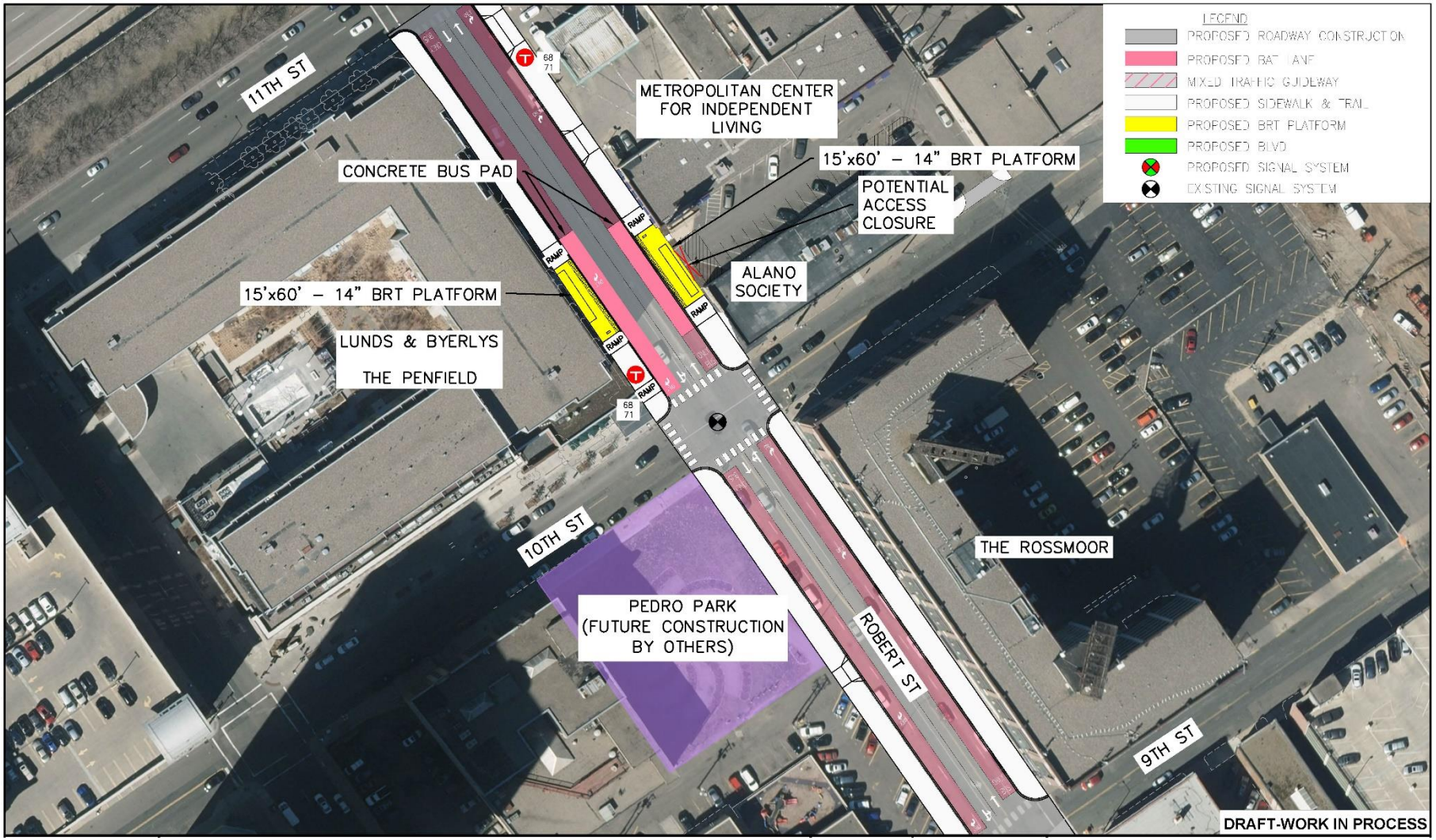
Downtown Saint Paul Activities

- METRO Gold Line Shared Stations and Routing.
- Robert Street Improvement Project Coordination.
- 10th Street Station.
  - Some nearby residents expressed concerns about BRT station adjacent to Pedro Park.
  - 2 concepts developed for the southbound 10th Street platform – far side and near side.

10th Street Station Southbound Platform Far Side Concept



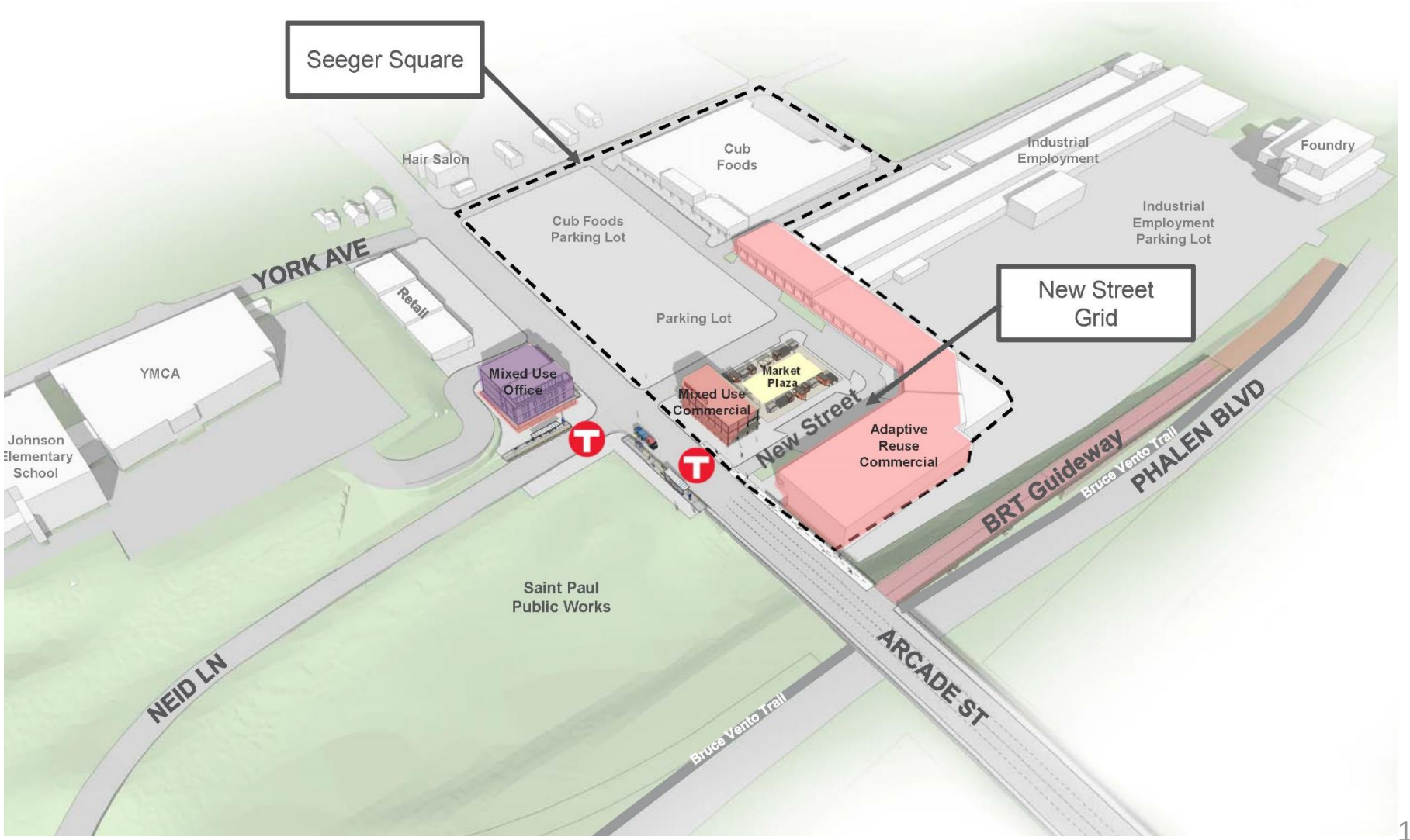
10th Street Station Southbound Platform Near Side Concept



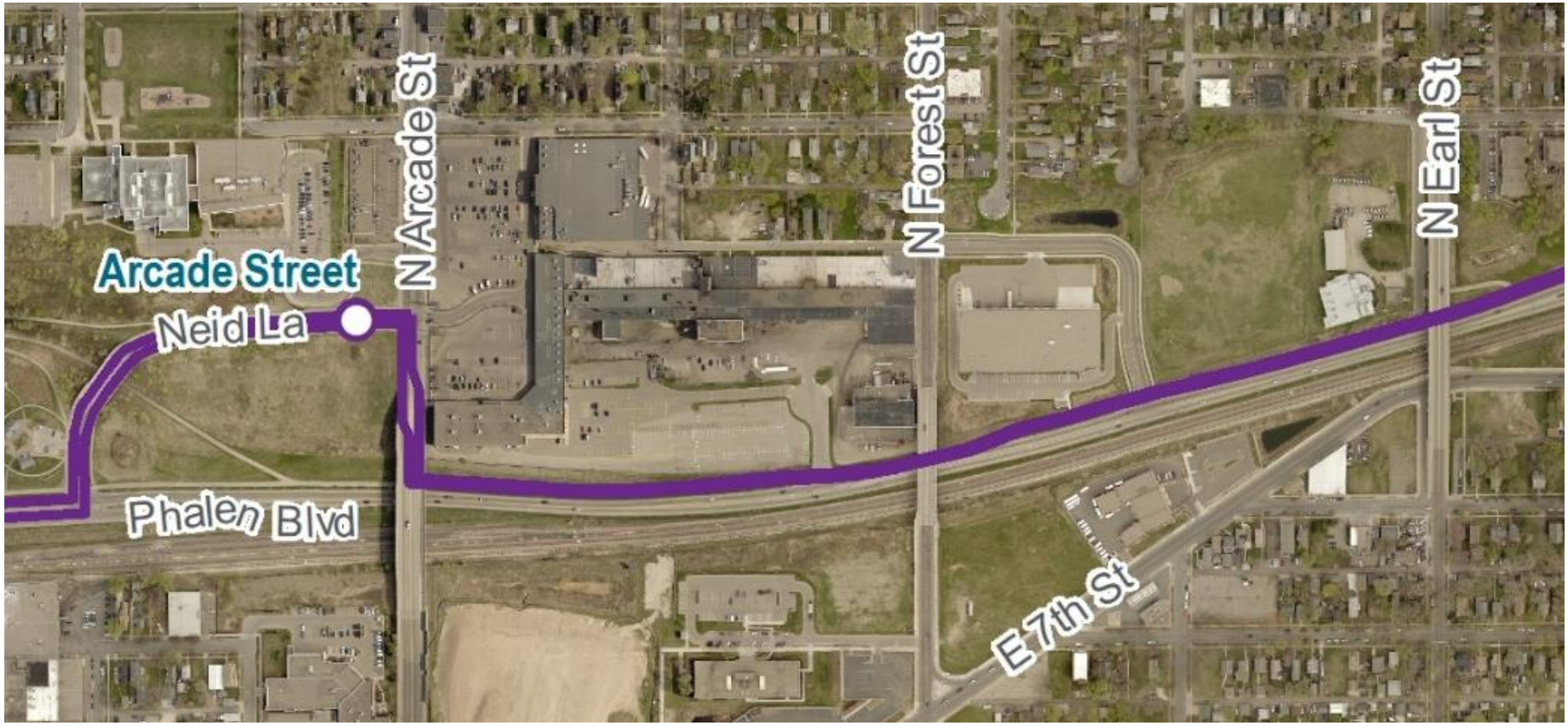
10th Street Station Engagement

- Public engagement activities have included:
  - Drop-in discussions (May 8 and 9).
  - Meetings with Metropolitan Center for Independent Living (May 8), the Penfield (May 24), the Alano Society (May 24) and Lunds & Byerlys (May 28).
- Next steps:
  - Recommendations from Saint Paul Issue Resolution Team and Technical Advisory Committee.
  - Present recommended location to Policy Advisory Committee in July.

Arcade Street Station Area Concept

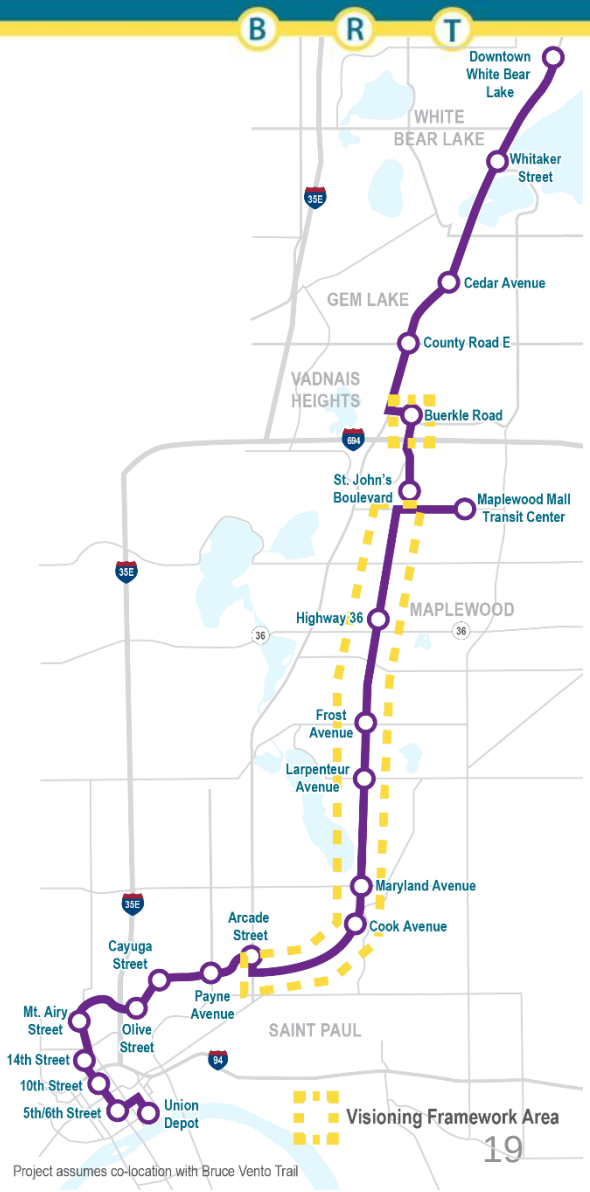


Stormwater Coordination with Lower Phalen Creek Project & Capitol Region Watershed District

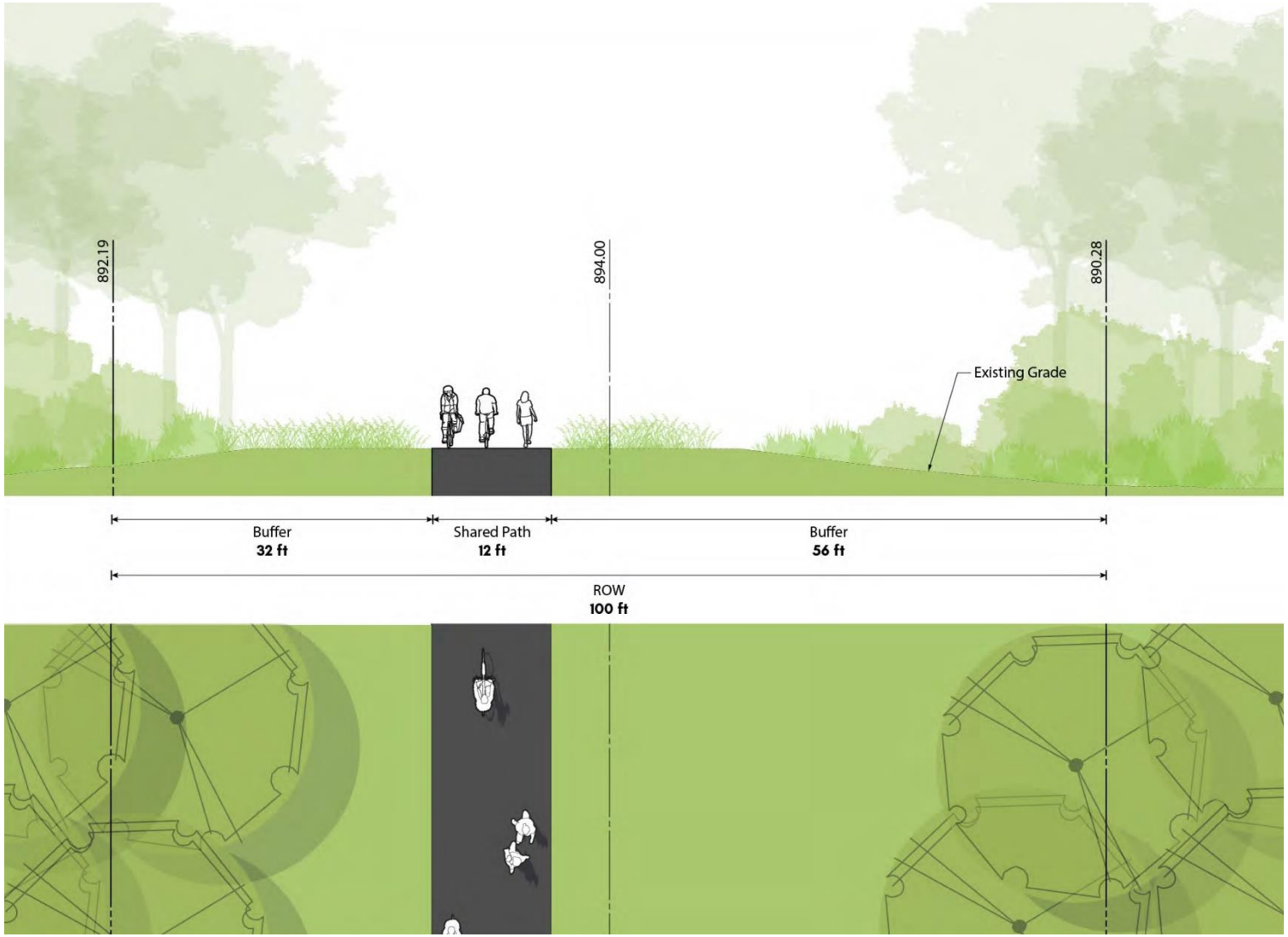


Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way Visioning Framework

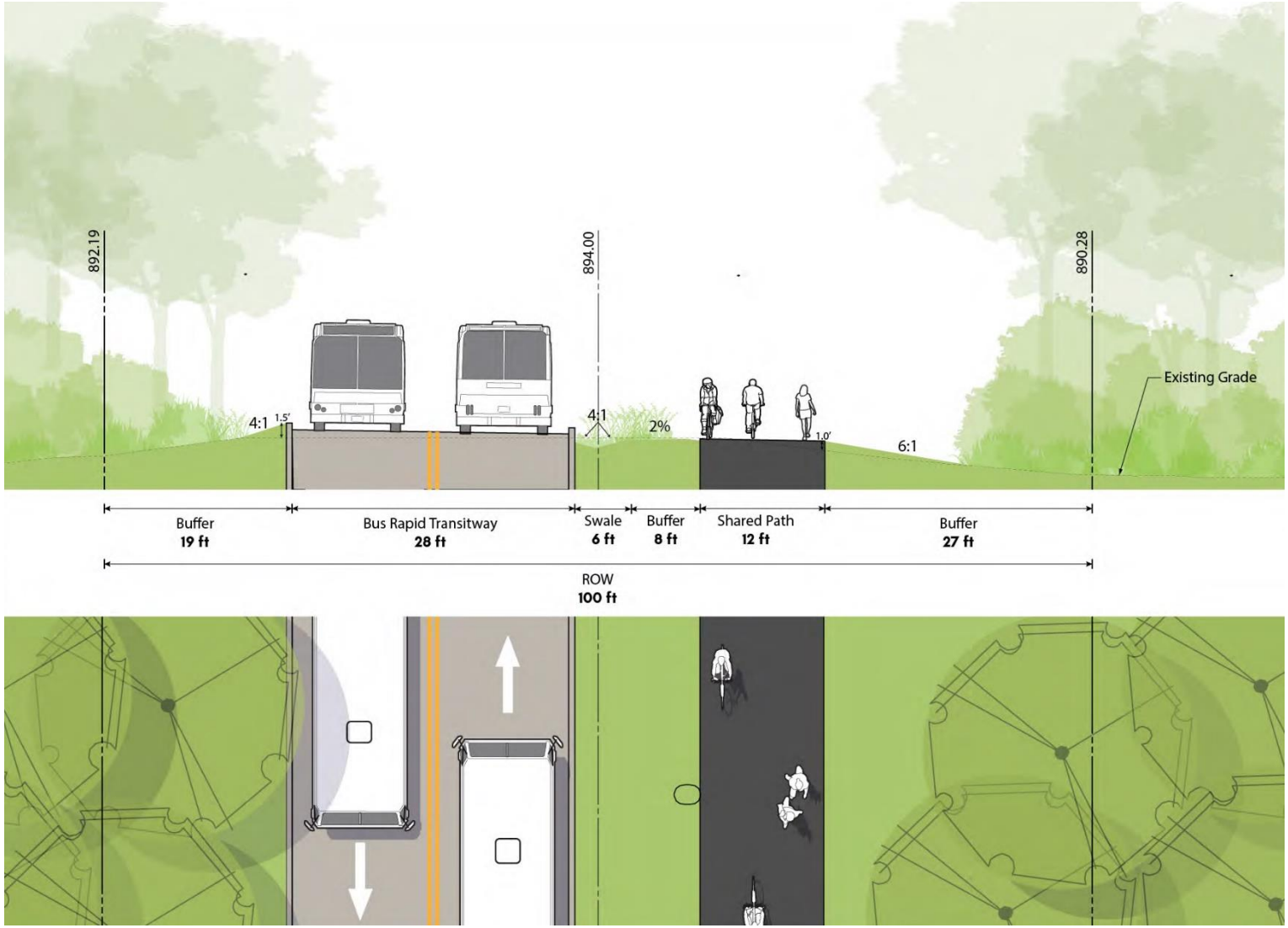
- Goal:
  - Develop a safe and context-sensitive BRT guideway and shared use trail plan.
  - Collaboratively developed through technical expertise and community input.
  - Will be developed to help guide and support decision-making.
- Begins with targeted engagement activities.
  - Visioning Workshop.
  - Tuesdays on the Trail.



Typical Existing Condition in Ramsey County Rail Right-of-Way



BRT & Trail Co-Location Concept



Visioning Framework Components

- Landscaping.
- Lighting.
- Stormwater best management practices.
- Wayfinding/signage.
- Bridges and structures.
- Intersection design.
- Trailhead amenities.
- Buffers and edges.
- Operations and maintenance.
- Education opportunities.

Next Steps

- Engineering.
  - August/September: City staff review of 15 percent design plans.
- Environmental.
  - Examine potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures.
  - Environmental Assessment publication in 2020.
- Ongoing public engagement.

Comments/Questions?

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