



## APPENDIX D. PROJECT UPDATE MEMOS

**Date:** 7/3/2024

**To:** Purple Line Policymakers and Staff

**From:** Liz Jones, Community Outreach & Engagement Lead, Purple Line BRT

## RE: Purple Line BRT Project Update

This memo is an update on current and upcoming Purple Line BRT Project activities which may be of interest to policymakers and staff representing areas of the project corridor. This update includes:

- Current Project Status and Activities
- Arcade Street Updates
- Recent & Upcoming Community Meetings/Events

### Current Project Status and Activities

Project staff are focusing on evaluating Maryland and White Bear avenues as a route alternative to co-locating with the Bruce Vento Regional Trail between Maryland and Beam avenues. Current activities included in the [Route Modification Study \(RMS\) Phase II](#) are:

- Technical evaluation of impacts and benefits and soliciting public feedback of a new narrowed center-running transit lane design option in Saint Paul.
- Refinement of the concept design layouts of the various roadway and transit design options.
- Targeted engagement with residential and commercial property owners anticipated to be impacted by one or more of the roadway and transit design options.

### Arcade Street Update

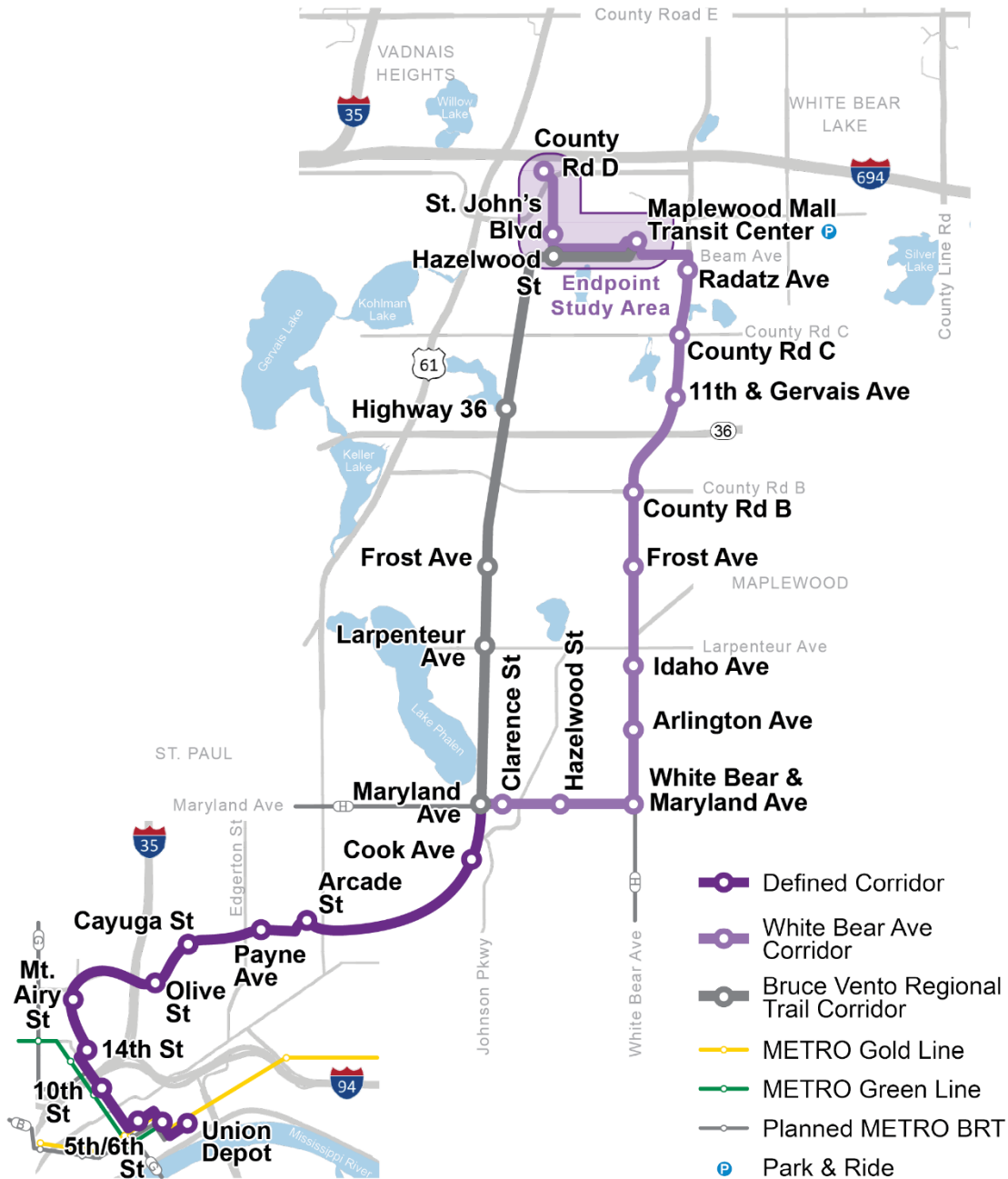
The current location and design of the Arcade Street Station and the Purple Line route through this area includes a new bus rapid transit station and guideway next to Neid Lane, just west of Arcade Street. In response to community's questions about how this station location would integrate into the neighborhood, project staff have created a new tab on the project website to host the history of this station's location and design with new visualizations to explain the current location and design. More information can be found here: <https://www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project-arcade-street-station>

Project staff are also continuing the process of a site redevelopment feasibility study for the area surrounding the Arcade Street Station, which could lead to an opportunity for an alternative station location and design. HR&A Advisors (a Real Estate and Economic Development firm) and 4RM+ULA (an Architectural Design firm) are supporting staff on the study, which is anticipated to be completed summer 2024.

### Engagement Update – Upcoming Comment Period

Project staff plan to engage the community over the Bruce Vento Regional Trail co-location and the White Bear Avenue Corridor route alternatives July 8 through August 30.

Please help us share with your constituents the following project hosted in-person and virtual community meetings to learn more about the evaluation, benefits, and impacts of these two route alternatives. Public feedback will help inform the selection of the best route for the Purple Line BRT at the end of the summer.



**IN-PERSON MEETINGS**  
**Maplewood YMCA Community Center**  
 Wednesday, July 17, 5–7 p.m.  
 2100 White Bear Ave.,  
 Maplewood, MN 55109  
 Heritage Banquet Room D

### Hazel Park Recreation Center

Tuesday, July 30, 5–7 p.m.

945 Hazel St. N.

St. Paul, MN 55119

*Come and go anytime. There will be no formal presentations during the in-person meetings.*

### VIRTUAL MEETING

#### Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, August 14, noon–1:30 p.m.

Meeting link will be available on the website in advance of the meeting.

A virtual walk through of the meeting materials and [online survey](#) will be available on the [project website](#) July 8 through August 30 to provide input anytime on a preferred corridor.

Project staff will be out in the community during the comment period in various locations this summer to solicit feedback on the preferred corridor.

**Table 1: Recent Community and Stakeholder Meetings and Outreach Events/Activities**

Date	Event Type	Community Event / Stakeholder Name
June 1, 2024	Tabling	Train Days
June 1, 2024	Tabling	Art in the Hollow
June 4, 2024	Presentation	St. John’s Hospital
June 4, 2024	Presentation	Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
June 5, 2024	Presentation	Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) Meeting
June 6, 2024	Presentation	Elim Church
June 11, 2024	Presentation	Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi
June 10-26, 2024	Canvassing	Johnson Parkway / Phalen Boulevard Area
June 14, 2024	Tabling	Maplewood YMCA Backyard BBQ
June 25, 2024	Presentation	Payne-Phalen Community Council
June 27, 2024	Johnson Parkway Ice Cream Event	Solicit feedback on Johnson Pkwy crossing options

**Table 2: Upcoming Community and Stakeholder Meetings and Outreach Events/Activities<sup>1</sup>**

Date:	Event Name:	Purpose/Target Audience:
Ongoing	Residential & transit canvassing in St. Paul and Maplewood	Renters, transit users

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<sup>1</sup> Community events listed could change depending on weather and staff availability. Additional pop-up and stakeholder meetings will continue to be added on the project website as they get scheduled.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event Name:</b>	<b>Purpose/Target Audience:</b>
July 13, 2024	Dragon Festival	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
July 17, 2024	Maplewood Open House	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
July 24, 2024	Maplewood Celebrate Summer	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 6, 2024	National Night Out and Boys and Girls Club (same night)	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 14, 2024	Virtual Open House	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 17, 2024	India Fest	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 21, 2024	Maplewood Summer	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 2024	White Bear Business Association	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 2024	Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 2024	Saint Paul District Councils	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	YMCA, Sun World Supermarket, Centromex Supermercando	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Hmong Village	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Union Depot	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Weaver Lake Elementary	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Harmony Learning Center	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Iowa Hi-Rise	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Union Gospel Mission	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor

For more information about project committees, please visit [www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project-committees](http://www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project-committees).

- The next Purple Line Community and Business Advisory Committee meeting will be held on July 26 from 12:30–1:30pm.
- The next scheduled meeting of the Purple Line Corridor Management Committee will be held on August 1 from 1pm–2:30pm.

**Date:** 7/26/2024

**To:** Purple Line Policymakers and Staff

**From:** Liz Jones, Community Outreach & Engagement Lead, Purple Line BRT

## **RE: Purple Line BRT Project Update**

This memo is an update on current and upcoming Purple Line BRT Project activities which may be of interest to policymakers and staff representing areas of the project corridor. This update includes:

- Current Project Status and Activities
- Station Area Planning Update
- Community Engagement Update
- Recent & Upcoming Community Meetings/Events

### **Current Project Status and Activities**

Project staff are focusing on evaluating Maryland and White Bear avenues as a route alternative to co-locating with the Bruce Vento Regional Trail between Maryland and Beam avenues. Current activities included in the [Route Modification Study \(RMS\) Phase II](#) are:

- Technical evaluation of impacts and benefits and soliciting public feedback of a new narrowed center-running transit lane design option in Saint Paul.
- Refinement of the concept design layouts of the various roadway and transit design options.
- Targeted engagement with residential and commercial property owners anticipated to be impacted by one or more of the roadway and transit design options.
- The noise consultant team will be out the week of July 29 to conduct field noise measurements along Maryland, White Bear, and Beam Avenues. They will not need access to private property for this activity. More details on upcoming project fieldwork will be shared in the coming weeks.

### **Station Area Planning Update**

Participants of five Station Area Working Groups for the 10th Street through Cook Avenue stations are meeting for the final time in July. Attendees are working to prioritize the suggested physical infrastructure improvements and programs/policies they identified at previous meetings. Following adjustments to the station area plans based on the July working group meetings, there will be a Station Area Planning Summit to hear feedback from the general public in the fall. Please follow the [Station Area Planning webpage](#) for up-to-date information, including meeting summaries and notice of the fall Station Area Planning Summit date and location. Contact [emma.lucken@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:emma.lucken@co.ramsey.mn.us) to learn more about the Station Area Planning process.

## Engagement Update

Project staff continue to engage with the public over the Bruce Vento Regional Trail co-location and the White Bear Avenue Corridor route alternatives through August 30. Below are the links to engagement materials that are being shared throughout the comment period:

- Corridor comparison survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3DDWQF>
  - As of 7/25, 548 people have completed the survey
- Interactive map that includes visualization and design plans for both corridors: <https://app.publiccoordinate.com/#/projects/PurpleLineBRTCorridor/map>
- Storymap with the White Bear Avenue Corridor design options: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/150fadd16b314b63895a36dd6ad6f8f8>

Staff connected with local community centers and libraries along the Purple Line BRT corridor to leave display boards, surveys, and flyers to promote the current comment period. Materials were left at the following locations:

### Maplewood:

- Salvation Army Lakewood
- Maplewood YMCA Community Center
- Ramsey County Library – Maplewood and N. St. Paul
- Cochran Recovery Services
- Catholic Charities Family Service Center
- Harmony Learning Center
- Emma's Place

### Saint Paul:

- Iowa Hi-Rise Apartments
- Theresa Living Center
- Brittany's Place
- Harriet Tubman Center
- Mt. Airy Community Center and Apartments
- Phalen Recreation Center
- Hayden Heights Recreation Center
- Arlington Hills Community Center
- St. Paul Eastside YMCA
- Mt. Airy Boys and Girls Club/teen tech center
- CLUES Teen Tech Center
- Hayden Heights St. Paul Public Library
- Dayton's Bluff St. Paul Public Library
- George Latimer Central Library
- Roosevelt Community Center
- Wilder Recreation Center

Project staff are sharing the comment period survey and materials with several diverse media outlets as well, including:



Media Outlet	Media	Audience	Timeframe
Minnesota de Hoy	Digital	Spanish Communities in Minnesota	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
Sahan Journal	Digital	Diverse Communities in Minnesota	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
3 Hmong T.V.	Digital T.V.	Hmong	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
Somali T.V.	Digital T.V.	Somali	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
La Voz Latina	Digital & Print	Latino Community of the Twins Cities	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
MN Spokesman Recorder	Digital	African American	Jul. 22 to Aug. 19
Access Press	Digital + Print	Minnesota's Disability Community	Aug. 1 to Aug. 31

## Public and Stakeholder Meetings

Below is a list of upcoming project committee meetings and other project related meetings. Additional pop-up and stakeholder meetings will continue to be added to this list as they get scheduled. For more information about project committees, please visit [www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project-committees](http://www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project-committees).

- The next Purple Line Community and Business Advisory Committee meeting will be held on July 26 from 12:30–1:30pm.
- The next scheduled meeting of the Purple Line Corridor Management Committee will be held on August 1 from 1pm–2:30pm.

**Table 1: Recent Community and Stakeholder Meetings and Outreach Events/Activities**

Date	Event Type	Community Event / Stakeholder Name	Approx. # of people engaged
June 27, 2024	Community Event	Johnson Parkway Ice Cream Event	50
July 13, 2024	Tabling	Dragon Festival	80
July 17, 2024	Open House	Maplewood Open House	100
July 24, 2024	Tabling	Maplewood Celebrate Summer	15

**Table 2: Upcoming Community and Stakeholder Meetings and Outreach Events/Activities<sup>1</sup>**

Date:	Event Name:	Purpose/Target Audience:
Ongoing	Residential & transit canvassing in St. Paul and Maplewood	Renters, residents, transit users
July 30, 2024	Open House	St. Paul Open House
July 31, 2024	Cochran Rehabilitation Tabling #1	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 1, 2024	Sun World Supermarket and Centromex Supermercado	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 3, 2024	Hmong Village	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor

<sup>1</sup> Community events listed could change depending on weather and staff availability. Additional pop-up and stakeholder meetings will continue to be added on the project website as they get scheduled.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event Name:</b>	<b>Purpose/Target Audience:</b>
August 6, 2024	National Night Out and Boys and Girls Club (same night)	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 9, 2024	Bruce Vento Trail Pop-Up #1 - Lake Phalen Trail Parking Lot	Trail users - Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 7, 2024	Cochran Rehabilitation Tabling #2	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 13, 2024	Union Depot, Depot Days of Summer	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 14, 2024	Virtual Open House	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 15, 2024	Bruce Vento Trail Pop-Up #2 - Frost Ave/Curve St.	Trail users - Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 22, 2024	Bruce Vento Trail Pop-Up #3 - Gateway Trail Bike Tune Up Station	Trail users - Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 17, 2024	India Fest	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 21, 2024	Maplewood Celebrate Summer	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
August 2024	White Bear Business Association	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD 2024	Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
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TBD	Iowa Hi-Rise	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Union Gospel Mission	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Friends of the Parks & Trails	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor

**Date:** 8/29/2024

**To:** Purple Line Policymakers and Staff

**From:** Liz Jones, Community Outreach & Engagement Lead, Purple Line BRT

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- Alternative Northern Endpoints/Extensions Update
- Community Engagement Update
- Recent & Upcoming Community Meetings/Events

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- Refinement of the concept design layouts of the various roadway and transit design options.
- Targeted engagement with residential and commercial property owners anticipated to be impacted by one or more of the roadway and transit design options.
- Technical evaluation of potential alternative northern endpoints and extensions for the Purple Line.

### Arcade St Station Update

The Purple Line's planning team at Metro Transit and Ramsey County engaged HR&A Advisors and 4RM+ULA Architects to explore the Arcade Street station area in terms of transit-oriented development (TOD) potential and station location alternatives. The analysis and recommendations consider input from community representatives, public agencies, private landowners, local developers, and local real estate market data.

The following three development scenarios were evaluated:

A. Phased development: Start with **City-owned parcels** and **surface parking lots**, followed later by **Glimcher Group-owned buildings** with **A2 station option**.

B. Full, simultaneous development of highlighted parcels with **A2 station option**.

C. Full, simultaneous development of highlighted parcels with **A3 station option** and alignment through the Seeger Square site connecting to Mendota Circle.

Each development scenario was analyzed under a range of market conditions, with a spectrum of construction costs, interest rates, and mixes of affordable and market-rate units.



**Figure 1: Arcade Street Station Development Scenarios**

### Feasibility Findings

- The current value of Glimcher Group-owned parcels is significantly higher than the anticipated private return of redevelopment at the site.
- Because of the feasibility gap and that Glimcher Group is not in the business of developing mixed-use projects, it is neither likely that Glimcher Group would pursue redevelopment of its properties itself, nor would a private developer buy-out the Glimcher Group for a privately-led development.
- Redevelopment in the near-term would require significant public agency intervention but could deliver significant value to the community. Full-buildout of this development program could result in 700 - 1,100 units of much needed new housing units for the Payne-Phalen neighborhood.
- Because this commercial property is fully-leased, the politics of a public agency purchasing this site are challenging.

### Station Design Advancement

Earlier this month, the project team completed preliminary engineering for Arcade Street Station (option A2) by reaching a 30% level of design. This design accommodates Waken Tipi Awanyankapi Daylighting Phalen Creek project.



**Figure 2: Arcade Street Station Option A2 Design**



**Figure 3: Bird's eye view of Arcade St Station (looking northeast)**

## Next Steps for Arcade Street Station

- Design and environmental review will continue to advance for Arcade St Station (Option A2) as the best of the technical feasible and financially fundable options.
- Met Council (Metro Transit) is committed to working with the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, and others to relocate the Arcade St Station to the intersection of Neid and Arcade, if and when Seeger Square is redeveloped and Neid Lane is extended through the site down to Phalen Blvd.
  - Costs (millions of \$) are anticipated to be shared amongst the public partners for relocating station platforms, extending Neid Ln, decommissioning previously built station platforms, bridge and guideway, paying back undepreciated asset value, etc.
- Project Team will continue to engage project partners, stakeholders, interested parties, and the public about the outcome of the site redevelopment feasibility analysis and Arcade St Station design advancement.

## Alternative Northern Endpoints/Extensions Update

Purple Line extensions to alternative endpoints (i.e., Vadnais Heights City Center and Century College) north of Maplewood have been re-evaluated from a lens of a White Bear Avenue Corridor Route Alignment for future federal funding viability. Other metrics, such as forecasted project ridership and daily station boardings, capital cost, and annual operations and maintenance costs, are being used to round out the evaluation. Other considerations, such as the transit service improvements proposed in Metro Transit's Network Now draft concept plan, are being used to inform the evaluation conclusions.

Details and next steps will be shared with the Corridor Management Committee during their September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. From early September to early November, project staff will be reaching out to and engaging with project partners, stakeholders, interested parties and the community at large to share draft evaluation findings, discuss open questions and considerations, and seek to identify any missing pieces of critical information and perspectives. A final action on Purple Line's northern endpoint (i.e., Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, Century College) is not anticipated until December.

## Engagement Update

Project staff continue to engage with the public over the Bruce Vento Regional Trail co-location and the White Bear Avenue Corridor route alternatives through August 30. During the months of July and August staff hosted three community meetings, tabled at multiple community events, conducted residential and business canvassing, presented at stakeholder meetings, and had property impact meetings with businesses and residents.

During these outreach activities, staff collected feedback and shared information through a comment form, interactive map, display boards at libraries and community centers, phone calls, emails, advertisements, and through Hello Lamp Post signage along both corridors.

Below are the links to engagement materials that have been shared throughout the comment period:

- Corridor comparison survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3DDWQE>
  - As of 8/29, 1,222 people have completed the survey
- Interactive map that includes visualization and design plans for both corridors: <https://app.publiccoordinate.com/#/projects/PurpleLineBRTCorridor/map>

- Storymap with the White Bear Avenue Corridor design options:  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/150fadd16b314b63895a36dd6ad6f8f8>



Figure 4: Hello Lamp Post signs at a stop near Payne Ave/Phalen Blvd

## Public and Stakeholder Meetings

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- The next scheduled meeting of the Purple Line Corridor Management Committee will be held on September 5 from 1pm–2:30pm.
- The next Purple Line Community and Business Advisory Committee meeting will be held on October 11 from 12:30–1:30pm.

Table 1: Recent Community and Stakeholder Meetings and Outreach Events/Activities

Date	Event Type	Community Event / Stakeholder Name	Approx. # of people engaged
August 1, 2024	Tabling	Centromex Supermercado	18
August 4, 2024	Tabling	MN Philippine Center	TBD
August 6, 2024	Community Event	National Night Out	300+
August 7, 2024	Tabling	Conchran Rehabilitation	TBD

Date	Event Type	Community Event / Stakeholder Name	Approx. # of people engaged
August 9, 2024	Tabling	Bruce Vento Trail Pop-Up #1	11
August 13, 2024	Tabling	Union Depot-Depot Days of Summer	10
August 14, 2024	Canvassing	Maplewood Mall Transit Center	27
August 15, 2024	Tabling	Bruce Vento Trail Pop-Up #2	22
August 17, 2024	Tabling	India Fest	30
August 19, 2024	Canvassing	Union Depot Bus Station	199
August 21, 2024	Canvassing	Residential Canvassing – St. Paul	TBD
August 21, 2024	Community Event	Maplewood Summer Event	85
August 22, 2024	Tabling	Bruce Vento Trail Pop-Up #3	TBD
August 22, 2024	Open House	Hope Community Academy (Payne Ave)	65
August 26, 2024	Canvassing	Residential Canvassing	TBD

**Table 2: Upcoming Community and Stakeholder Meetings and Outreach Events/Activities<sup>1</sup>**

Date	Event Name	Purpose/Target Audience
Ongoing	Residential & transit canvassing in St. Paul and Maplewood	Renters, residents, transit users
September 21, 2024 (tentative)	D2/WBABA/ESABA/Purple People Open House	Solicit feedback on center running transit lanes in St. Paul and Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
September	D4 and D5 Council Meetings	Share project update and solicit feedback Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor
TBD	Friends of the Parks & Trails	Solicit feedback on Bruce Vento Trail vs White Bear Ave corridor

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