

Highway 252/I-94 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

SP 2748-65 MnDOT Metro District

PAC Meeting
August 20, 2021

Zoom Meeting Tips

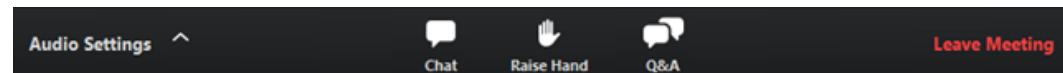
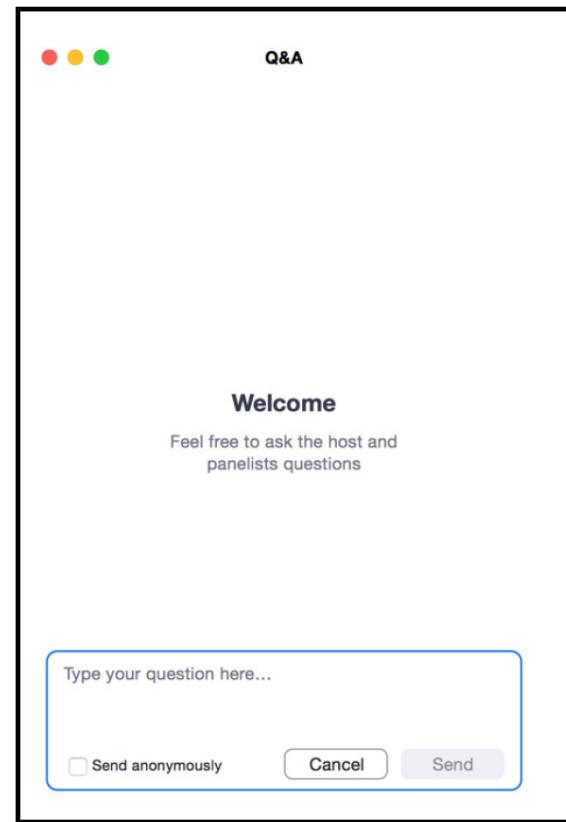
- Audio issues: Select the audio settings in the left-hand corner.
- Additional assistance needed, call:
 - Jono Cowgill 763.251.4027
- If connected by phone:
 - *6 to mute/unmute
 - *9 to raise/unraise your hand

» FOR PAC MEMBERS

- Please mute your microphone and turn off your video when not speaking.

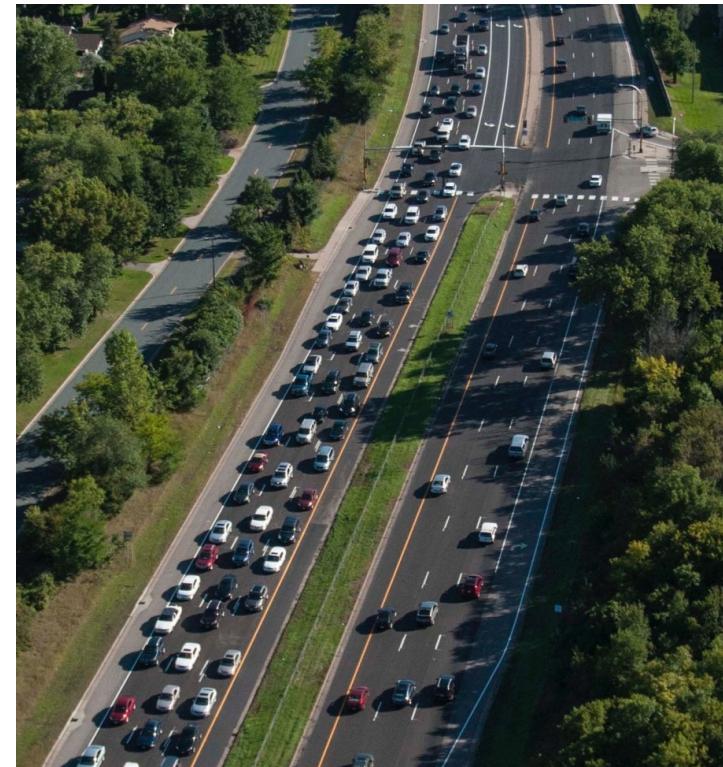
» OPEN COMMENT PERIOD WITH GUESTS

- Guests will be muted during the meeting
- Two options to provide comment:
 - Raise your hand to be called on and unmuted
 - Type your comment in the Q&A panel for the host to read



Agenda

- » Transit Feasibility Study Process and Results
- » PAC Reflection and Conversation
- » Equity and Health Assessment Update
- » Open Comment Period
- » Next PAC Meeting
 - Quarterly PAC - October 7, 2021 2:30 – 4:00 PM



Transit Feasibility Study Process and Results

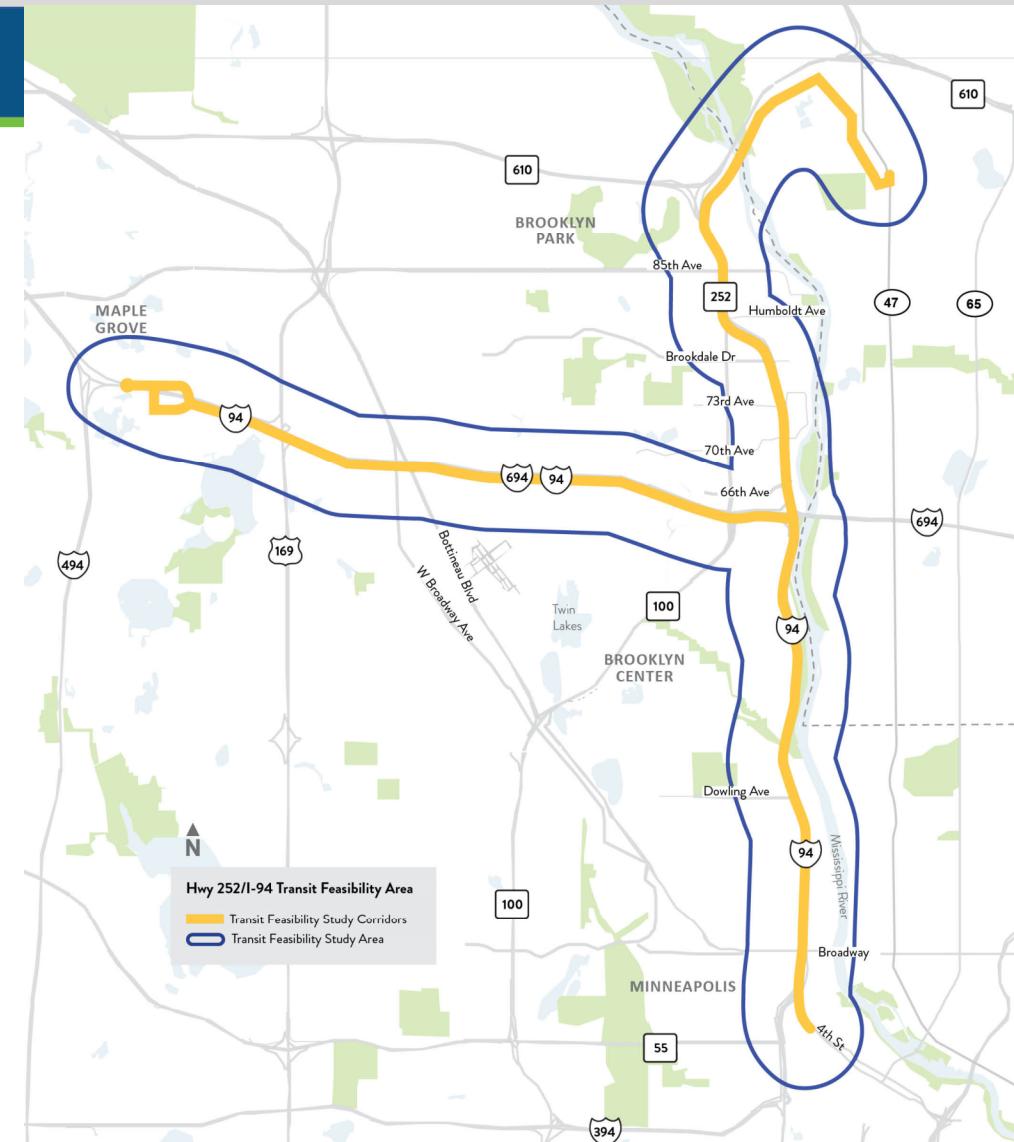
Transit Feasibility Study

» Planning process

- Existing conditions
- Develop future concepts
- High level evaluation of options
- Refine in EIS as appropriate

» Considerations

- 2019 Highway 252 concepts
- E-Zpass (formerly MNPASS)
- Highway Transitway Corridor Study (HTCS)

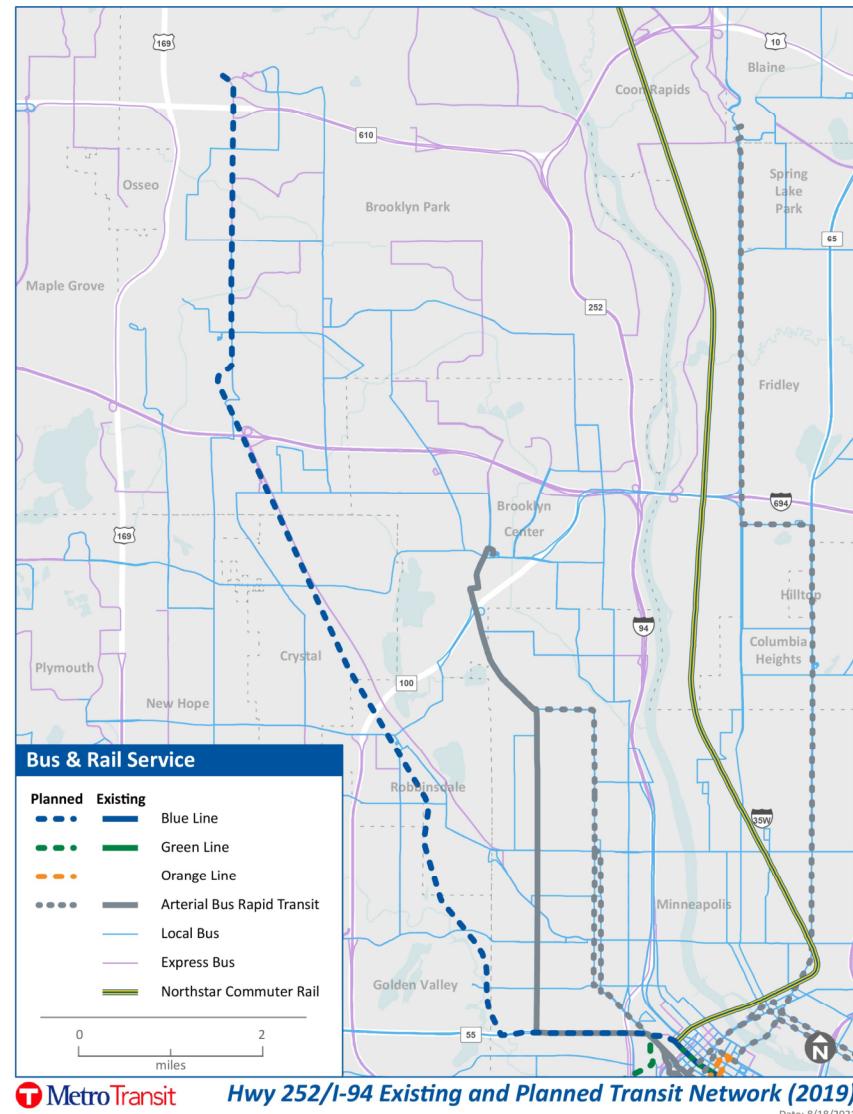


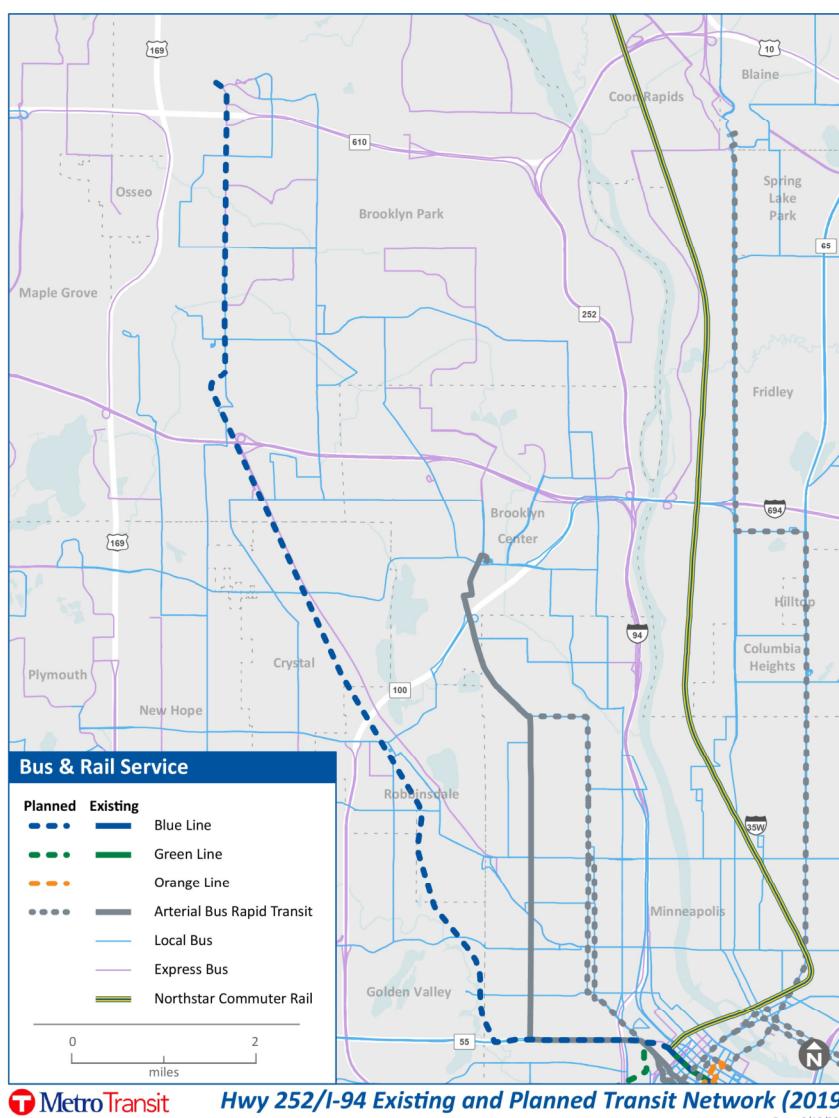
Transit Feasibility Study Area

» Builds on existing and planned transitways in the Hwy 252/I-94 project area:

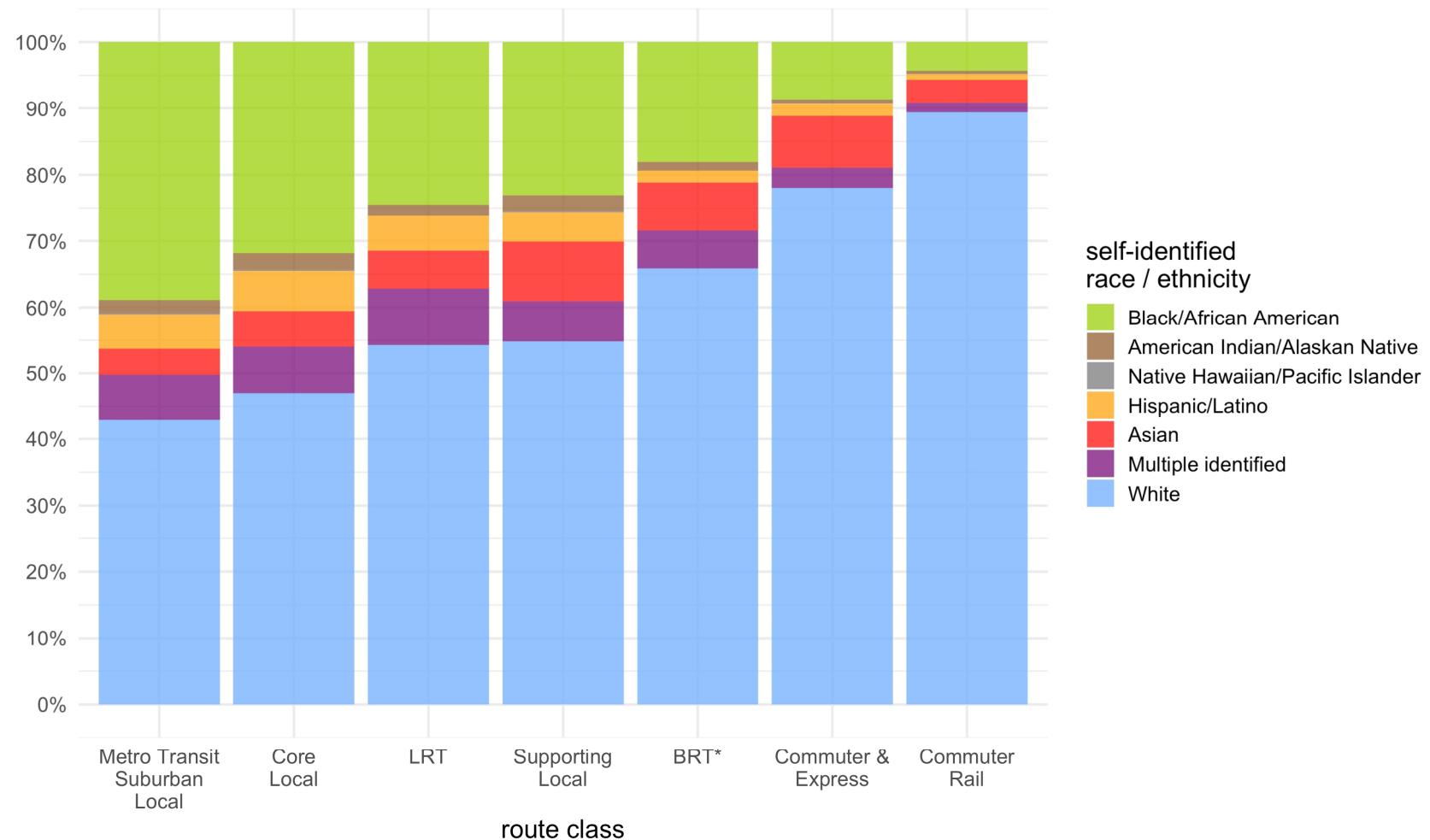
- **Blue Line Extension LRT:** part of the baseline no-build scenario on previously adopted alignment.
- **METRO C Line BRT:** Existing arterial BRT service between downtown Minneapolis and Brooklyn Center via Penn Avenue.
- **METRO D Line BRT:** Arterial BRT under construction between Brooklyn Center and Mall of America via Emerson/Fremont and Chicago Avenues.

» Existing local and express bus network included



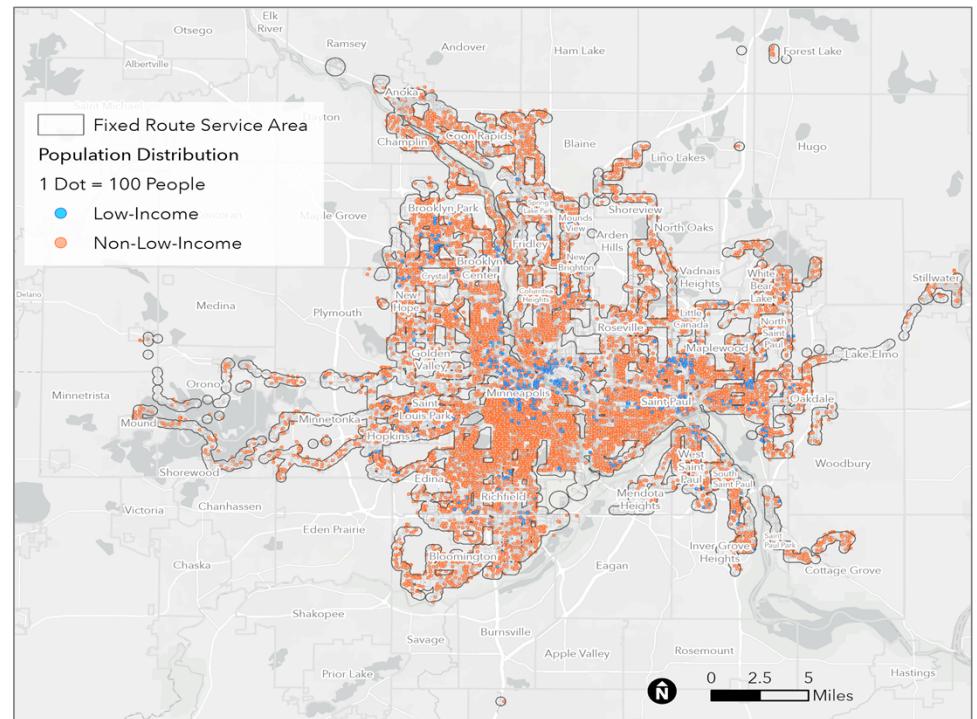
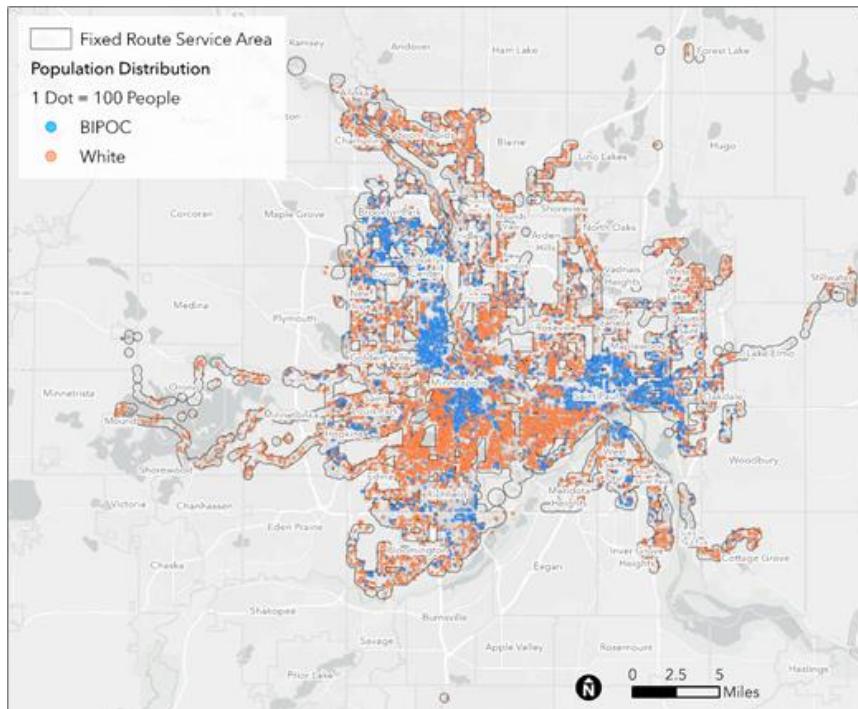


Equity Considerations in Transit



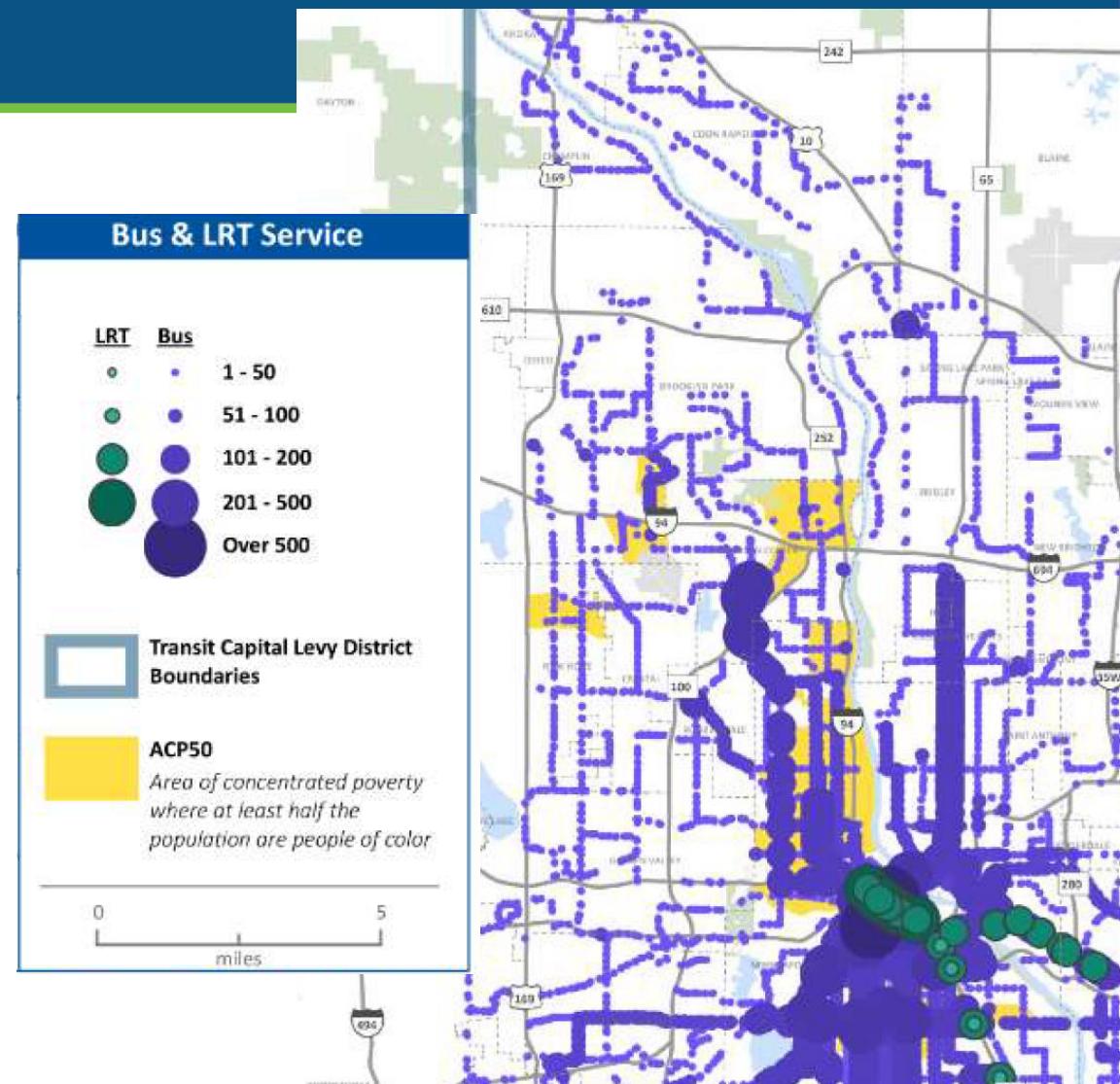
Equity considerations in transit

- » Home locations
- » Access outside home area



Existing Local Transit

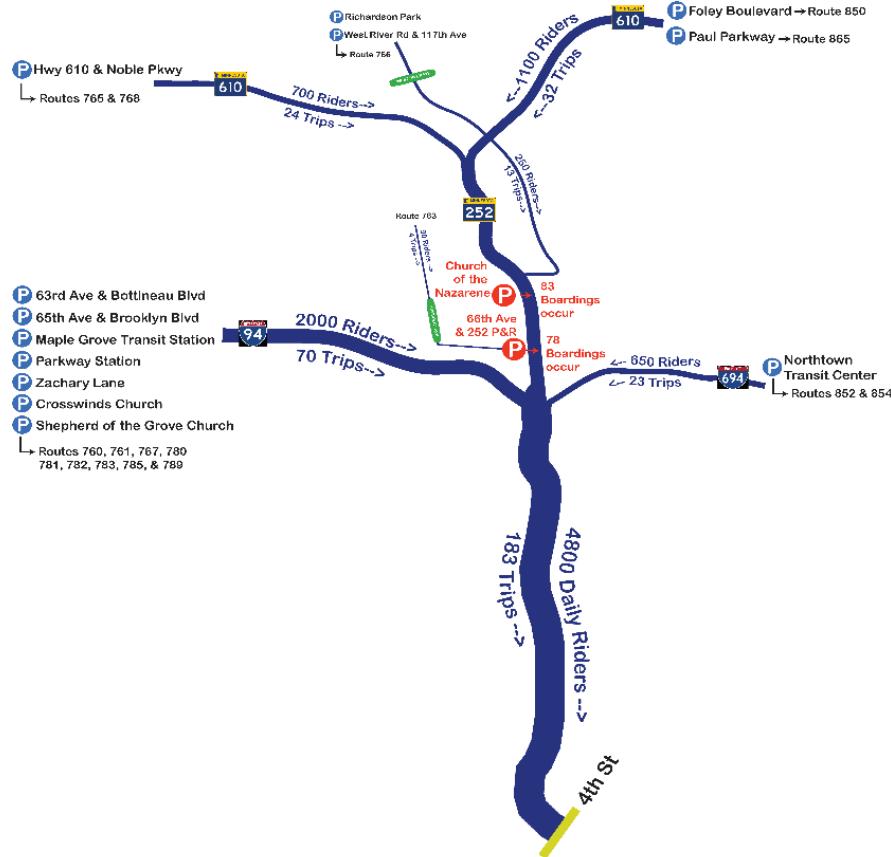
- » Strong local bus service, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis
- » C Line since 2019
- » D Line opening 2022
- » Brooklyn Center Transit Center
 - Connecting 9 routes
 - C Line
 - High frequency
 - Suburban network
 - 2nd busiest in region



Existing Commuter Express Transit

- » Highway 252 commuter growth with suburban development
- » Primary commuter corridor
- » Connecting major park and ride lots, neighborhood lots
- » First bus only-shoulder lane
- » Ridership and trip patterns inform BRT concepts

TH 252 / I-94 Corridor Visualizing Where Southbound Transit Users Access and Move Through Corridor



*Ridership numbers represents AM trips from origins to downtown Minneapolis.

**Ridership figures come from the 2018 annual ridership averages

Park and Ride patterns

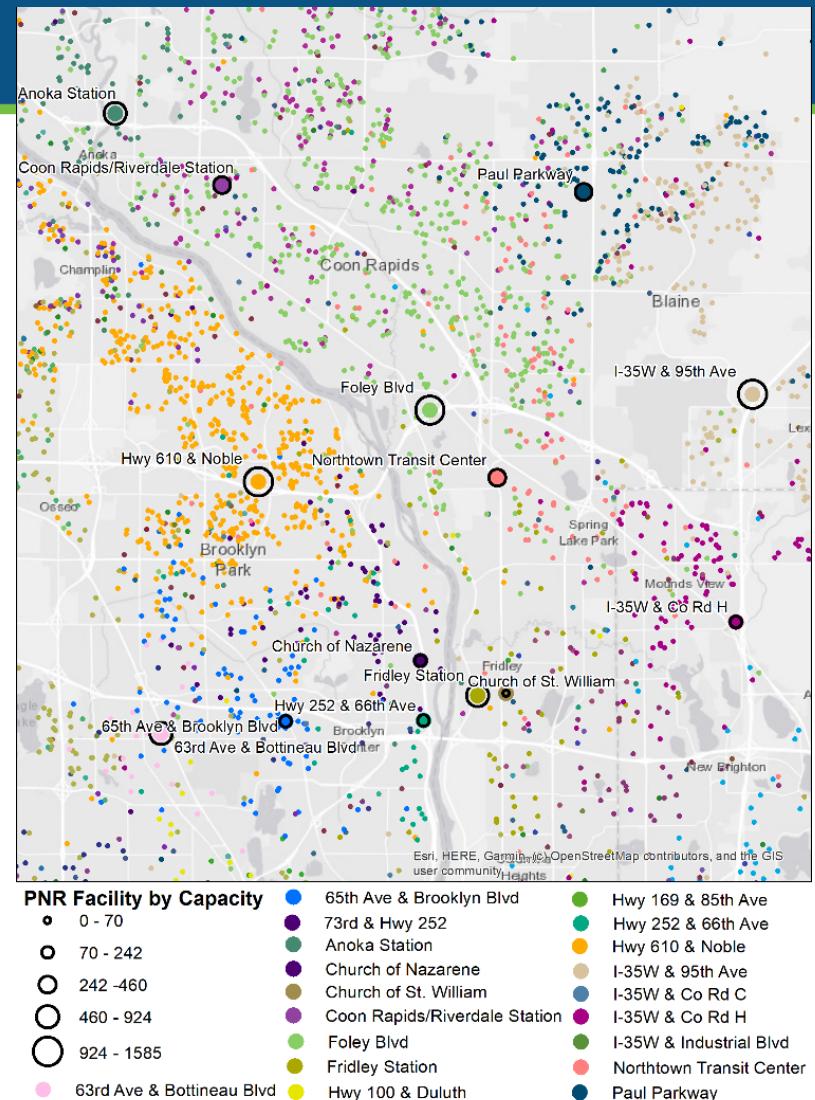
» Understanding commuter market – trip origins

» Large park and ride, larger market area

- Noble/Hwy 610
- Foley Blvd

» Smaller Park and rides, smaller market area

- 66th Avenue
- Church of the Nazarene



Transit Feasibility Study

» Evaluate

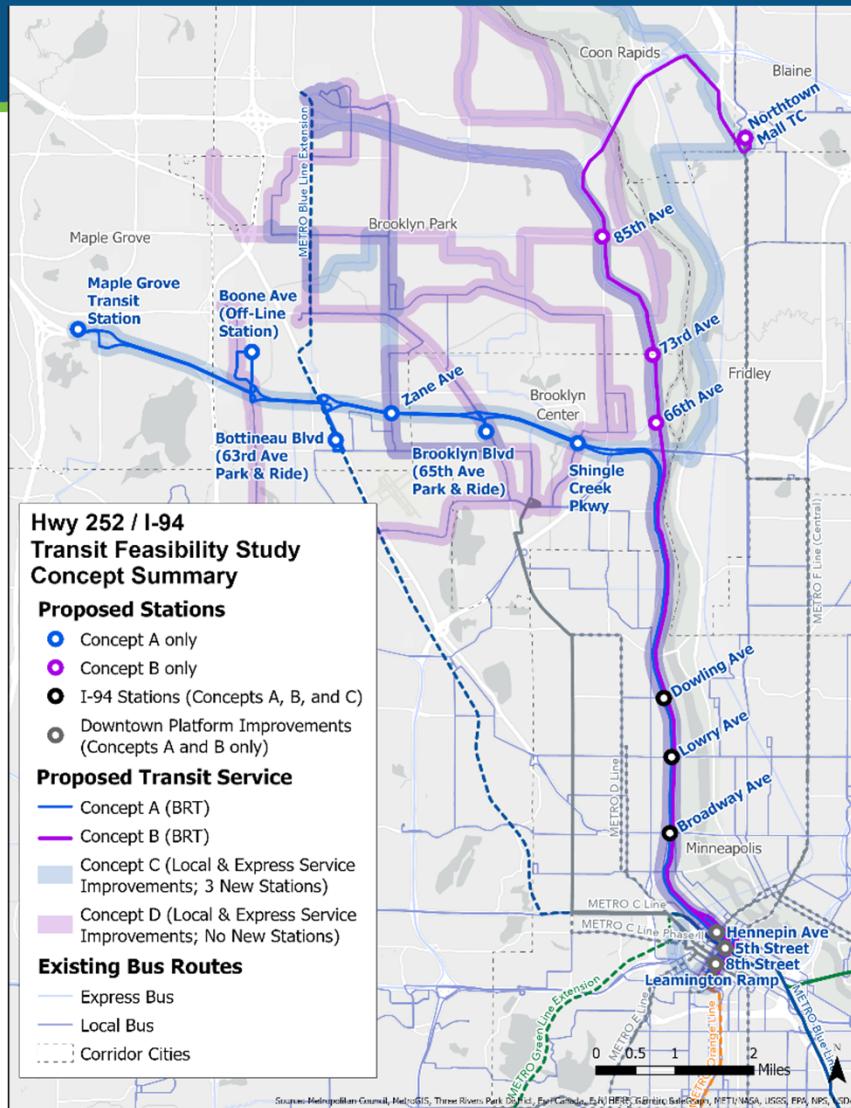
- 15 min frequency all day Highway BRT
- Express service frequency improvements
- Station location/design concepts

» Multiple highway configurations considered

- Hwy 252 as an expressway
- 4-lane freeway
- 6-lane freeway with/without E-ZPass (formerly MnPASS)

» Capital cost ranges

» 2040 transit ridership forecast

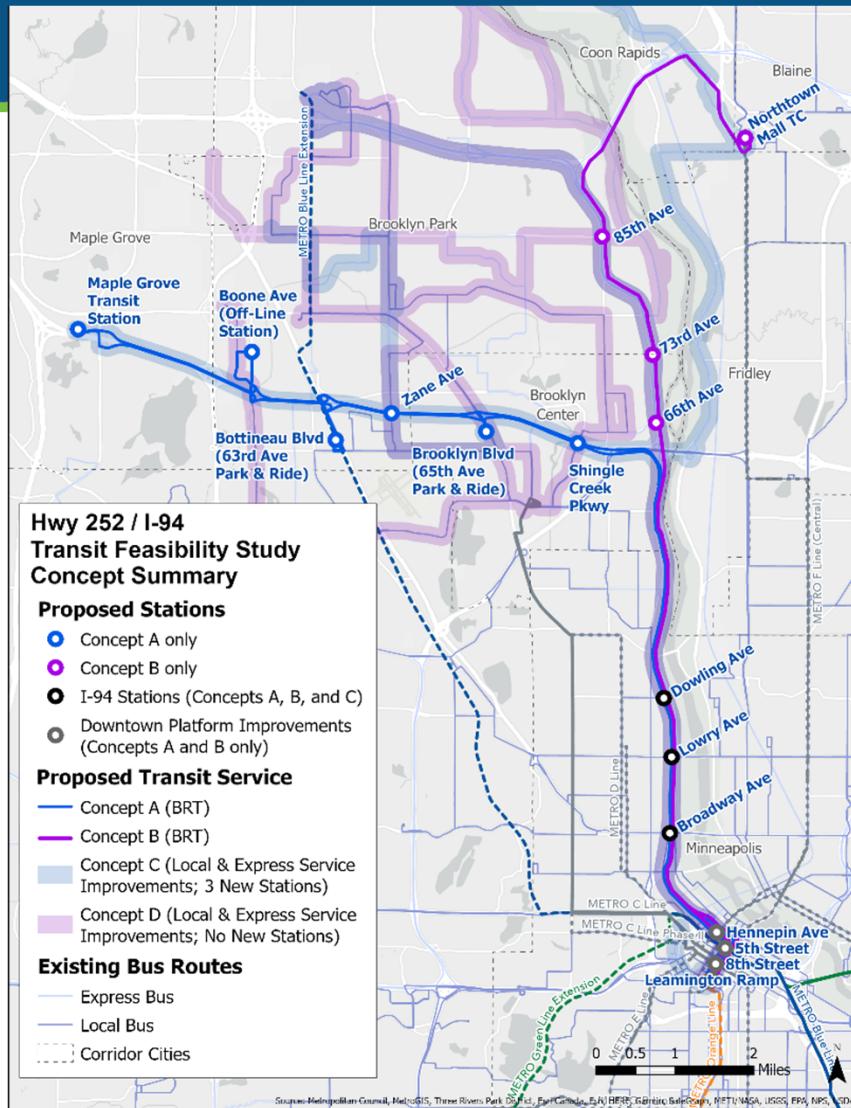


Transit Feasibility Study

» Four concepts

- **Concept A:** Station-to-Station BRT I-94 and I-694 to Maple Grove Transit Station
 - (Highway Transitway Corridor Study)
- **Concept B:** Station-to-Station BRT I-94 and Hwy 252 to Northtown Transit Center in Blaine
- **Concept C:** Three stations (in-line or on-line station) along I-94; express service improvements
- **Concept D:** Express service improvements; no stations/capital improvements

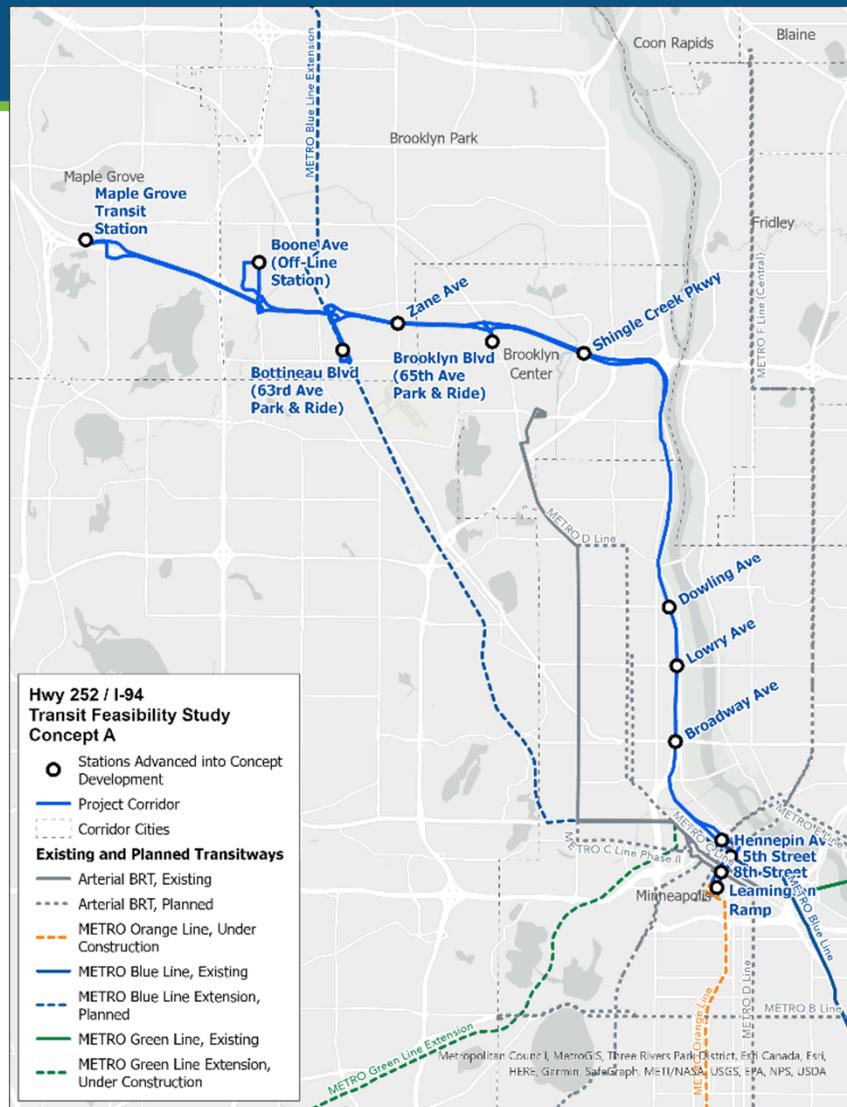
- Pre-pandemic ridership forecast



Results

» **Concept A: Station-to-Station BRT I-94 and I-694 to Maple Grove Transit Station**

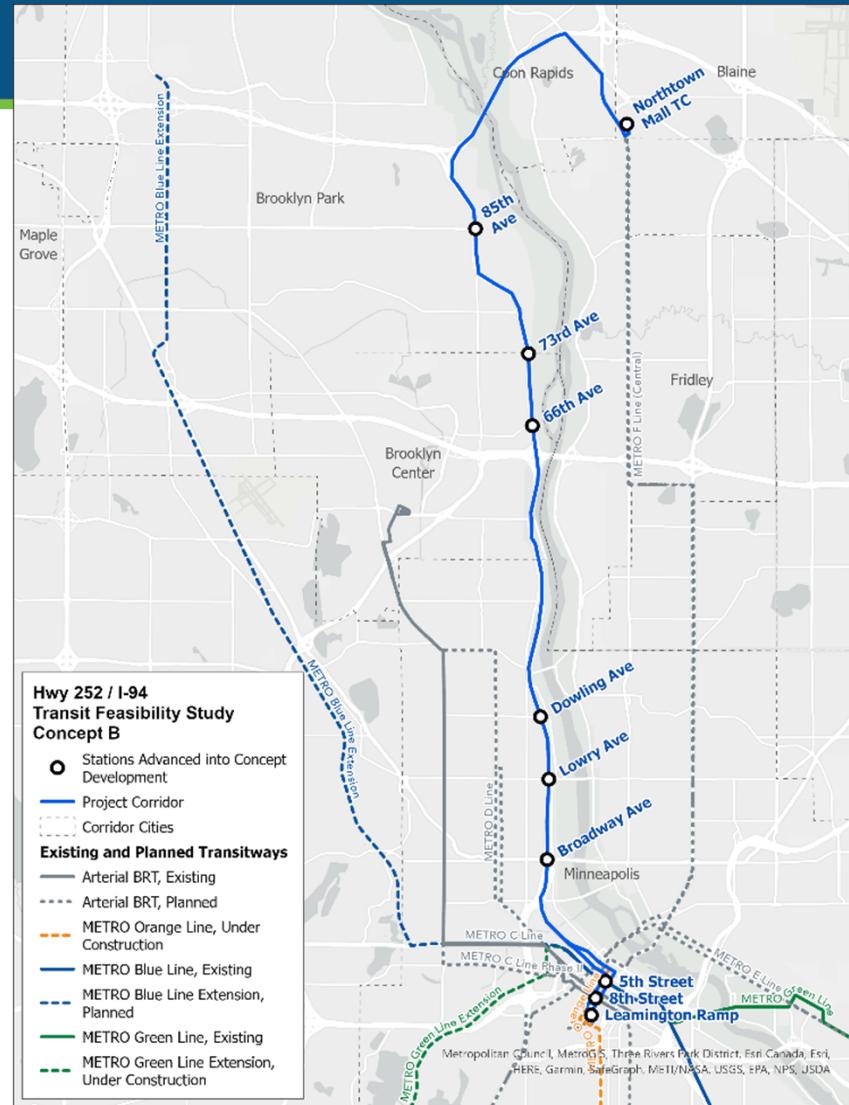
- Decrease of ~1,000 trips on the regional transit network.
- Capital Cost range \$300-430 million
- Competes with METRO Blue Line Extension and METRO D Line
- I-694 outside of MnDOT study
- No further evaluation in Scoping Decision Document.



Results

» **Concept B:** Station-to-Station BRT I-94 and Hwy 252 to Northtown Transit Center in Blaine

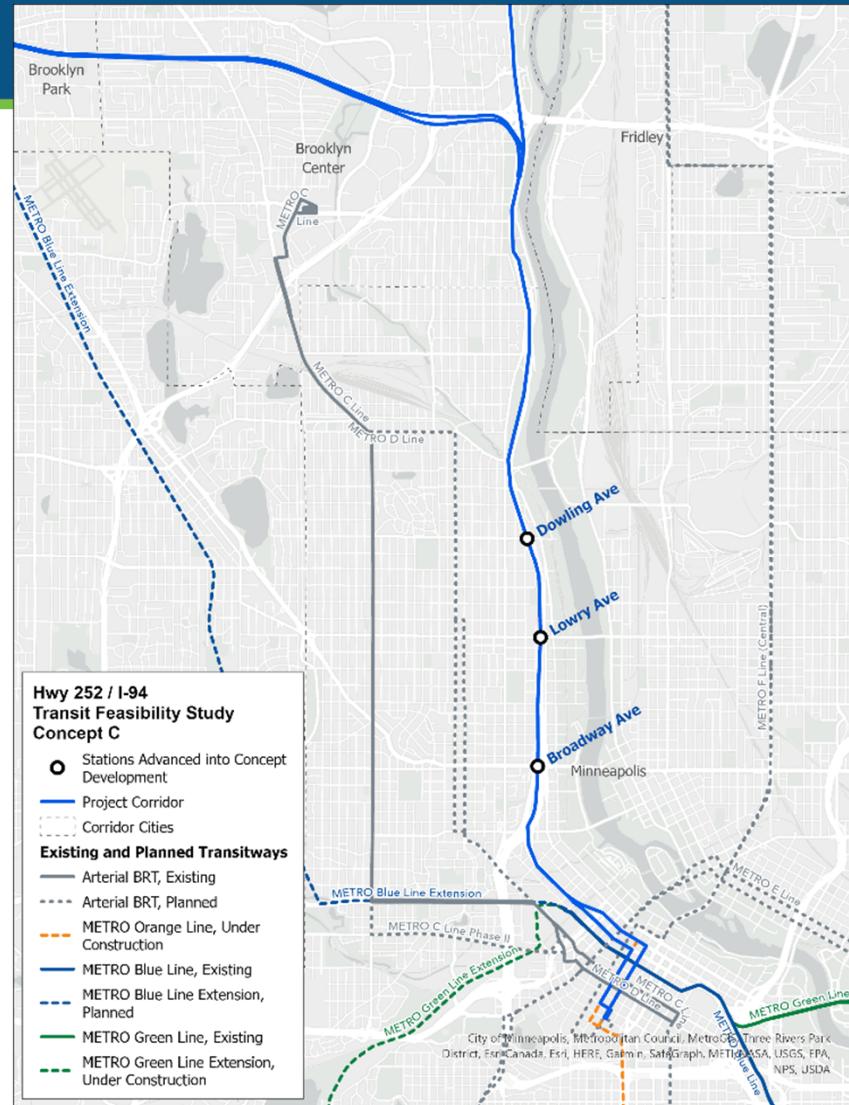
- Increase of ~1,000 transit rides in 2040 regional transit network.
- Further evaluation in Scoping Decision Document.
- Capital costs range \$250-\$450 million (depending on highway configuration)
- Further evaluate station locations/design, alignment.



Results

» Concept C: 3 New Stations on I-94 in Minneapolis

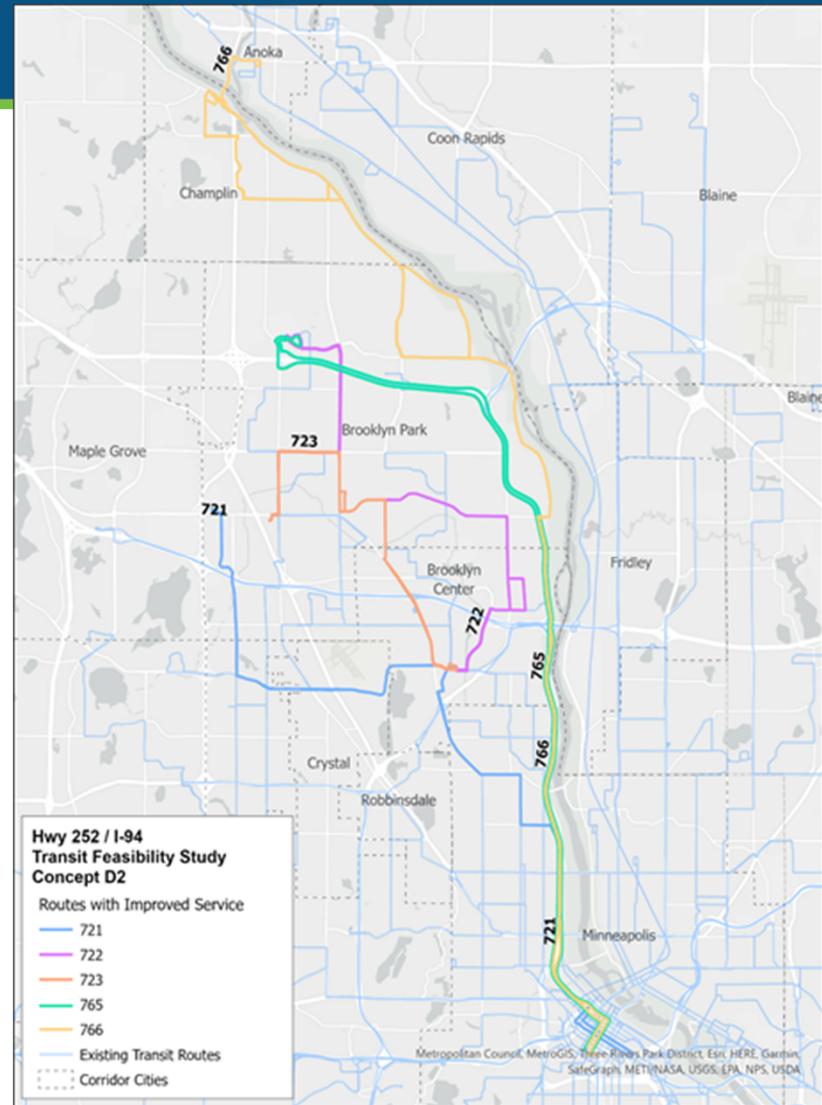
- Modest increase ~200 trips in 2040 regional transit network
 - only with E-ZPass design (formerly MnPASS)
- Capital Cost range \$100-237 million
- Further evaluation in Scoping Decision Document.
- Evaluate with Concept B: station locations/design, alignment.
 - Advance only in combination with E-ZPass alternatives (formerly MnPASS).



Results

» **Concept D:** Express service improvements; no stations/capital improvements

- Increase of ~1,000 transit rides in 2040 regional transit network.
- Ridership similar to BRT but requires no capital investment.
- Further evaluation in Scoping Decision Document.



Transit Feasibility Study Results

Concept	Change in 2040 Regional Ridership (vs. No Build)	Capital cost range	Annual operations & maintenance cost estimate	Conclusion
Concept A: BRT I-94 and I-694 to Maple Grove Transit Station	-1,000	\$300-430 million	\$14.4 million	Do not advance to the Scoping Decision Document.
Concept B: BRT I-94 and Hwy 252 to Northtown Transit Center in Blaine	+1,000	\$250-450 million	\$13.6 million	Advance to Scoping Decision Document.
Concept C: Three stations along I-94; express service improvements	+200	\$100-237 million	\$1.0 - \$2.1 million	Advance to Scoping Decision Document.
Concept D: Express service improvements; no stations/capital improvements	+1,000	\$0	\$0 - \$6.6 million	Advance to Scoping Decision Document.

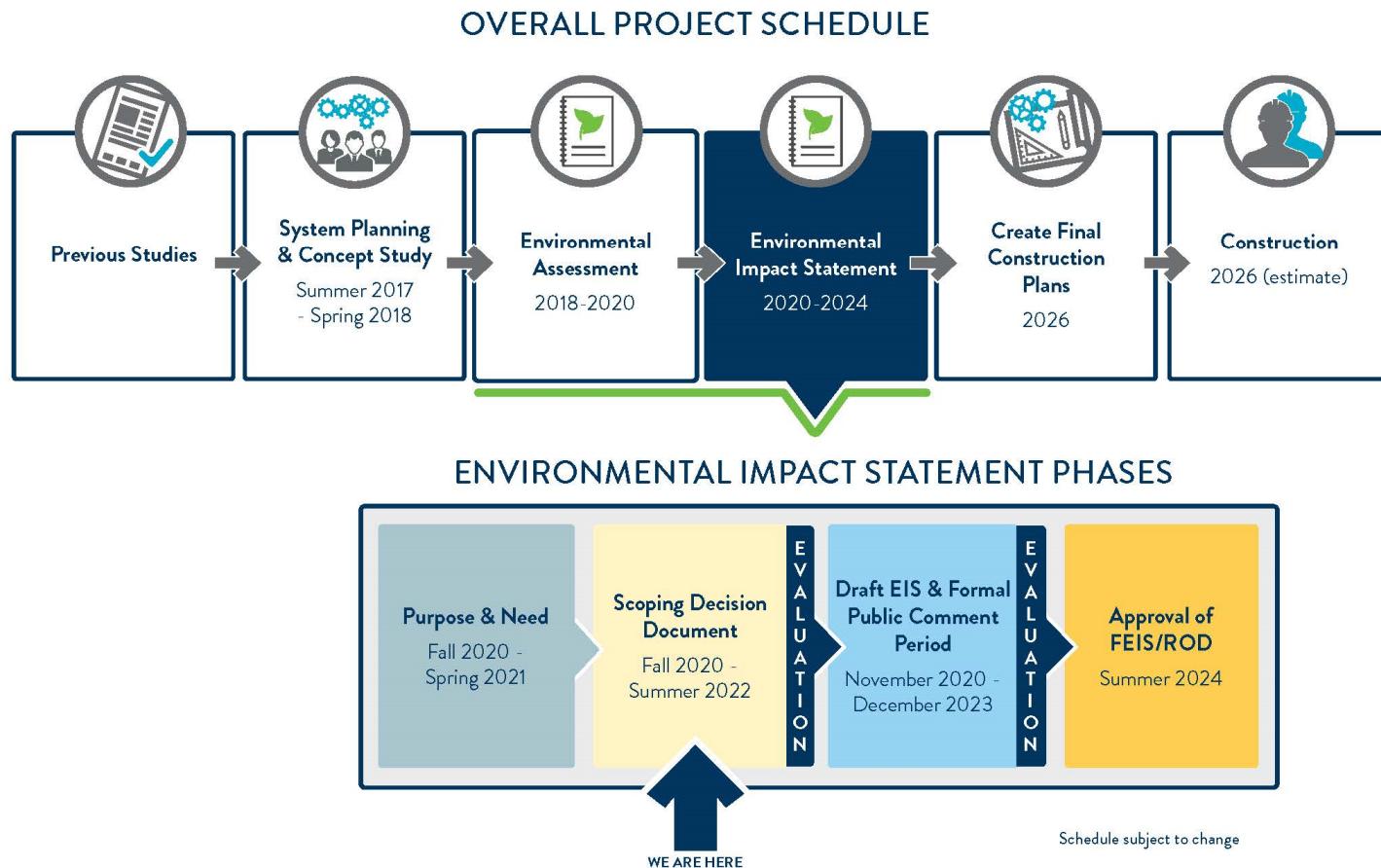
Next Steps

- » Further explore BRT/stations, and express bus concepts into highway alternatives for evaluation in the Scoping Decision Document.
- » Evaluate alternatives according to the three-step process.
 - Step 2: transit ridership, transit advantages, along with design highway criteria.
 - Step 3: cost evaluation and alternative refinement.
- » Results inform development of Hwy 252/I-94 Draft EIS.
- » Future evaluation of ridership market post-pandemic.

Project Engagement Overview

- » Transit 101 video and listening sessions.
- » Summer 2021 community conversations.
- » Fall 2021 virtual and in-person open houses.
- » EIS engagement

Current Overall Project Schedule including EIS Detail



PAC Reflection and Conversation

Equity and Health Assessment Update

EHNA Selection Update

» EHNA Selection Process:

- 5-6 Evaluators
- Racial & Gender Demographics Removed
- 4 step process

» EHNA Selection Goals:

- 12-15 members
- Minneapolis: Min 5 members
- Brooklyn Center: Min 3 members
- Brooklyn Park: Min 2 members
- At large: 2-5 members

Applicant Pool		
Gender	Count	Group Percentage
Female	17	53.1%
Male	14	43.8%
Did not Answer	1	3.1%
Total	32	100.0%

Race	Count	Group Percentage
White	10	31.3%
Black or African American	16	50.0%
African American	1	3.1%
Irish Black Native	1	3.1%
Native American/African-Black	1	3.1%
Asian	2	6.3%
Prefer not to Answer	1	3.1%
Total	32	100.0%

Age	Count	Group Percentage
18-24	1	3.1%
25-34	4	12.5%
35-44	6	18.8%
45-54	3	9.4%
55-64	10	31.3%
65-74	7	21.9%
Prefer not to answer	1	3.1%
Total	32	100.0%

City	Count	Group Percentage
Minneapolis	11	34.4%
Brooklyn Center	5	15.6%
Brooklyn Park	14	43.8%
Coon Rapids	1	3.1%
Plymouth	1	3.1%
Total	32	100.0%

Mode	Count	Percentage of Respondants
Walk	26	81.3%
Bike	16	50.0%
Transit	9	28.1%
Auto Only	6	18.8%

*Respondants can select more than one mode

Selection		
Gender	Count	Group Percentage
Female	5	38.5%
Male	8	61.5%
Prefer not to Answer	0	0.0%
Total	13	100.0%

Race	Count	Group Percentage
White	5	38.5%
Black or African American	3	23.1%
African American	1	7.7%
Irish Black Native	1	7.7%
Native American/African-Black	0	0.0%
Asian	2	15.4%
Prefer not to Answer	1	7.7%
Total	13	100.0%

Age	Count	Group Percentage
18-24	1	7.7%
25-34	2	15.4%
35-44	0	0.0%
45-54	1	7.7%
55-64	4	30.8%
65-74	4	30.8%
Prefer not to answer	1	7.7%
Total	13	100.0%

City	Count	Group Percentage
Minneapolis	5	15.6%
Brooklyn Center	4	12.5%
Brooklyn Park	4	12.5%
Coon Rapids	0	0.0%
Plymouth	0	0.0%
Total	13	40.6%

Mode	Count	Percentage of Respondants
Walk	12	92.3%
Bike	8	61.5%
Transit	5	38.5%
Auto Only	1	7.7%

*Respondants can select more than one mode

EHNA Selection Update

» EHNA Recommendation:

<u>Name</u>	
1	Mpls1
2	Mpls3
3	Mpls4
4	BC1
5	BC2
6	BC3
7	BP6
8	BC4
9	BP2
10	BP7
11	BP14
12	Mpls10
13	Mpls9

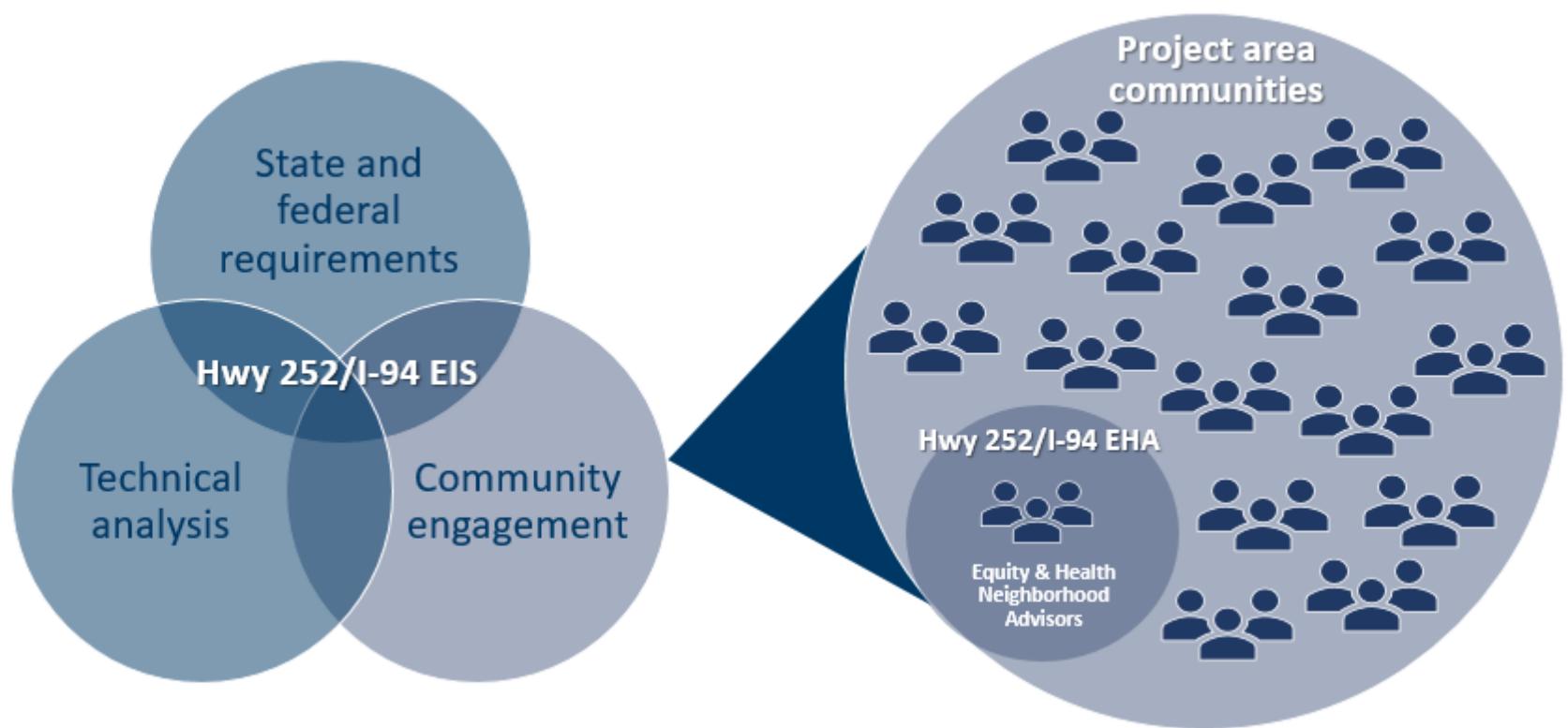
Legend

	Selection Step 1
	Selection Step 2
	Selection Step 3
	Selection Step 4

» EHNA Additional Members

- 2 additional, if needed

EHA & Hwy 252/I-94 community engagement



EHA Next Steps

» EHNA Group Invites sent out 8/11/21

» First EHNA Meeting 8/24/21

» Draft EHA Existing Conditions Report

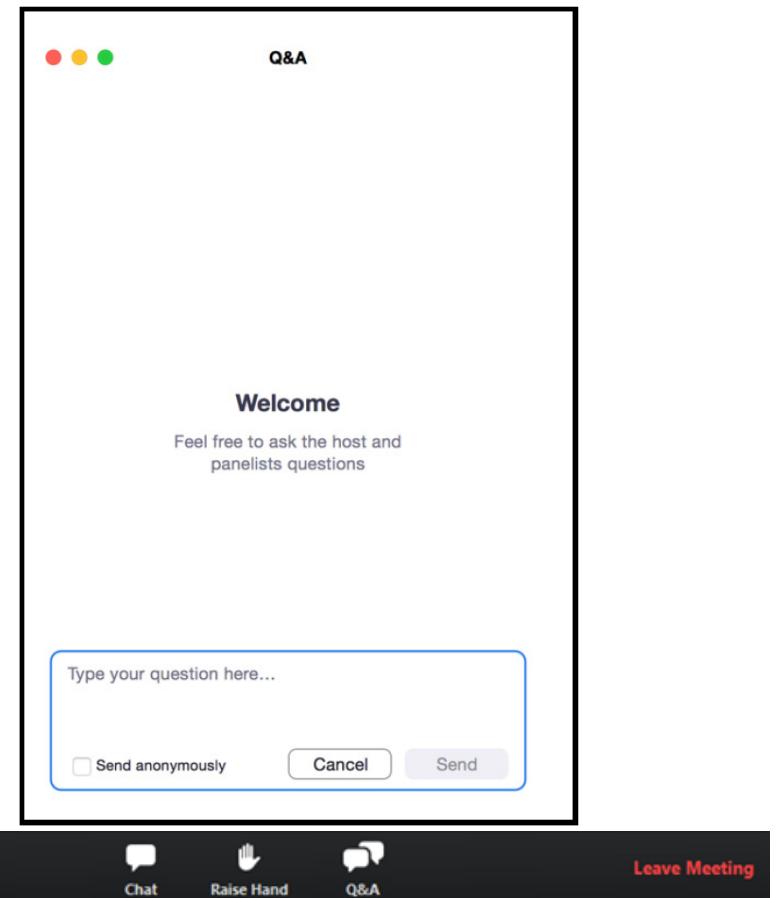
- History of Transportation Inequality
- Determinants of Health
- Health Indicators
- Health Disparities
- Transportation Systems and Mobility
- Safety

Open Comment Period

Open Comments from Guests

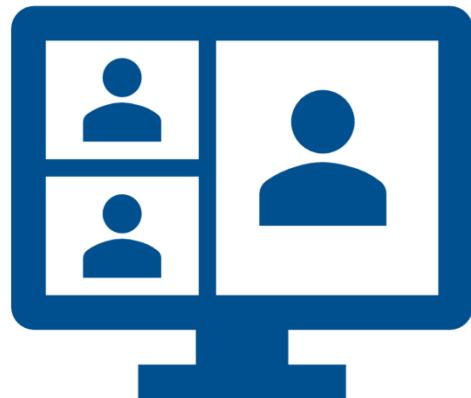
» Fifteen (15) minutes is allotted for open comments from guests

- Guests will be randomly selected and limited to 2 minutes/speaker with a 30 second warning
- How to participate:
 - If connected by phone:
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 - Two options to provide comment:
 - Raise your hand to be called on and unmuted
 - Type your comment in the Q&A panel for the host to read



Next PAC Meeting

» Quarterly PAC – October 7, 2021 at 2:30 – 4:00 PM



How the Community can Stay Involved

Project Website

- » Visit the project website to review background information and find out what's happening next

tiny.cc/252Project



Share Comments

- » Submit comments by visiting the project website contacts tab



Stay Connected

- » Sign-up for project updates by submitting your email address

