

## First 20 years of Federal Interstate System

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- 475,000 families and over a million Americans displaced
- Most were low-income people of color in urban cores.
  - Anthony Foxx
    - American Progress, MAR 31, 2016

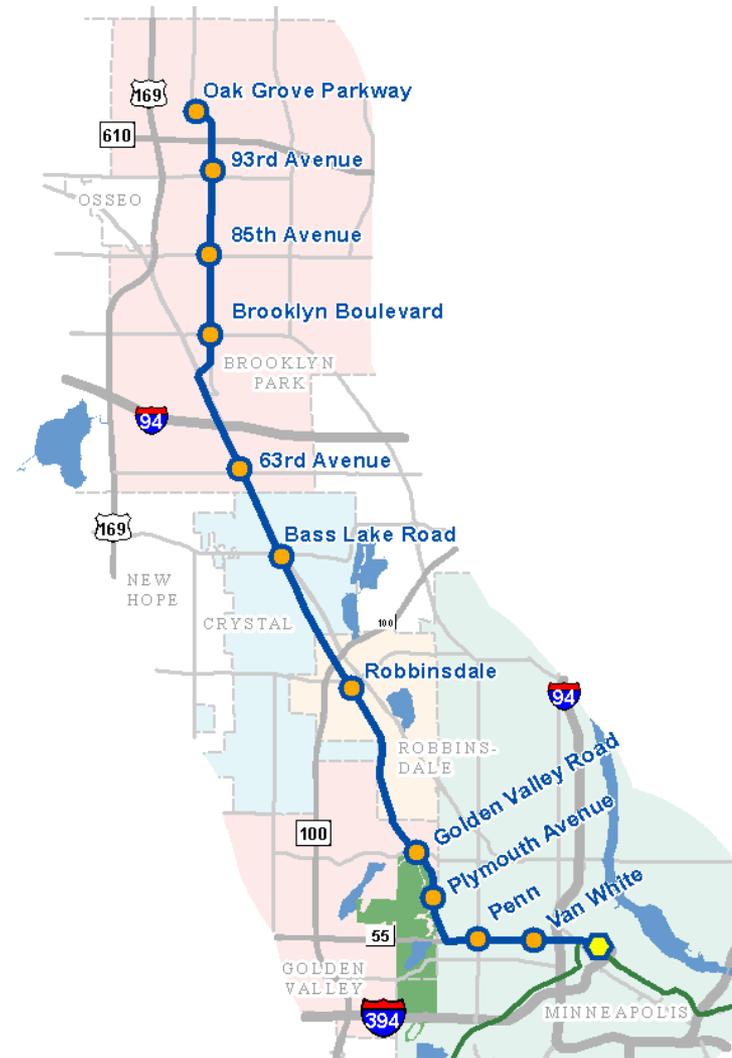
# Connecting it Locally

- Redlining
- Urban renewal
- Historic Rando  
Community, a thriving  
African American  
Community.



# METRO Blue Line extension (Bottineau LRT)

- 13 miles with 11 new LRT stations
- Serving north Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park
- 27,000 riders est. daily by 2030
- 57% people of color
- 21% living in poverty



# Getting involved Early

## Corridors of Opportunity

Funders investing early on in the engagement process, & engagement across geographies.

Various partnerships align, relationships are build and continue throughout the life of the project.

## Health Equity and Engagement Cohort

Relationship between city, county, organizations & communities

## Blue Line Coalition (BLC)

Member base of Community Based Organizations and Intermediaries.

Community building power to advance local and regional equity and community health...

DEAR Council,

We are Nyoka & Michael  
We are community members  
and care greatly about the  
Direction of our community

I think having a light  
rail in the brooklyn park  
area is a good idea, it is a  
great start for showing the  
community that someone cares. Especially  
college students who find it hard  
to get to & from school.

Sincerely,

Michael & Nyoka!

# Navigating through Systems

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- Inside approach
- Community being involved through a governmental processes
- Station area planning
- Transit decision making committees
- City council work sessions

# Quote from Community

“...the idea of developing an African Market has been brought up several times in many settings for several years. To see it included in the plans and have community members see it in plan renderings is a testament to what lending your voice to process can yield.”



# Creating Power in Community

- The outside approach
- Community involvement,
- Building relationships, & leadership
- Policy changes
- Creating and owning their narrative
- Connecting the issues
- Holistic conversations affordable housing, education, transportation, employment, and representation

# Quote from Community

“She recounted instances where passengers on the bus hurl insults at Somali/Moslem women (as the bus stops at the bus stop) as the women walk past the bus stop in their apartment area and another woman told of how one bus driver deliberately took off as she had one foot on the doorstep about to board the bus. She was heavily pregnant at the time and fell to the ground as the bus drove off. She took no action as she did not know what to do.”

# Challenges

&

# Wins

- Communication
    - Meeting space & structure
    - Language barriers
    - Cultural insensitivity
  - Transparency
  - Relationship building
- Health Equity defined in station area plans that have been adopted by cities
  - Equitable development Scorecard
  - Civil rights blueprint to affordable housing



**Health equity** results when everyone can achieve their full health potential and avoidable differences in health are eliminated.

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**Creating Healthy  
Communities**

