



# WEST 7<sup>TH</sup> FORT ROAD FEDERATION TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

# Why?

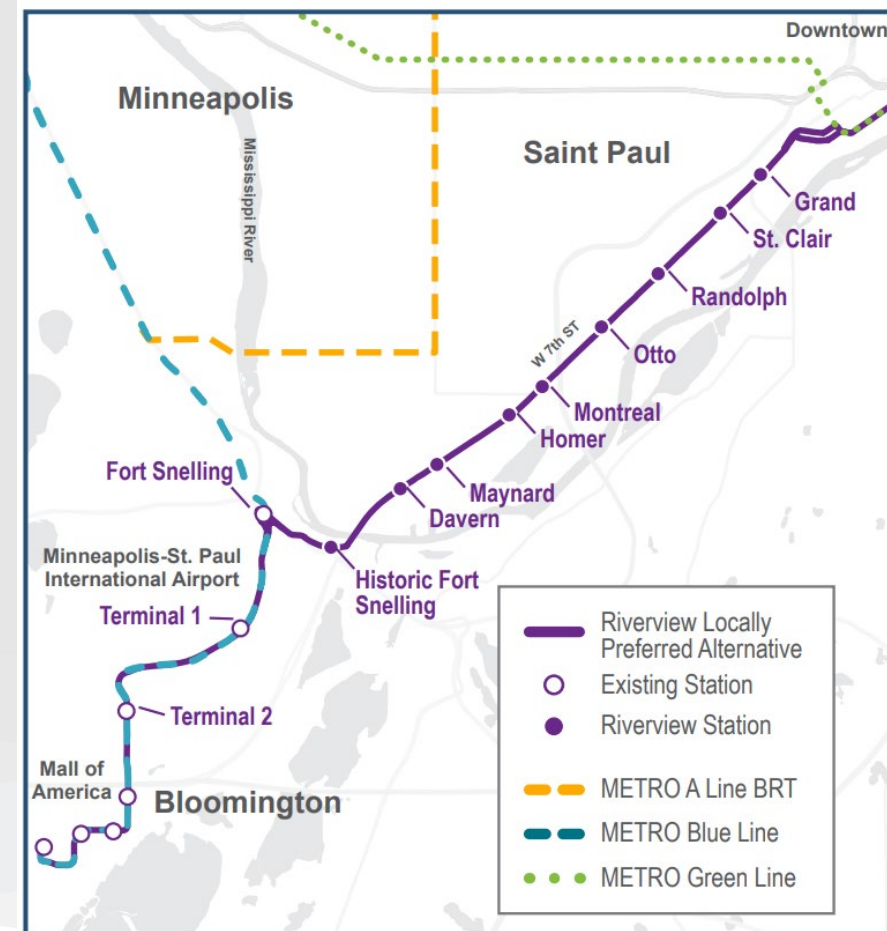
**Purpose: To enhance mobility and access to opportunities for residents, businesses, and the region and to cultivate economic prosperity.**

## **Updated Needs (November 2022)**

1. Meeting transit demand and the needs of people who rely on transit.
2. Improving connectivity and transit reliability.
3. Supporting community growth and development.

# Engineering and Pre-Environmental Phase – Technical Analysis

- Modes.
  - Streetcar (Locally Preferred Alternative).
  - Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (ABRT).
  - No Build (Continue existing bus service).
- Route.
  - Connects LRT lines.
  - Seven Corners/Smith Avenue.
  - CP Spur parallel to West 7<sup>th</sup> St.
  - Highway 5 river crossing.
  - Bloomington South Loop/MOA.
- Operating Environment.
  - Dedicated and shared use.
  - Center- and side-running.



# Engagement Activities over the Past Year

- In-Person.
  - Community meetings such as Highland Transportation Information Fair, MnDOT Hwy 5 Mill & Overlay Event.
  - Community events such as Sibley Manor Food Distribution and Shepard Park Concert.
  - Pop up events at Friedli Art Gallery and Mears Park.
- Virtual.
  - Periodic updates provided to district councils and other organizations.
  - Social media campaign.
  - Monthly/quarterly newsletters.
  - Website updates and Comments via INPUTiD.™
  - Station Area Planning surveys.

# What We Heard

Riverview can **spur development**.

Will the streetcar be in the **center or sides** of the street?

**Dedicated tracks** are better.

Needs **intimate, attractive and welcoming urban landscape** with stations.

Need **connection to the river**.

Concerned about **Highland Bridge traffic**, need transit connection

Redesign West 7th to **slow down cars**.

What will happen to the **route 54 bus**?

Concerned about loss of **on-street parking**.

Bus rapid transit is more **cost effective**.

This is an important **gateway** to Saint Paul.

Concerned about **pedestrian safety**.

Want better **bike and pedestrian facilities** on the Hwy 5 bridge and West 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Concerned about **traffic impacts** from streetcar tracks.

Concerned about **safety and security** on transit.

Streetcar in **shared lanes** will get stuck in traffic.

What kind of **station amenities** will be built?

Concerned about **construction impacts** to businesses and historic buildings.

# Best Rail: What is Modern Streetcar?

- Can operate in dedicated track or shared lanes with cars.
- Shorter vehicles (~80 feet) than light rail car.
- Compatible operations with Blue and Green Lines.
  - Tracks, signals, stations, power.
  - Operations and maintenance.
- Station Features.
  - Level boarding.
  - Pay before you board.
  - High amenity stations.



Detroit

Source: Qline, M-1 Rail



Seattle

Source: Seattle Department of Transportation

# Best Bus: What is Arterial Bus Rapid Transit?

- Buses make fewer stops than regular route service.
- Station Features.
  - Near Level boarding.
  - Pay before you board.
  - High amenity stations.
- Low-floor 60' buses with wider bus doors and boarding from the front and back.



Photos: Metro Transit

# Engineering and Pre-Environmental Phase – Schedule Milestones

- **Winter 2024** – present a project update to Community Advisory Committee and Policy Advisory Committee.
- **Winter/Spring 2024** – present preferred bus and rail options to CAC and PAC.
- **Spring/Summer 2024** – public engagement.
- **Summer/Fall 2024** – PAC action on next steps.



# Estimated Project Implementation Timeline

## Modern Streetcar.

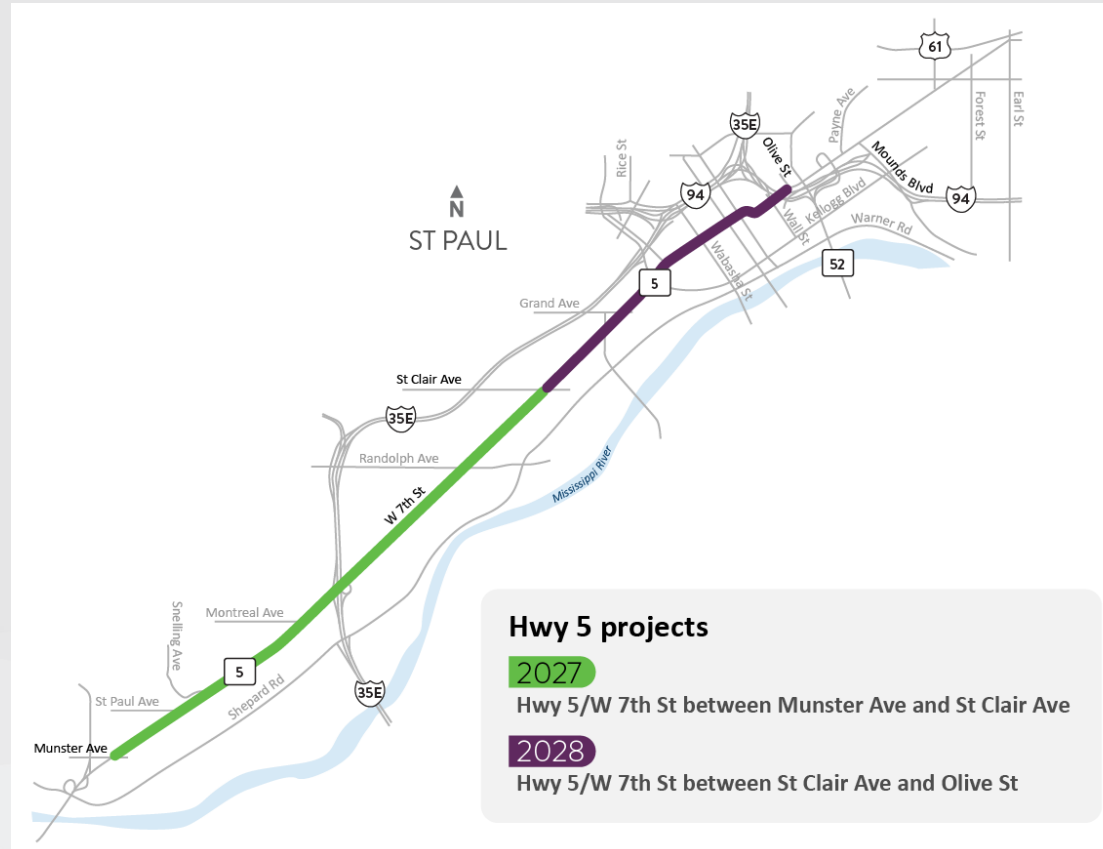
- 2024: Conclude Engineering and Pre-Environmental Phase.
- 2025-2026: Project Development Phase.
- 2027-2030: Final Engineering Phase.
- 2030-2033: Project Construction.
- 2034: Begin Revenue Operations.

## Arterial Bus.

- Led by Metro Transit likely after 2030.

# MnDOT's West 7<sup>th</sup> Mill and Overlay

- Coordination to minimize redoing work.
- Currently developing a suite of improvements.
- Confident that whatever is selected can work with Riverview.



# Questions?

LEARN MORE: [RIVERVIEWCORRIDOR.COM](http://RIVERVIEWCORRIDOR.COM)

