

To Whom it May Concern:

We're writing to express ongoing opposition to the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit (BLRT) project. As participants in informational meetings since early 2022, the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition (WBC), has reached out to businesses, neighborhood groups, faith centers and nonprofits potentially impacted by the project.

Transparency in every step of the process to implement BLRT is mandatory; we're working to maintain it between WBC and BLRT. As the planning process progresses, we must be kept informed of decisions, revisions, and plans.

Our opposition is on behalf of our constituents, responding to their concerns on these issues:

- 1. Concern: BIPOC business history on West Broadway; displacement of businesses**
Per Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan, "West Broadway Alive", West Broadway is defined as a "cultural corridor" and a main street of North Minneapolis. No mention is made of an LRT traveling down West Broadway.

Required response:

- Share documentation approving this action in relation to the 2040 Comprehensive plan and with the Federal Mainstreet plan.
- Share decision-making process/rationale resulting in placement of BLRT in midst of generational BIPOC-owned business community in North Minneapolis with business owners located on West Broadway.
- Share planned communication strategy to BIPOC businessowners recently encouraged to relocate business to West Broadway, outlining potential impact of forced closing, lost sales, etc.

- 2. Concern: Undefined, poorly-communicated impact to existing buildings**
Limited information has been distributed about the impact on businesses working on West Broadway.

Last communication in email from Joan Vanhala, dated Oct 25 2022:

In the meantime you can view the current roll plots that identify potential building impacts on this web page of the Metro Blue Line Extension [Design & Engineering - Metropolitan Council \(metroblue.org\)](https://metroblue.org/design-engineering). Potential impacts to buildings are in pink.

Required response:

- Share with WBC current maps showing potential impact on all businesses on site.
- Notify property owners/businessowners of potential impact to their property ASAP.
- Share timeline of proposed construction affecting all properties as it is developed.
- Identify funding support available for cash flow needs of owners/businesses potentially impacted by construction.
- Confirm direct assistance plan put in place for owners/businesses from BLRT to move back to West Broadway; communicate to affected owners/businesses.

3. Concern: Removal of on-street parking.

To date, plans to accommodate an east-west running LRT demand reduction/removal of on-street parking for businesses who rely on this parking to conduct business.

Required response:

- Share decision-making process for choosing Broadway as proposed location—instead of exploring and sharing information about additional options (to Lowry and the railroad right-of-way), including overhead or underground.
- Share maps reflecting current planning for parking on Broadway with WBC and community members.
- Publicize planned parking solutions and obtain approval from business owners, prior to implementation.

4. Concern: Traffic lane reduction on Broadway resulting in traffic flow problems.**Required response:**

- Share accommodation plan for automobiles, buses, turn lanes, emergency vehicles and Metro Mobility vans, all driving in one lane.
- Share Metro Transit plans to alter bus routes (#14 and #30) that runs on West Broadway.

5. Concern: Security of station stops and trains.**Required response:**

- Share plans for all the components needed to make riding on LRT on West Broadway secure: officers, cameras, train and station security details, level of monitoring, etc.

6. Concern: Three transit stops proposed: Lyndale & Plymouth, Emerson and Penn/ West Broadway.**Required response:**

- Share reasoning for minimizing access to LRT stops by building three stops: with an average of 9 - 16 blocks in between, from Lyndale/Plymouth - West Broadway- North Memorial hospital.
- Share information about the proposed usage of LRT by elderly/people with disabilities.

Opposition will continue from WBC and the community against the BLRT on Broadway until the required responses outlined are addressed, clearly and transparently, to the satisfaction of the opposing entities.

Regards,