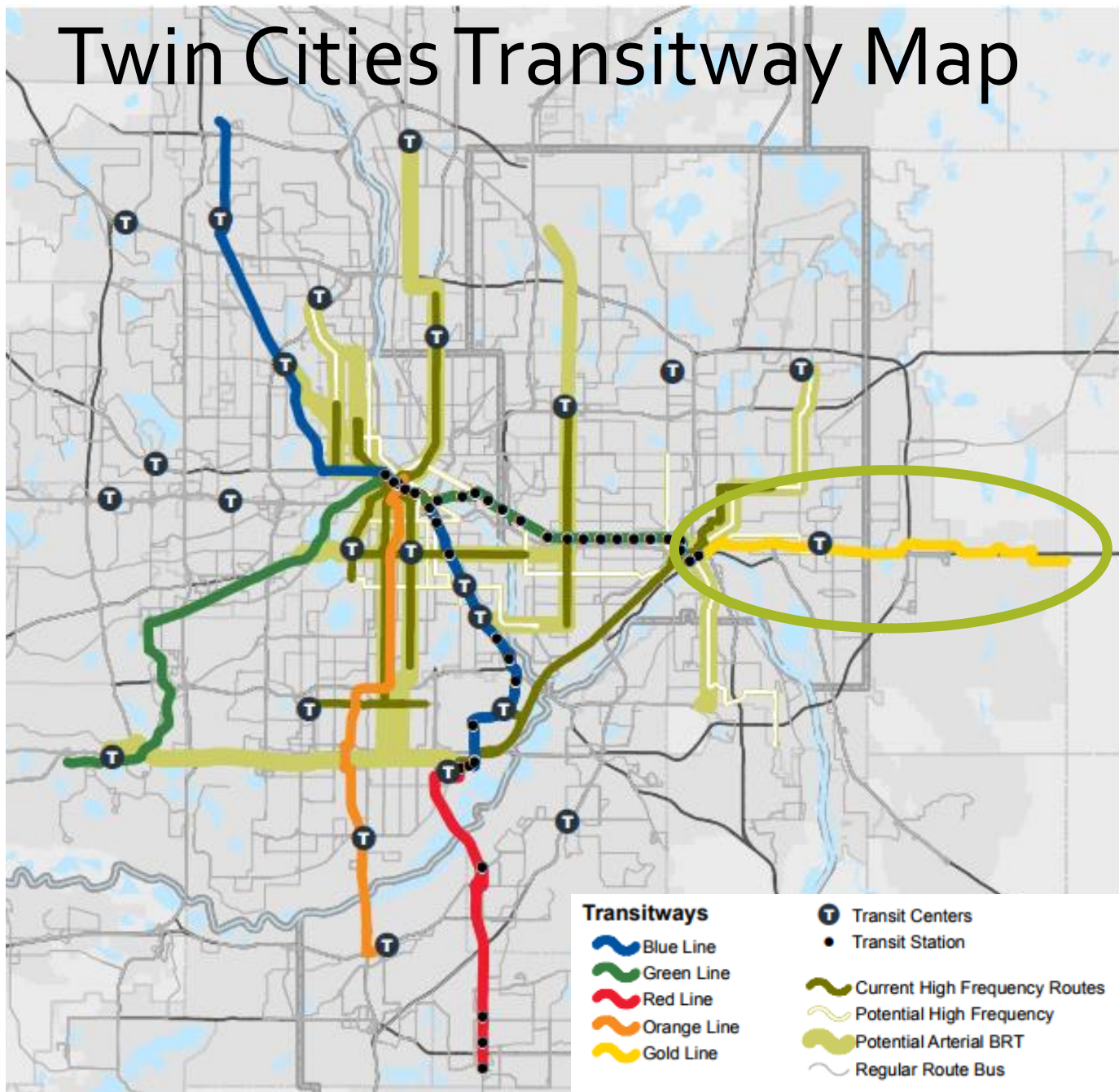


WORKING TOGETHER: ENGINEERING, PLANNING, AND ENGAGEMENT SOLUTIONS ALONG GOLD LINE BRT

Lyssa Leitner
Washington County
METRO Gold Line Deputy Project Manager

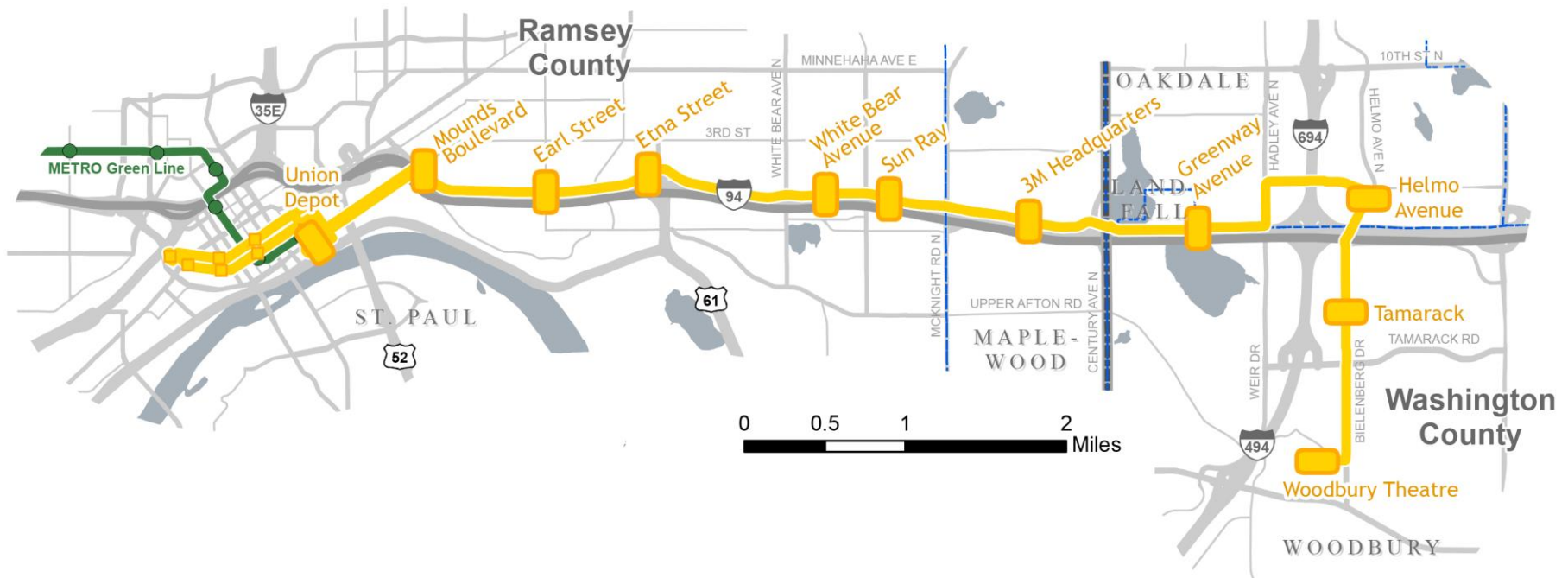


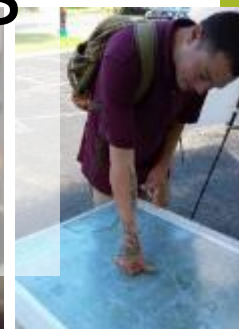
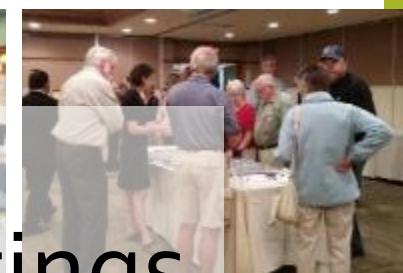
Twin Cities Transitway Map



METRO Gold Line Fun Facts

- 8,000 Est. Daily Riders (2040)
- \$420M Est. Capital Cost (YOE)
- Applying for Project Development Fall 2017
- Opening Early 2024
- Serving 2 counties, 5 municipalities
- 9 miles - 7 in dedicated guideway
- 800 park-and-ride spaces at three new/expanded facilities
- In 80%-90% public right-of-way

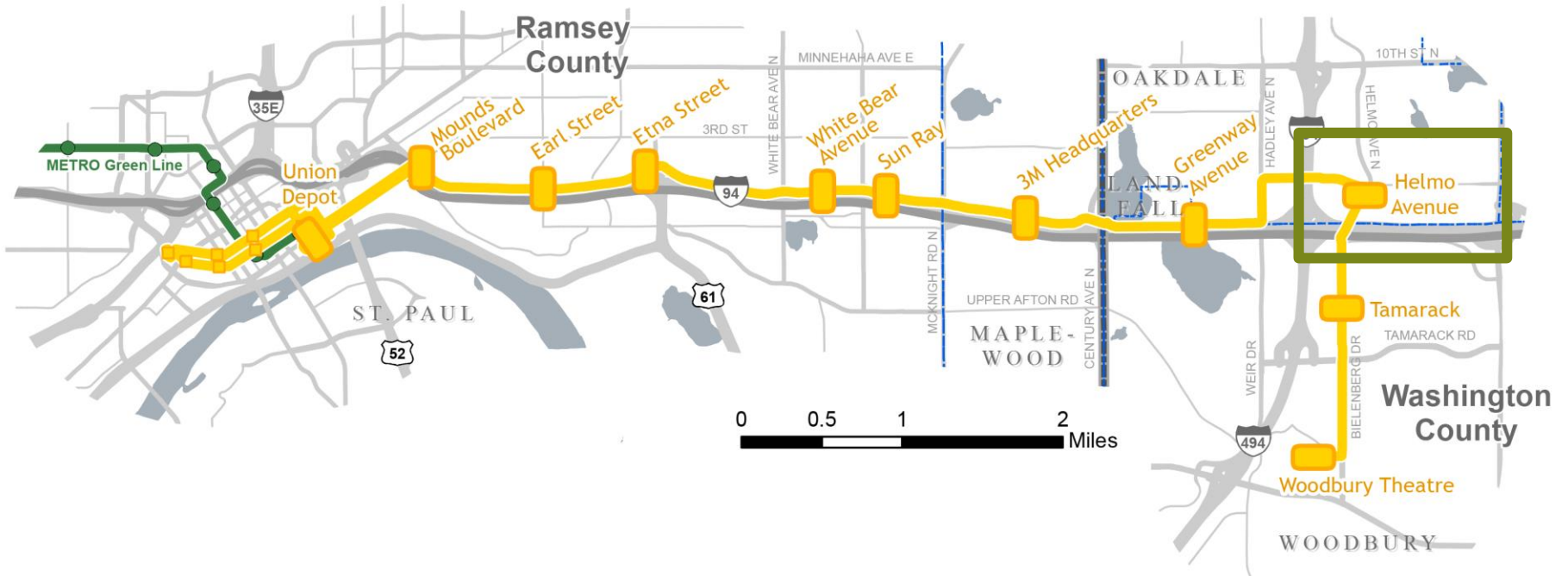




Almost **550** Stakeholder meetings held in past three years



Area of Focus



Hitting your professional low.

Excerpt from *Oakdale Residents Speak Out Against the \$485 Million Bus Route* – October 29, 2015, Alpha News

“Another local resident expressed concern over his property value, angrily explaining, “I was planning on retiring, but my property value was hit... now it’s going to get hit again.” He then went on to say Leitner’s behavior was “insulting” leading to a heated exchange that ***resulted with Leitner in tears.***”

Our Engagement Strategy



International Association
for Public Participation

Public
participation
goal



Inform

To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Consult

To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

Involve

To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Collaborate

To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Empower

To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.



Collaboration Leads to Chaos



Legend

- No Change (Full Access)
- ✗ Access Closure
- Right In/Right Out
- ⦿ Signal

Neighborhood Context

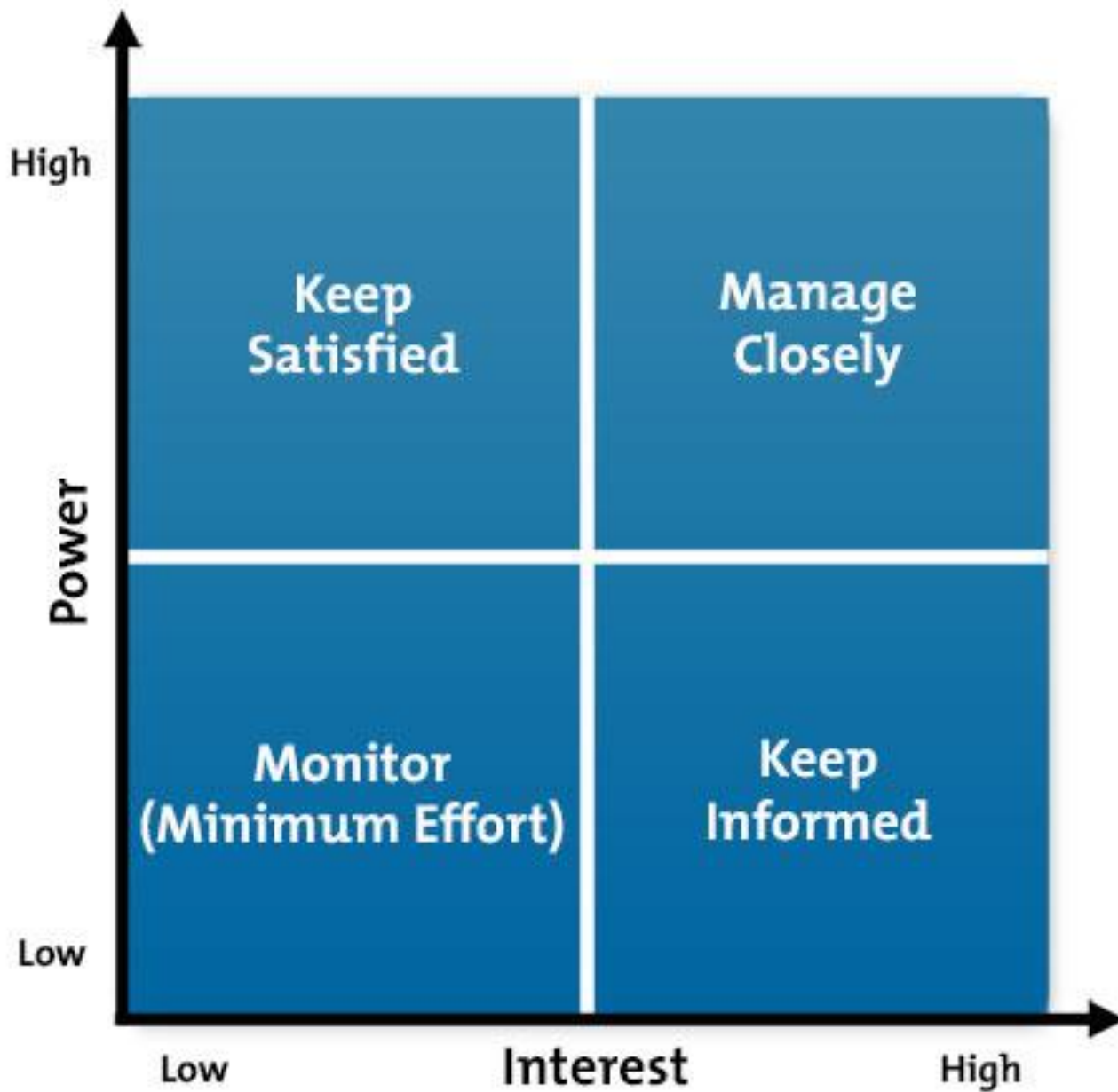


Emotional Comments

“I absolutely DO NOT want the Gold Line BRT to be placed on 4th St. It has zero redeeming value to me as a resident, it will damage my quality of life, and reduce my enjoyment of my single greatest asset, my home.”

“It will only ruin our neighborhood, lower the value of our homes. We do not want the sex traffic/prostitution , and drug dealers, moving into our neighborhood. Is that what you mean by new business?????”

How do you move forward?





Public Works Department

Donald J. Theisen, P.E.
Director

Wayne H. Sandberg, P.E.
Deputy Director/County Engineer

November 6, 2015

Re: Gateway Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Project

To: Residents near 4th Street in Oakdale

Since 2010, Washington County, acting on behalf of the Gateway Corridor Commission, has held many public events to discuss the long-term vision for transit in the east metro and collect input on proposed routes and type of transit. This input, combined with technical merit and county-wide mobility goals, was intended to develop a preferred alternative that balances all interests.

The goal of Washington County is to achieve excellence in transportation design through comprehensive public engagement with every project we do. We have a responsibility to listen and engage our citizens, and to use the input we receive to develop a plan that reflects the values of the local community, while serving the regional mobility needs of Washington County.

We heard from many of you that the process we used to obtain your input, how we used that input, and the resulting vision for the Gateway Corridor, did not meet your expectations and does not reflect your values and goals. Others felt that the potential impacts to traffic and green space along 4th Street are excessive and do not fairly balance the needs of your neighborhood with the needs of regional transportation. In short, we heard from you that we have missed the mark, and we need to do better.

As a result, we would like to take a step back and reengage with you and your neighbors. We need to reopen the dialogue with you. This means we will do more listening and will work to improve our communication. This means we want to provide better information about the relative impact of each project alternative and work harder to mitigate them.

We will arrange neighborhood meetings in December. We are currently working on the logistics, but will let you know the day, time and location of these meetings by November 20 so that you may make plans to attend. There will be small group meetings specific to your street so you and your neighbors will have ample time to talk about your interests and concerns.

The I-94 corridor is an important transportation asset to Washington County. Developing a vision for all the communities along I-94 that balances the needs of your neighborhood with our region's transportation needs is a challenge. We know it is important to get this right. By working together I believe we can develop that balance and find a vision we all can support.

We look forward to continuing to work with you.

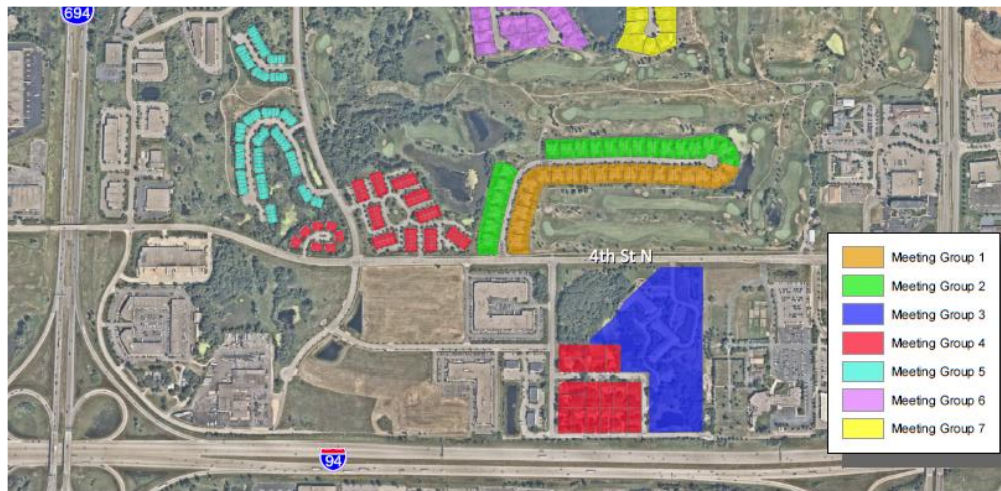
The meetings will be held at **Guardian Angles Church at 8260 4th St N, St Paul, MN 55128**. Signs will be posted in the church entrance to direct attendees to the appropriate room. The purpose of these smaller geographically focused meetings is to provide an opportunity for everyone to actively participate in the discussion and to facilitate a more focused discussion of the areas near your residence. These meetings will allow for an open dialog and include a hands-on work session to explore various ideas and alternatives. The following time/dates have been scheduled:

Tuesday, December 7	4:00PM – 6:00PM (Meeting Group 1)
Tuesday, December 7	6:30PM – 8:30PM (Meeting Group 2)
Wednesday, December 8	4:00PM – 6:00PM (Meeting Group 4)
Wednesday, December 8	6:30PM – 8:30PM (Meeting Group 5)
Thursday, December 17	4:00PM – 6:00PM (Meeting Group 6)
Thursday, December 17	6:30PM – 8:30PM (Meeting Group 7)

For your reference, a map of the designated Meeting Groups is on the back side of this letter. Residents west of I-694 will also receive an invitation to neighborhood meetings. Please note that if you are not able to attend the time assigned to your area, you are welcome to participate in another meeting. Please note that meeting group 3 is for Oaks Meadows Senior Living and will be organized separately.

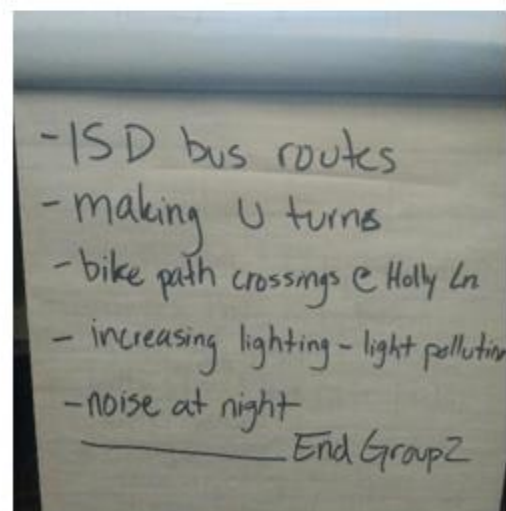
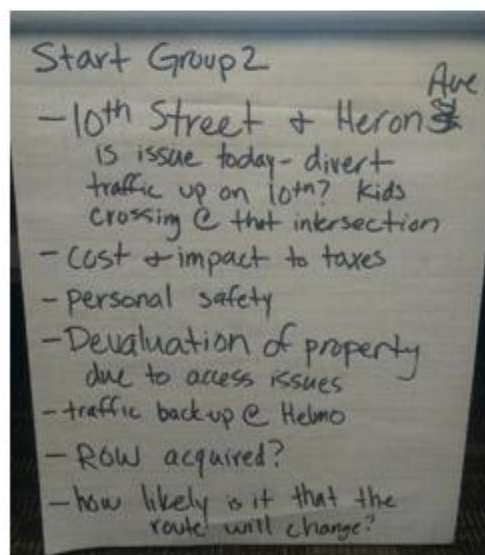
Please visit the project website (www.TheGatewayCorridor.com) and link to the Transit Study Page to RSVP for one of these Neighborhood Meetings. We would appreciate your RSVP by December 4 to help us prepare materials for the meeting. You may also call or e-mail Colleen Reynolds (651-430-4355 or colleen.reynolds@co.washington.mn.us) to confirm your attendance.

We look forward to continuing our dialog and working with you on this project!



Monday, December 7, 6:30 Meeting – Group 2 (green on map) Notes regarding concerns

- 10th Street and Huron Avenue is issue today – would the project divert traffic up on 10th? Kids crossing at that intersection.
- Cost and impact to taxes
- Personal safety
- Devaluation of property due to access issues
- Traffic back-up at Helmo; currently a concern
- Would right of way need to be acquired?
- How likely is it that the route will change (in response to community concerns)?
- Would ISD (school) bus routes be impacted?
- Making U-turns – is it safe? How much additional time would be required?
- Bike path crossings at Holly Lane
- Increasing lighting – light pollution



What was the outcome?

Gateway Corridor Topic Conversations

You are invited to participate in Gateway Corridor Topic Conversations. All Topic Conversations will be held in Oakdale City Hall (1584 Hadley Ave N, Oakdale, MN 55128). A 30 minute presentation will be followed by small group conversations.

Environment:

What you will learn: how air quality, water resources, and noise are evaluated in the state and federal environmental process. Preliminary results pertaining to these areas will be discussed.

Date and Times: February 24 from 4:00-6:00 and 6:30-8:30

Transit Ridership:

What you will learn: how ridership forecasts are calculated for transportation projects, general trends regarding transit riders, anticipated ridership at each station, how people will get to stations (walking, biking, driving), and how this information is used in the federal cost effectiveness analysis.

Date and Times: March 9 from 4:00-6:00 and 6:30-8:30

Engineering Details on Routes:

What you will learn: how potential routes were identified, engineering details on the routes, and evaluation criteria being used in the decision making process.

Dates and Times: This Topic Conversation will be in late March or early April. Potential routes through parts of Oakdale and Woodbury are currently being evaluated.

We got in the weeds

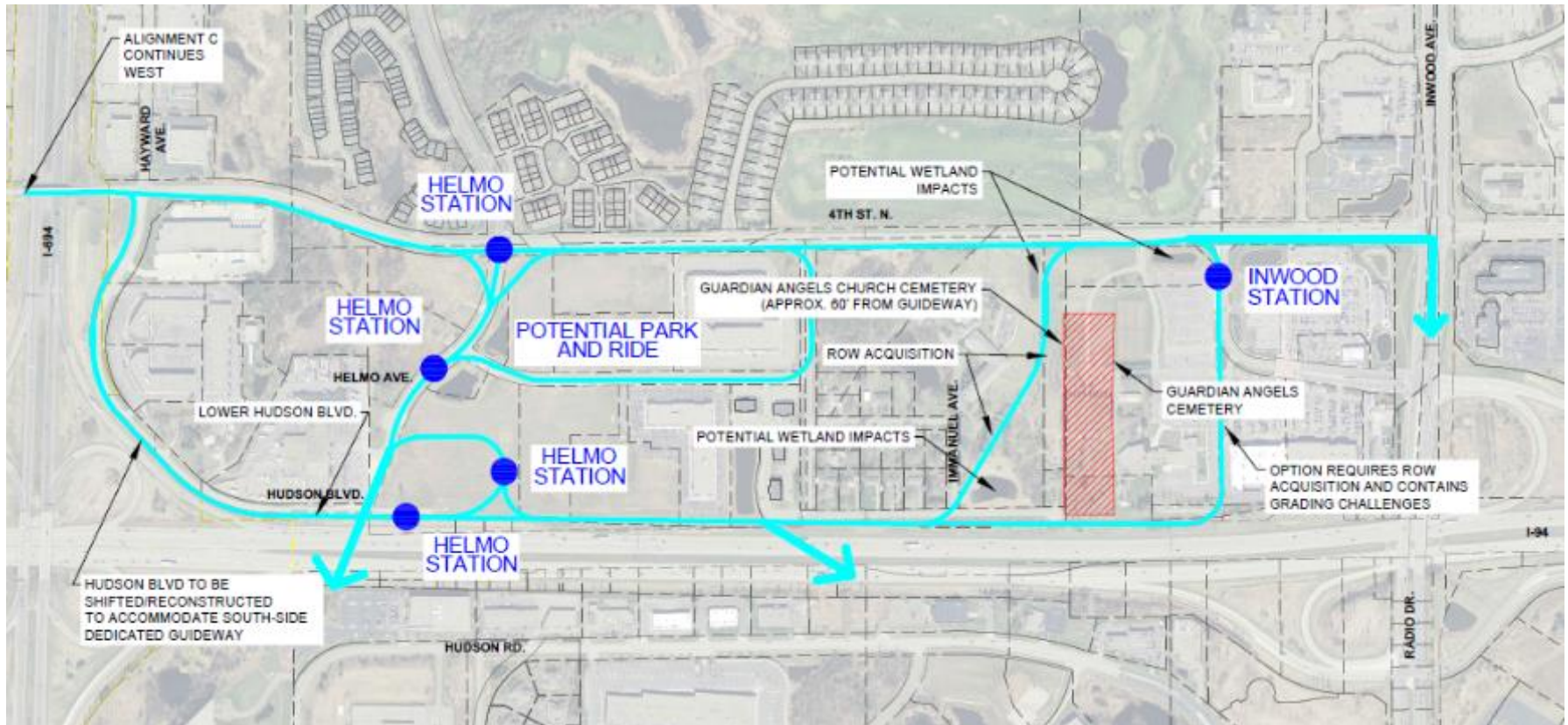


Noise Example

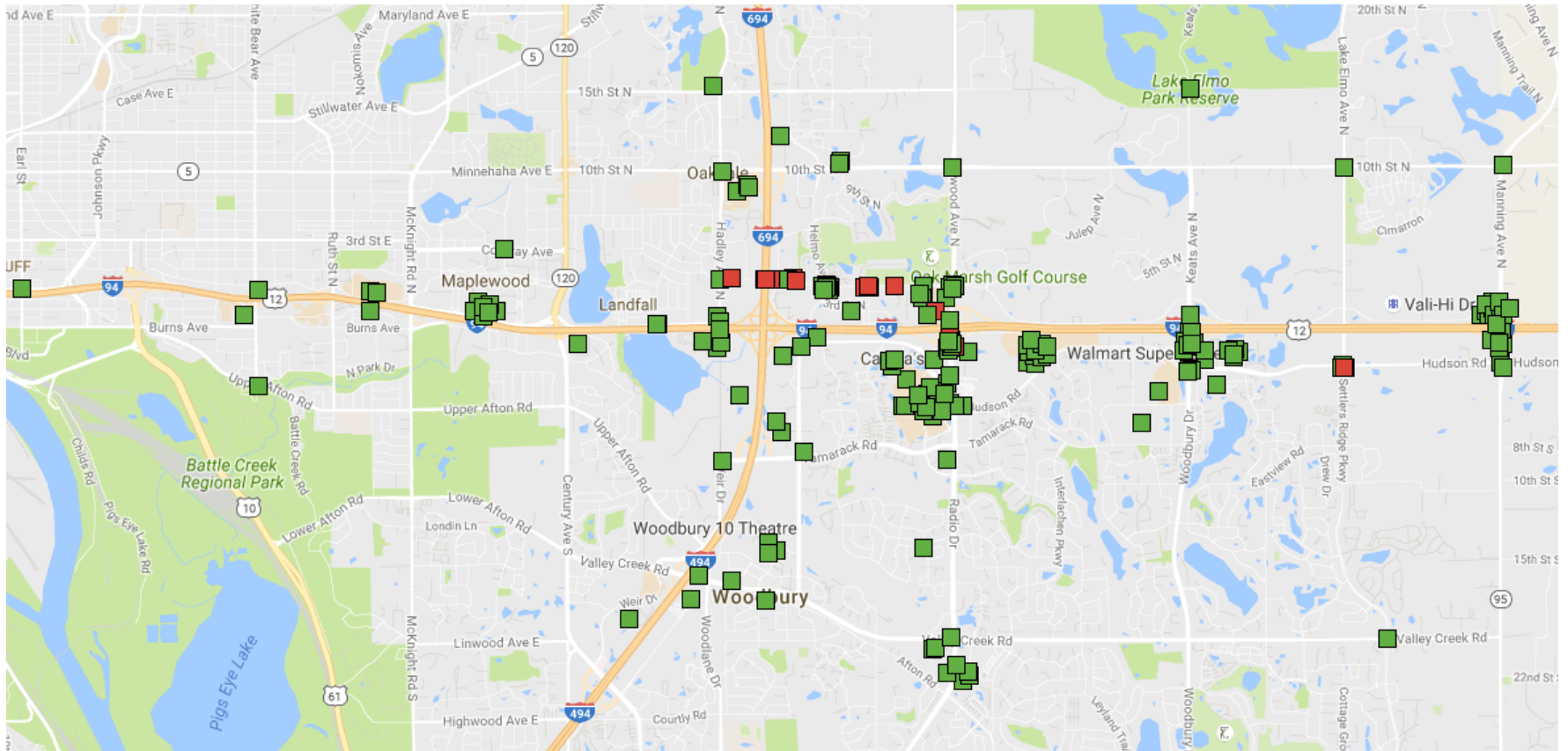
- Three categories:
 - 1 – land where quiet is essential to intended purpose
 - 2 – residences and buildings where people normally sleep
 - 3 – institutional land uses with primarily daytime and evening use



	Location		Noise Level (dBA)		Impact Criteria (dBA)		Distance to: (ft)		Impact?
	Start	End	Existing	Project at 50 ft	Moderate	Severe	Moderate Impact	Nearest Receptor	
	Hadley Ave	I-694	66	48	61	67	<10	220	No
	I-694	Ideal Ave	66	50	61	67	15	120	No
	Ideal Ave	Radio Drive south of I-94	62	50	59	65	20	110	No
	I-694	Inwood Ave	66	49	61	67	<10	80	No

We looked at *a lot* of routes.

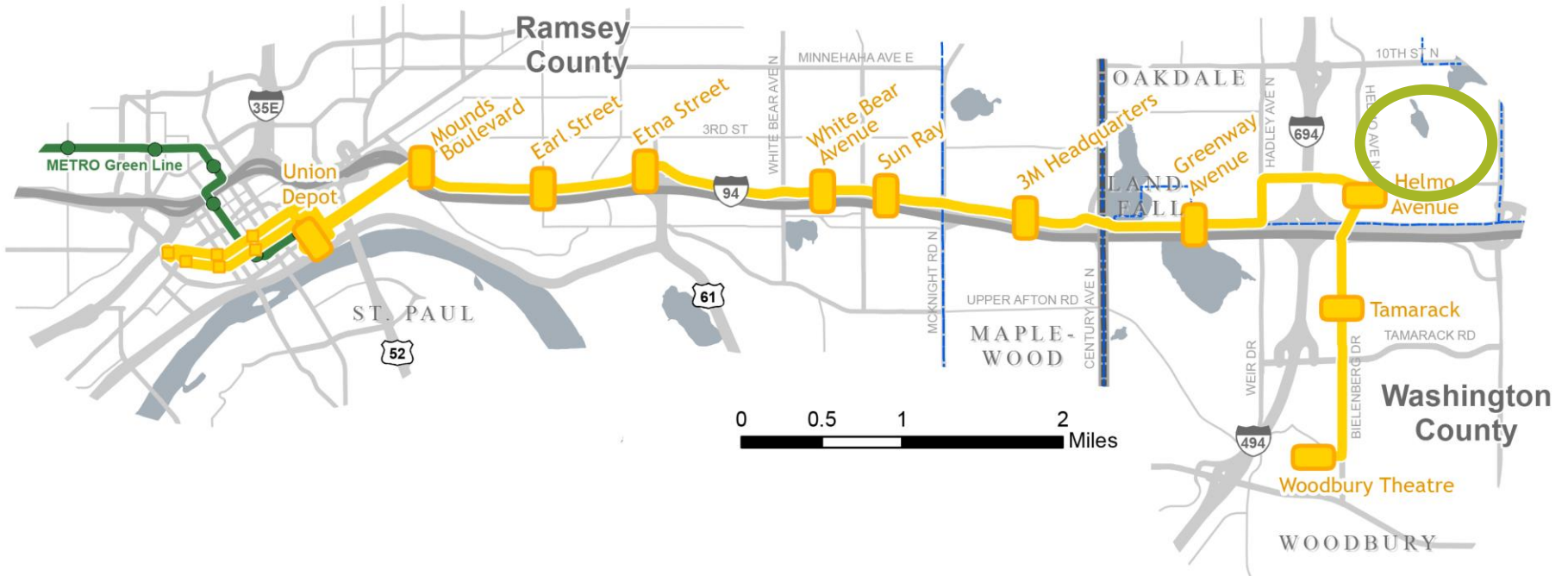


Input on new routes.



Positive location = 
Point of concern = 

Where we are today



Questions we still ask ourselves

Was it the right approach to take a “collaborate/empower”?

How do you balance resources (financial and time) with people on the power/interest grid?

Are the issues we experienced just part of the territory when it comes to having this level of engagement?

How do you respond to negative comments about “those people”?

Lyssa Leitner

Deputy Project Manager
METRO Gold Line

Lyssa.Leitner@co.washington.mn.us

651-430-4314