

Technical Memorandum

METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau LRT) Phase 1: Station Area Planning

Estimated Costs for Select Station Area Elements & Potential Funding Sources

Prepared for:

Hennepin County, Bottineau LRT Community Works



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Estimated Costs for Select Station Elements

The following information is being provided to assist local agencies in planning for future station area improvements. The standard unit prices below provide a current snapshot of costs for select elements that may be included in light rail transit station areas. The costs listed are in 2015 dollars. Costs reflect current pricing on recent construction projects and include installation.

Element	Unit	Estimated Unit Cost	Cost Assumptions
Concrete Sidewalk	Linear Foot	\$84	6' sidewalk with aggregate base
Bituminous Trail	Linear Foot	\$55	10' trail with aggregate base, associated signage
On-Street Bicycle Facilities	Linear Foot of Roadway	\$20	4-travel lanes to 2- travel lanes with blackout of existing lines and striping new lines including bicycle lanes. Assumes no signal modifications
Pedestrian Street Light	Each	\$7,500	City standard fixture
Bike Rack	Each	\$550	Single rack, surface mount
Bike Locker	Each	\$1,500	Surface-mount steel bike locker
Street Tree	Each	\$550	Planted in turf boulevard
Wayfinding Kiosk	Each	\$17,050	Includes concrete slab base
Wayfinding Directory	Each	\$15,890	Includes concrete slab base
Wayfinding Directional Signage	Each	\$8,900	Up to three (3) directional plates. Includes 6' concrete footing
Bench	Each	\$1,500	6' bench with steel supports and recycled plastic slats, surface mount
Trash Receptacle	Each	\$1,000	Single trash receptacle with recycled plastic slats, surface mount
Rapid Flashing Beacon	Lump Sum	\$36,000	Two rapid flashing beacons on poles
Countdown Timers on Signals	Lump Sum	\$5,000	Add up to four (4) pedestrian countdown timers to an existing signal
Precast Concrete Pavers for Outdoor Plazas	Square Foot	\$20	Includes base material and leveling sand
Cast-In-Place Concrete Planters for Outdoor Plazas	Linear Foot	\$440	Average height of 18" colored, cast-in-place concrete planter wall
Ornamental Railing	Linear Foot	\$150	Decorative metal railing, surface mount
Modular Block Retaining Wall	Surface Square Foot	\$80	Includes drain rock and drain tile behind wall

Potential Funding Sources

Beyond standard funding sources that are typically available to municipalities, the following programs may provide opportunities to obtain additional support for local park, trail and transit station area amenities.

People-For-Bikes Community Grants

Administrator: People-For-Bikes, a non-profit organization based in Boulder, Colorado.

Information: To support bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make bicycling easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities. Eligible projects include: Bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges; Mountain bike facilities; Bike parks and pump tracks; BMX facilities; End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks or storage; Programs that transform city streets; and initiatives designed to increase ridership or infrastructure investment.

Additional information about People-For-Bikes can be found on the internet using the following link: <http://www.peopleforbikes.org>

Transportation Alternatives Program

Administrator: The Metropolitan Council

Information: To support alternatives to automobile transit, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, environmental mitigation, and safe routes to schools.

The following entities can apply for this program: Local governments; regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; natural resource and public land agencies; school districts, local education agencies, or schools; and tribal governments are all eligible to apply.

Eligible projects include: Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for non-motorized forms of transportation, including: sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, light and other safety-related infrastructure, ADA compliance, and conversion of abandoned railroad corridors into trails. Per Minnesota rules, engineering activities and the purchase of right-of-ways are not eligible.

Additional information about the Transportation Alternatives Program can be found on the internet using the following link: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/map-21/tap.html>

Livable Communities Grants

Administrator: The Metropolitan Council

Information: The 1995 Livable Communities Act (LCA) funds community investment that revitalizes economies, creates affordable housing, and links different land uses and transportation. LCA's voluntary, incentive-based approach leverages partnerships and shared resources to help communities achieve their regional and local goals. The Council awards grants to communities through four categories:

- **Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)**
TBRA grants can pay for investigation and clean-up of brownfield sites. This includes Response Action Plan development costs incurred up to 180 days before application for a grant is due and eligible cleanup costs, as well as incidental cost necessary for cleanup (e.g., demolition and subsurface structure removal), after the award date of the grant. TBRA funding is also available for asbestos abatement and lead paint abatement necessary for adaptive reuse of buildings. The amount of the grant is limited by available funds at the time of application. The program has no match requirement. TBRA funds can be used to fulfill part of the required DEED Contamination Cleanup grant match.
- **Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA)**
LCDA grants support development and redevelopment that link housing, jobs, and services and that demonstrate efficient and cost-effective use of land and infrastructure. Grants are available to fund basic public infrastructure and site assembly.
- **Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA)**
LHIA funds the expansion and preservation of affordable housing for rental and ownership to help municipalities meet their negotiated Livable Communities Act (LCA) housing goals. Grants cover gap financing costs such as land/property/structure acquisition, demolition, site preparation, general construction, alterations and rehabilitation.
- **Transit Oriented Development (TOD)**
TOD grants promote moderate to high density development projects located within walking distance of a major transit stop that typically include a mix of uses such as housing, jobs, restaurants, shops and entertainment. TOD projects are directly connected to the transit stop via pedestrian friendly streets and public spaces, and offer people convenient and affordable transportation choices.

Additional information about the Livable Communities Grants can be found on the internet using the following link:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/Communities/Services/Livable-Communities-Grants.aspx>

Local Trails Connection Program

Administrator: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Information: To accelerate the acquisition and development of local trail connections between where people live and significant public resources (e.g., historical areas, parks, other trails). This program is not intended to create significant new trails.

The following entities can apply for this program: All local units of government. Trail organizations and/or user groups may apply, but only in coordination with a local unit of government.

Eligible projects include: Land acquisition from willing sellers; Trail construction and/or restoration; Permanent trailside improvements (e.g., drainage, parking, bathrooms); ADA compliance projects; Contracted maintenance; Bridge construction and restoration.

Additional information about the Local Trails Connection Program can be found on the internet using the following link:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_local.html

Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)

Administrator: Minnesota Department of Health

Information: The SHIP program focuses on creating good health for parents, kids and the whole community, by decreasing obesity and reducing the number of people who use tobacco or who are exposed to tobacco smoke. SHIP improves health and saves money by building stronger communities. One of the SHIP community strategies is to increase non-motorized transportation by working with cities and counties across Minnesota to include complete streets in updated municipal plans and to increase connections in walking and bicycling networks.

Additional information about the Statewide Health Improvement Program can be found on the internet using the following link:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/oshii/ship/index.html>

Miscellaneous Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Park Facilities Grant Opportunities

Information: The American Trails website includes a current listing of funding opportunities that cover a variety of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, along with park, open space and environmental funding programs that may apply to various components addressed in the station area plans.

Additional information about American Trails funding resources list can be found on the internet using the following link:

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/funding/index.html>

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Investigation Grant

Administrator: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Information: The Investigation Grant can pay for up to 75% of the cost of completing a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I), Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (Phase II), and development of a Response Action Plan (RAP). The grants are capped at \$50,000. The grants require a 25% match. Investigation Grants are typically applied for when a substantial amount of time will occur between RAP development and RAP implementation. When RAP development is followed closely by RAP implementation, investigation and RAP development costs are typically wrapped into a Contamination Cleanup Grant.

Additional information about DEED Investigation grants can be found on the internet using the following link: <http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/cleanup/contamination.jsp>

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Cleanup Grant

Administrator: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Information: The Cleanup Grant can pay for up to 75% of the investigation, RAP development and RAP implementation (i.e., remediation) costs, including incidental costs required for the remediation (e.g., demolition and subsurface structure removals). The amount of the grant is limited by available funds at the time of application. The grants require a 25% match with 12% of the match coming from sources deemed unrestricted by DEED.

Additional information about DEED Cleanup grants can be found on the internet using the following link: <http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/cleanup/contamination.jsp>

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Redevelopment Grant

Administrator: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Information: Redevelopment Grants are available to assist with the redevelopment of contaminated properties. Costs eligible for a Redevelopment Grant include demolition, infrastructure improvements, soil stabilization, ponding and other environmental infrastructure, and adaptive reuse of buildings (including lead paint and asbestos abatement costs).

The amount of the grant is limited by available funds at the time of application. The grants require a 50% match. The grants are funded by two sources: state bonds and state general fund money. Grants funded with state bond funds are restricted to property that is owned by the public sector and will remain in the ownership of the public sector in perpetuity. Redevelopment Grants funded with general fund money do not have the same restrictions as those funded with bond funds. Projects receiving grant funded with general fund money can be owned by and/or sold to private sector entities.

Additional information about DEED Redevelopment grants can be found on the internet using the following link: <http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/cleanup/redevelopmentgrantprogram.jsp>

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Demolition Loan

Administrator: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Information: The Demolition Loan Program helps development authorities with the costs of demolishing blighted buildings on sites that have future development potential but where there are no current development plans. Demolition Loans will be made available to development authorities, including cities, counties, port authorities, housing and redevelopment authorities, and economic development authorities. Eligible costs cover demolition activities, including interior remediation such as asbestos abatement. Loans would pay up to 100 percent of demolition costs for a qualifying site. The loans may also assist with site acquisition costs.

Loans will be low interest (2 percent) and interest free for the first two years. Principal and interest payments will start in year three. The loan term cannot exceed 15 years. The loans are capped at \$1 million. Upon completion of a redevelopment plan up to 50% of the original loan amount may be forgiven (affectively turning the loan into a redevelopment grant).

Additional information about DEED Demolition Loans can be found on the internet using the following link: <http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/cleanup/demolition.jsp>

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program

Administrator: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Information: The DEED RLF Program is similar to the EPA RLF. RLF funds can pay for site cleanup and in some cases demolition.

Additional information about the DEED RLF Program can be found on the internet using the following link: <http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/cleanup/cleanuprevolvingloanprogram.jsp>

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assessment Grant

Administrator: Environmental Protection Agency

Information: EPA Assessment Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites. An eligible applicant can apply for up to \$200,000 to assess sites contaminated with hazardous substances, including those comingled with petroleum contaminated sites.

Additional information about the EPA Assessment grants can be found on the internet using the following link: http://epa.gov/brownfields/assessment_grants.htm

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Cleanup Grant

Administrator: Environmental Protection Agency

Information: EPA Cleanup grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 per site. Cleanup grants require a 20 percent cost share, which may be in the form of a monetary contribution, labor, material, or services, and must be used for eligible and allowable costs.

Additional information about the EPA Cleanup grants can be found on the internet using the following link: http://epa.gov/brownfields/cleanup_grants.htm