



COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Blue Line Extension Update

FROM: John Sutter, Community Development Director

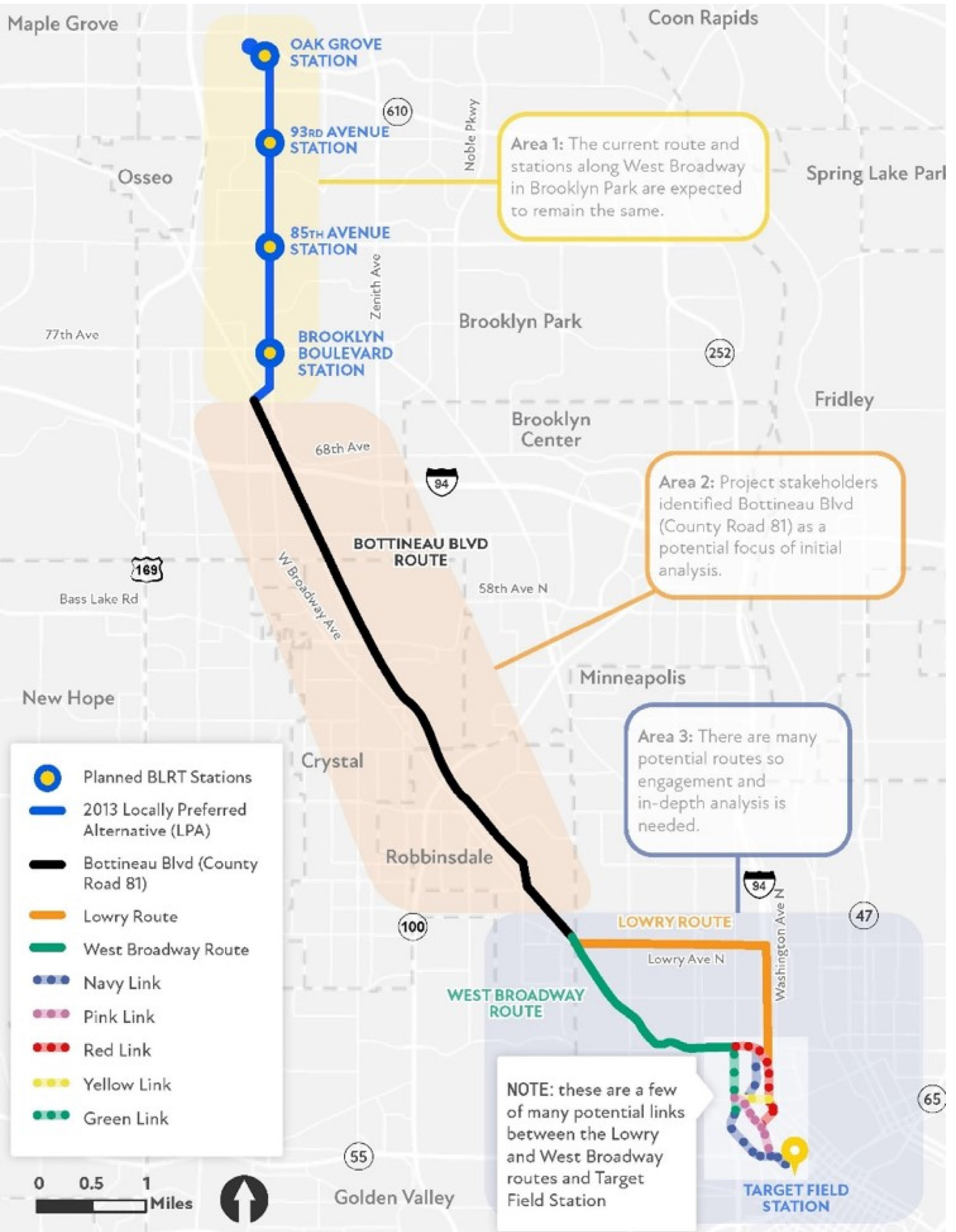
TO: Anne Norris, City Manager (for July 20 work session)

DATE: July 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Blue Line Extension update

Metro Transit has provided the attached rough conceptual layout of their baseline scenario for the Blue Line Extension through Crystal. This scenario would remove one lane in each direction from Bottineau Boulevard (County Road 81), reducing it from six lanes to four. Lane removal would create space for light rail tracks to run in a widened median within the roadway. At the work session, Councilmembers and staff will gather around tables with the printed conceptual layout for discussion. The same materials will be presented for public review and comment at a community open house at Becker Park from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, July 26.

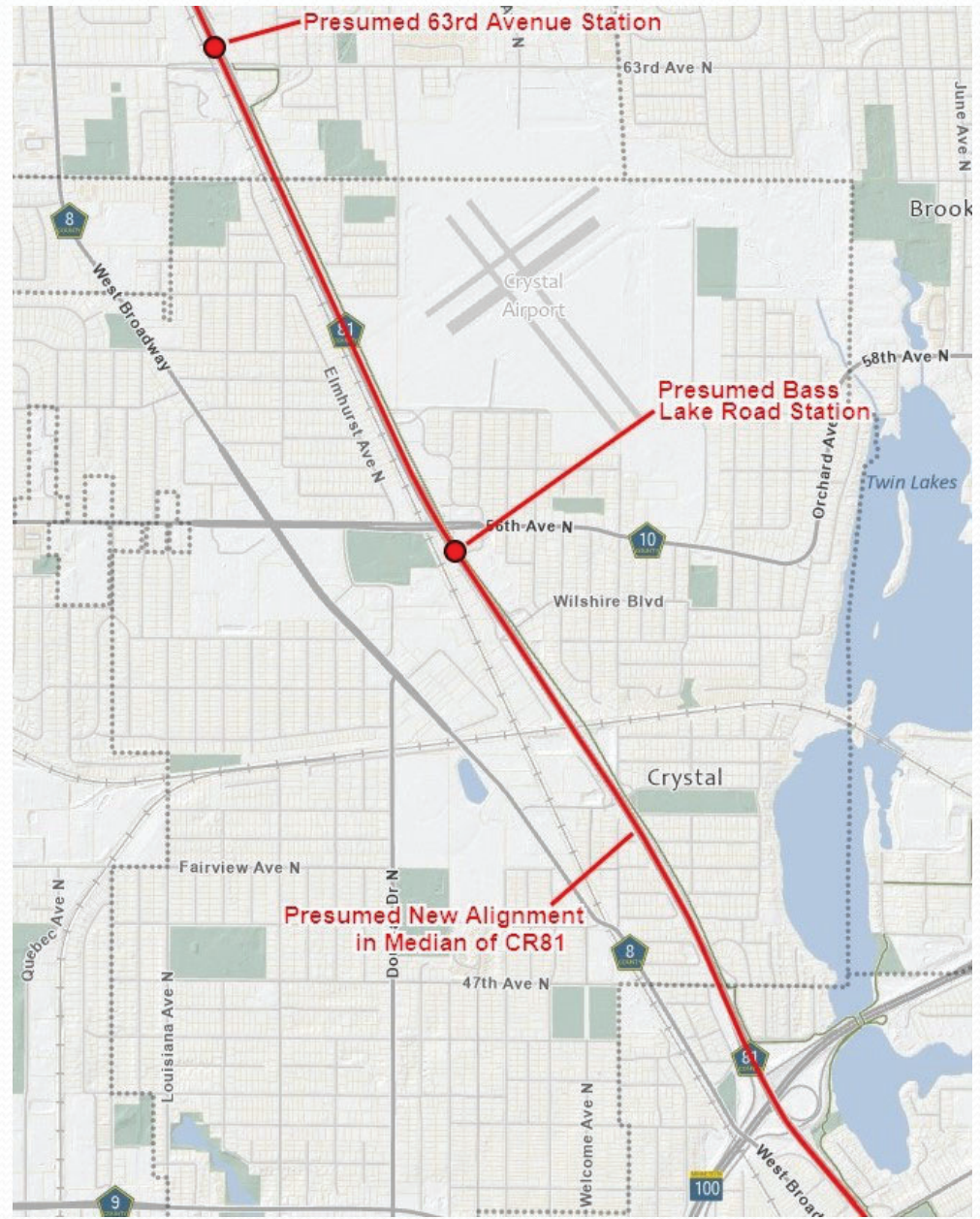
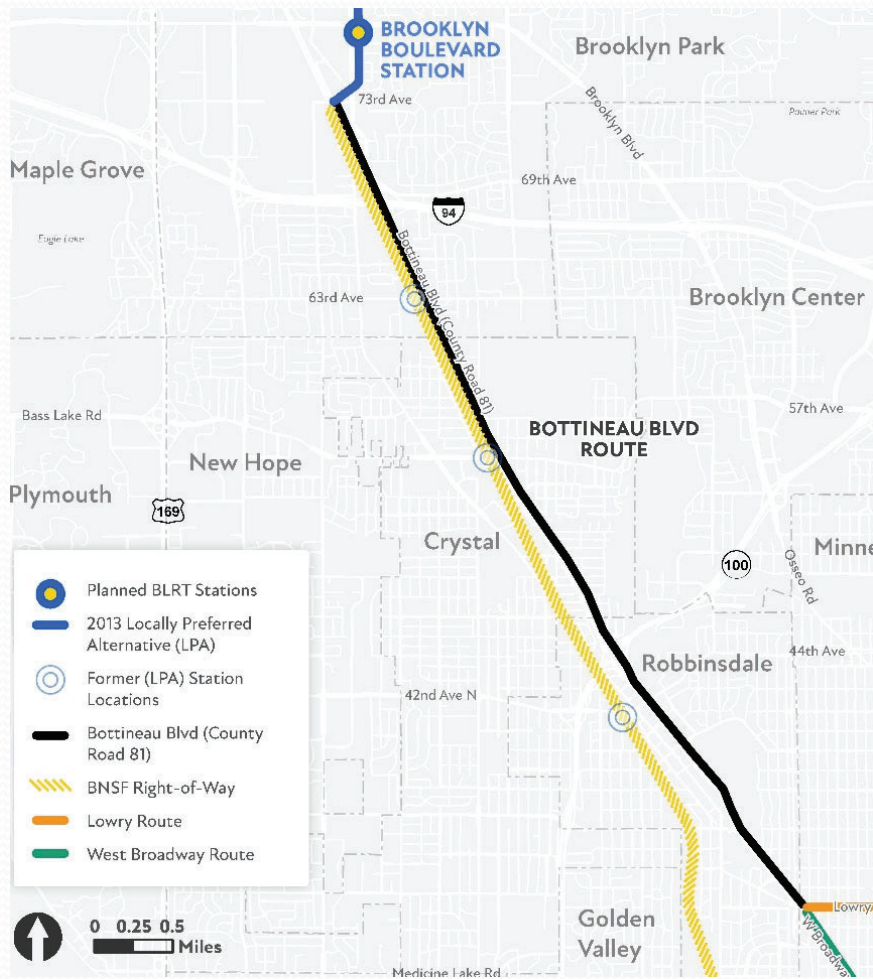
The traffic impacts from removing lanes on Bottineau would be significant during peak periods, especially (but not exclusively) at Bass Lake Road. Metro Transit is working on grade separation concepts to bridge the four remaining lanes of Bottineau Boulevard over Bass Lake Road with the light rail tracks and station platform at grade. Metro Transit is not currently exploring any grade separations or other traffic mitigation concepts at the other Crystal intersections (Wilshire, Corvallis and 47th) and as yet has not presented anything to address staff concerns about traffic delays at those intersections. Staff is especially concerned about the effect on Police Department response times for the north third of the city if lanes are reduced on the bridge over the Canadian Pacific Railway, as this bridge is the only option when long freights block the Douglas Drive and West Broadway crossings of the CP. Metro Transit will have traffic information to present on display boards at the work session and a traffic engineer will be present to answer questions.





CITY of CRYSTAL

Blue Line Extension Update



BOTTINEAU BLVD (COUNTY ROAD 81) NEAR THE CRYSTAL AIRPORT, CRYSTAL

EXISTING

This is a visualization of a section of Bottineau Blvd (County Road 81) in Crystal as it exists today.



CONCEPT

This visualization represents how light rail could fit in Crystal along Bottineau Blvd (County Road 81). This picture uses the typical width of the roadway at this location.



BOTTINEAU BLVD (COUNTY ROAD 81) SOUTH OF BASS LAKE ROAD, CRYSTAL

EXISTING

This is a visualization of a section of Bottineau Blvd (County Road 81) in Crystal as it exists today.



CONCEPT

This visualization represents how light rail could fit in Crystal along Bottineau Blvd (County Road 81). This picture uses the typical width of the roadway at this location.



BOTTINEAU BLVD (COUNTY ROAD 81) AT 48TH AVE, CRYSTAL

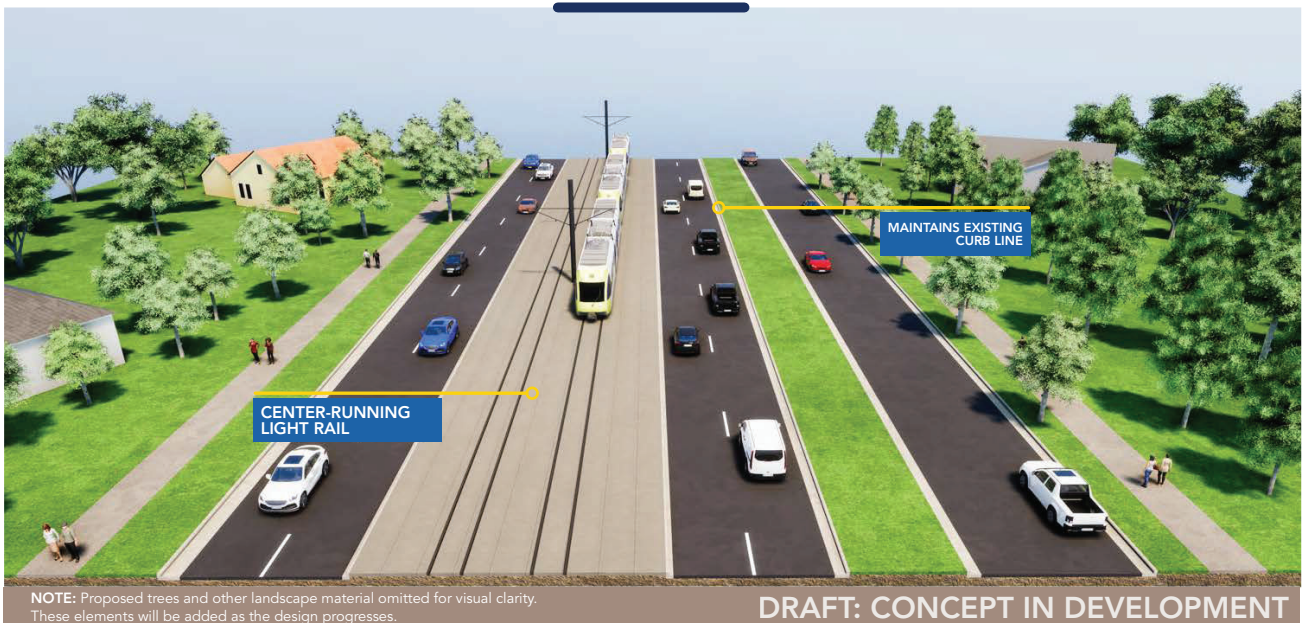
EXISTING

This is a visualization of a section of Bottineau Blvd (County Road 81) in Crystal as it exists today.



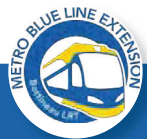
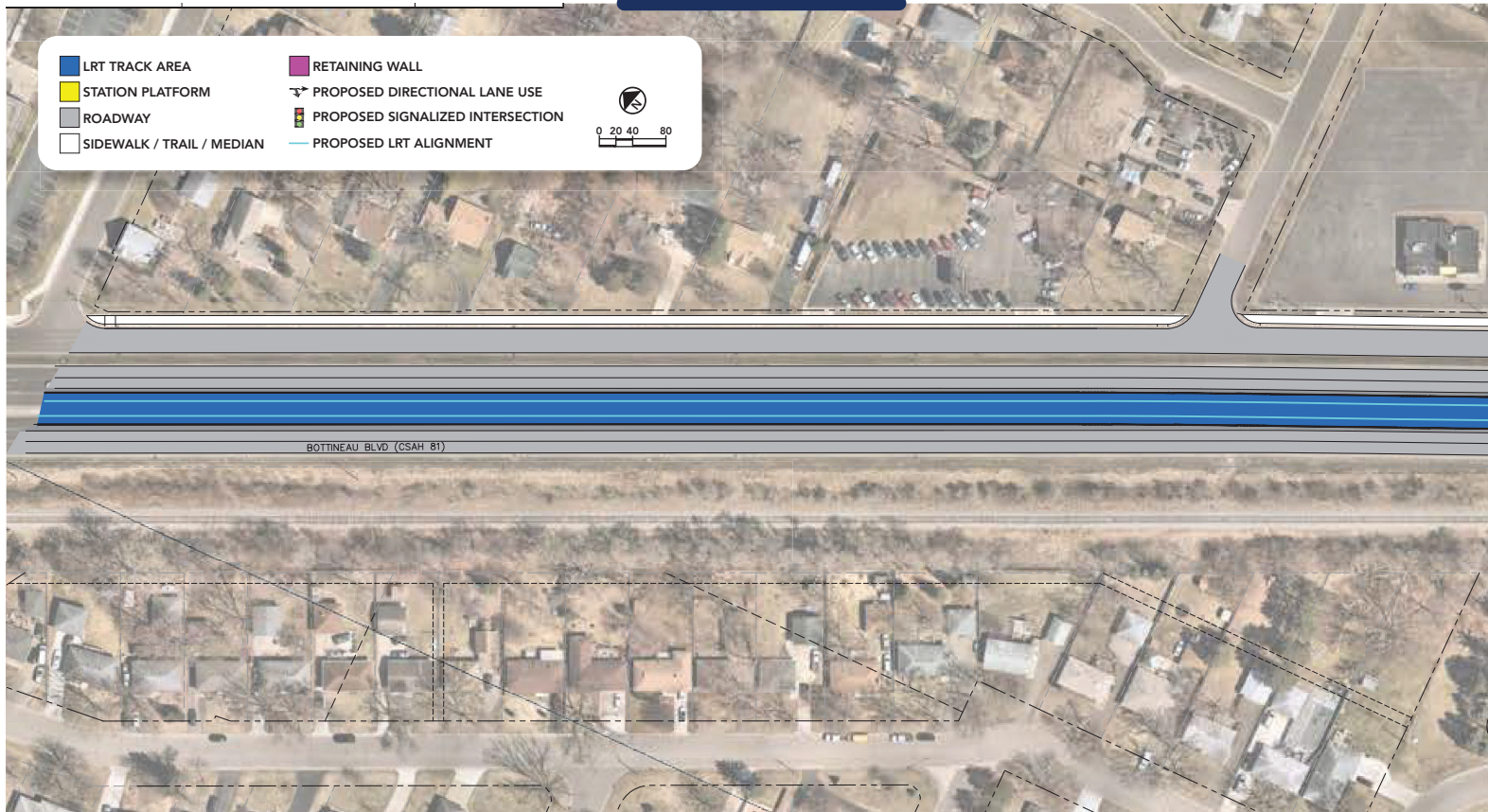
CONCEPT

This visualization represents how light rail could fit in Crystal along Bottineau Blvd (County Road 81). This picture uses the typical width of the roadway at this location.



CITY OF CRYSTAL

62nd Avenue to 61st Avenue



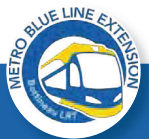
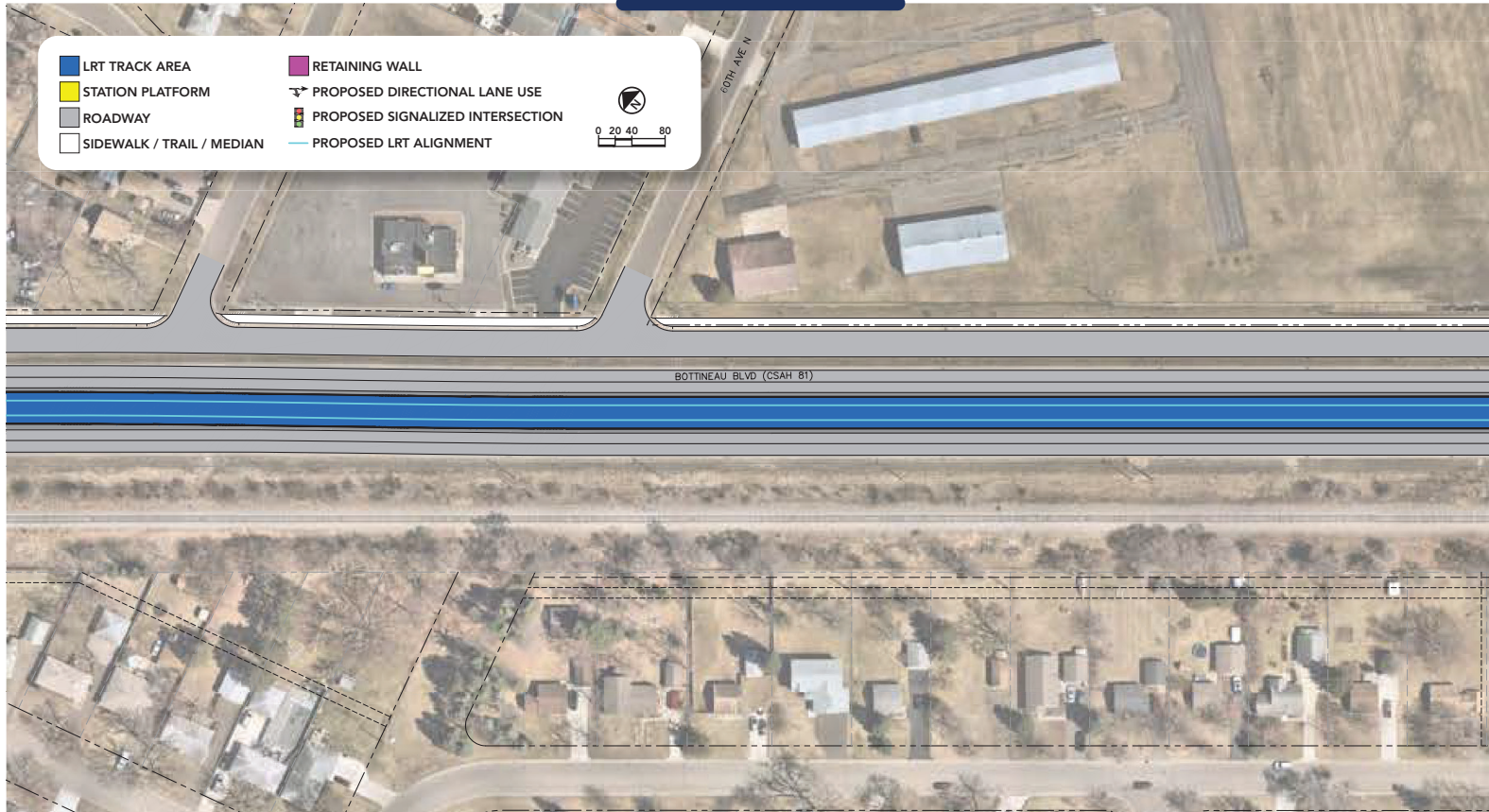
JULY 2021

METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION



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61st Avenue to Crystal Airport Road



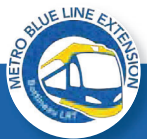
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METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION



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Crystal Airport Road to Bass Lake Road



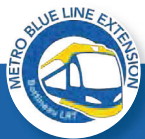
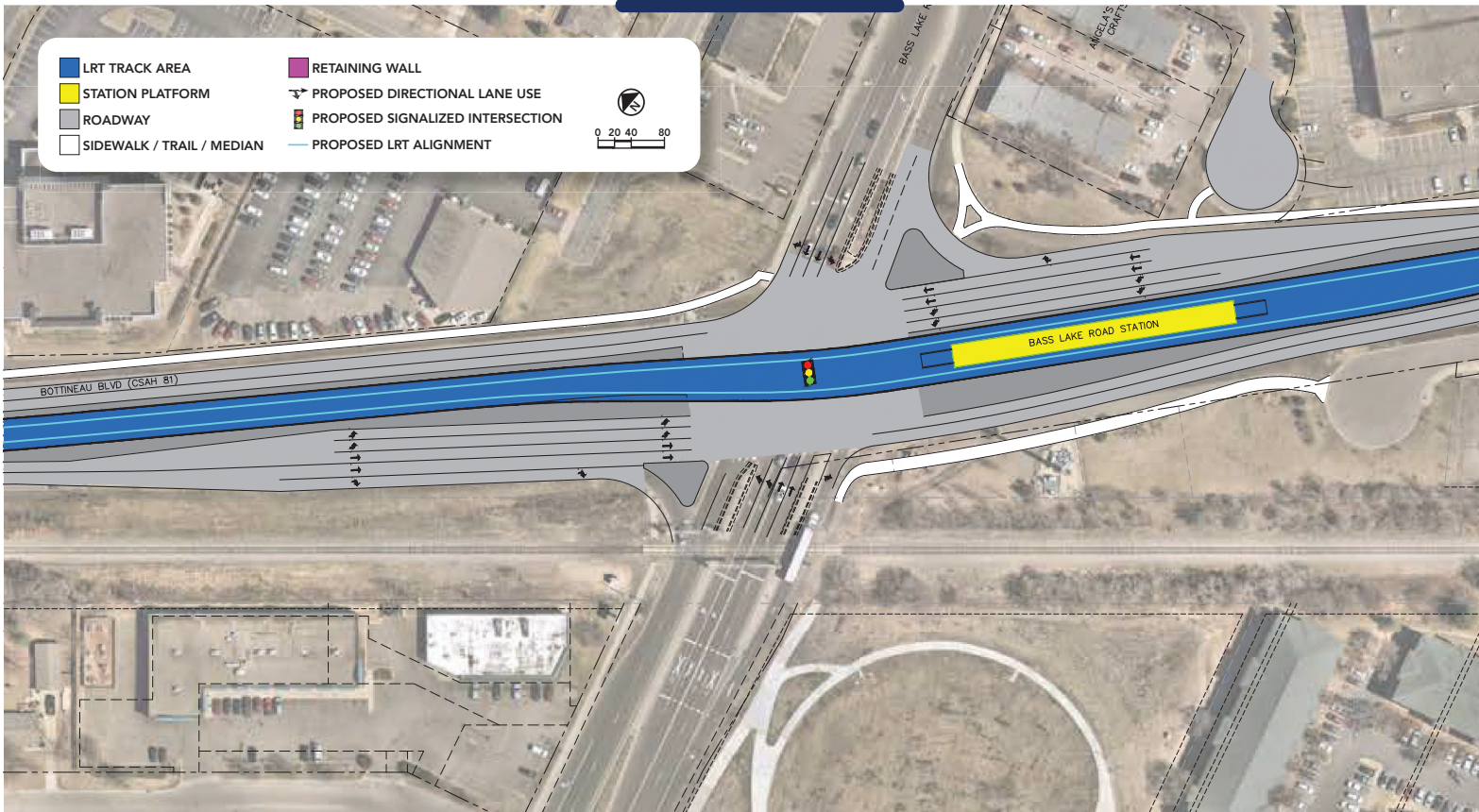
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METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION



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Bass Lake Road to Wilshire Boulevard



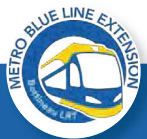
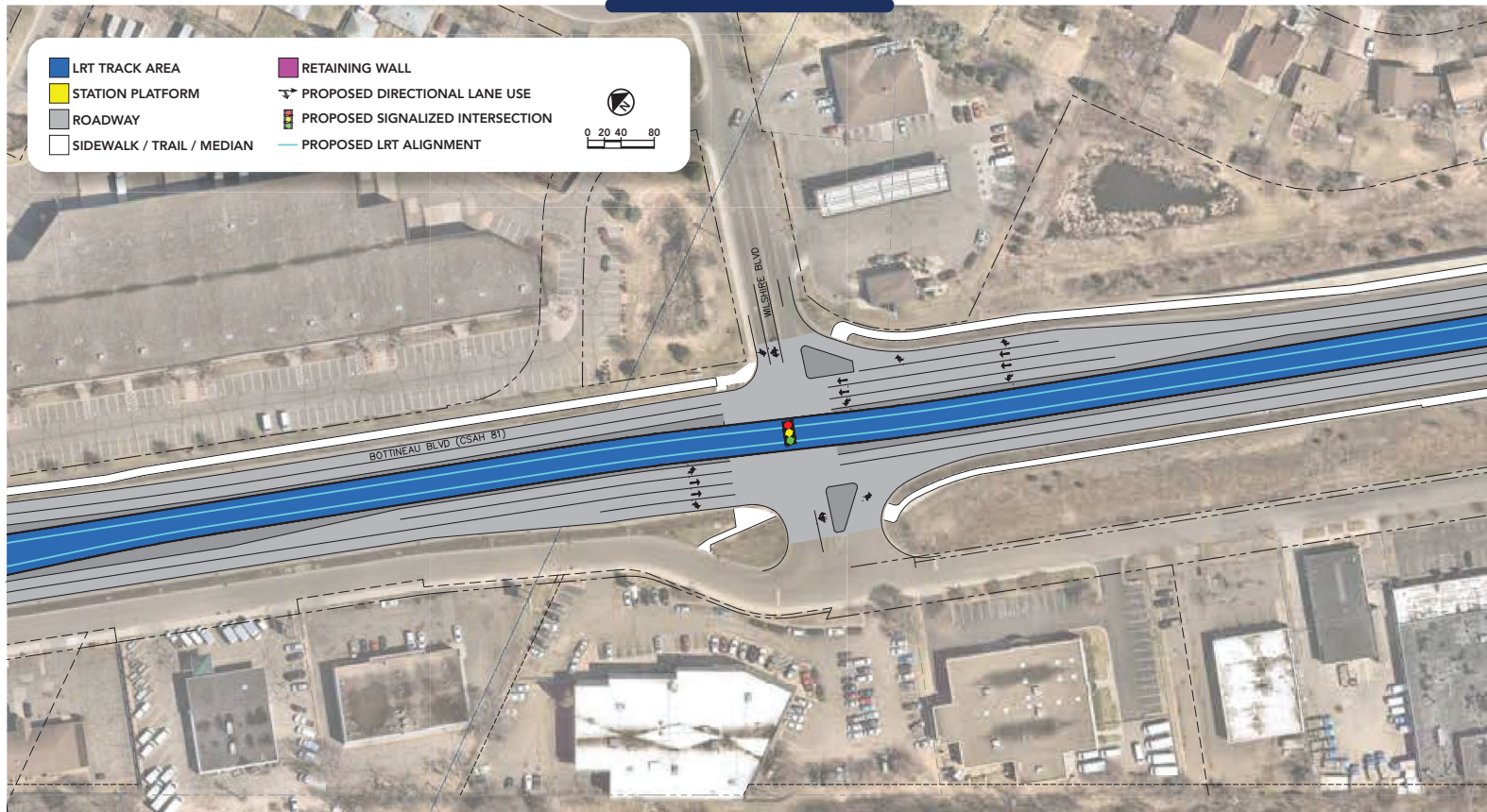
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METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION



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Wilshire Boulevard to Canadian Pacific Railroad Bridge



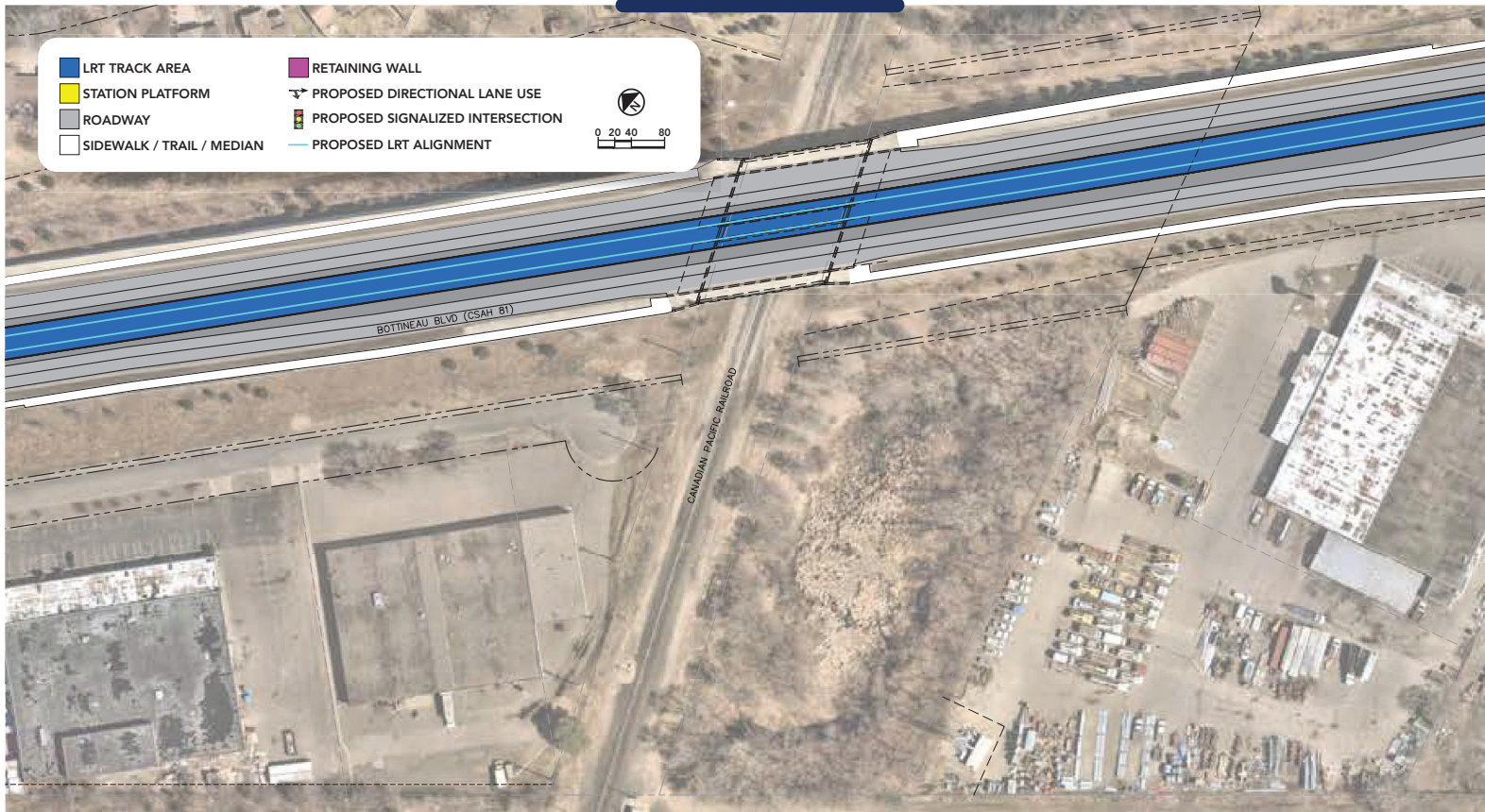
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METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION



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Canadian Pacific Railroad Bridge to 51st Avenue



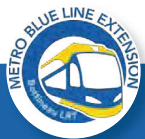
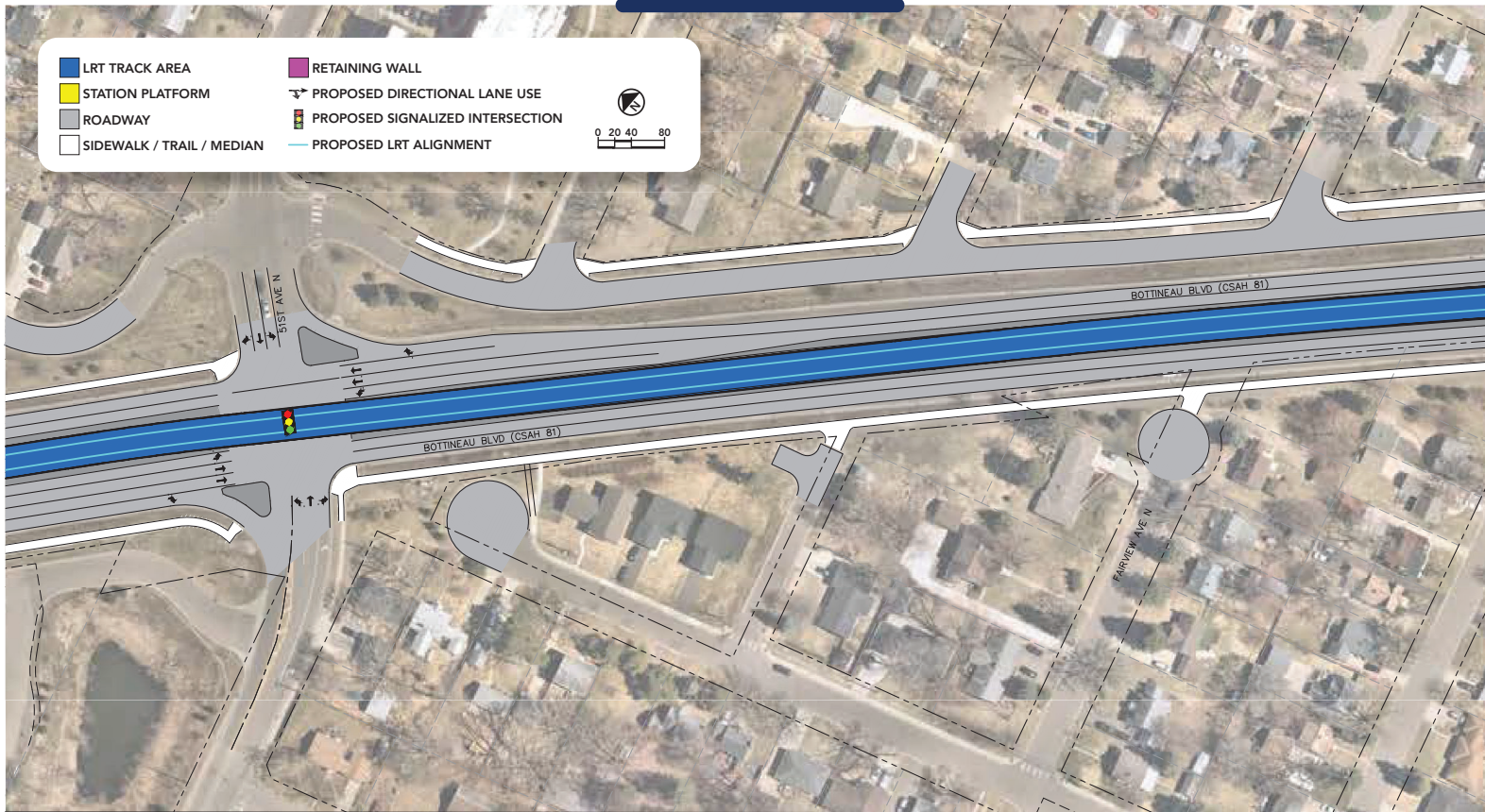
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METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION



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51st Avenue to Lakeside Avenue



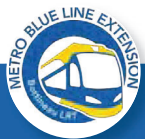
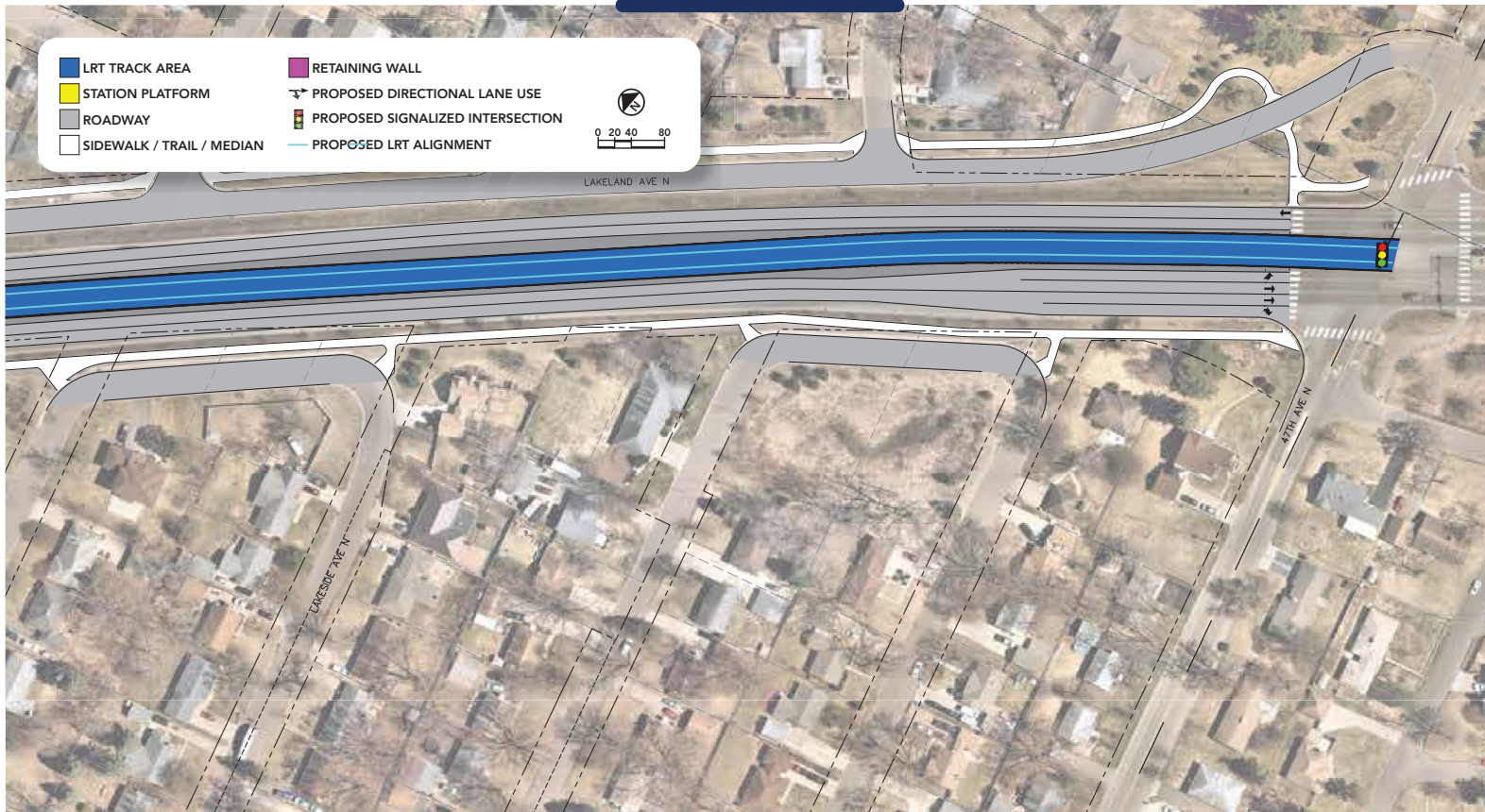
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METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION



CITY OF CRYSTAL

Lakeside Avenue to 47th Avenue



JULY 2021

METRO BLUE LINE LRT EXTENSION

