

**CITY OF CRYSTAL**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 12**

**COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT  
ROUTE MODIFICATION REPORT  
FOR THE METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Crystal (“City”) has long been underserved by the regional public transit system; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires improved and expanded transportation options and connections for its residents, businesses, institutions and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has actively participated in efforts to bring high-frequency transit service to the northwest suburbs, including the previously-proposed BNSF alignment for the METRO Blue Line Extension through Crystal with a station at Bass Lake Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has partnered with Metro Transit and Hennepin County over the last several years to prepare the area around the proposed Bass Lake Road station for transit-oriented development, including accommodative land use regulations and significant public improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 15, 2020, the Crystal City Council approved a Statement of Principles (“Statement”) to guide the city’s review of potential METRO Blue Line Extension alignments outside of the previously proposed BNSF alignment; and

**WHEREAS**, since the Statement was approved, City staff, Mayor Adams, City Council members, and community members have provided input as requested by Metro Transit and Hennepin County;

**WHEREAS**, since the Statement was approved, the Project has been developing concept-level layouts for an at-grade Metro Blue Line Extension in the median of Bottineau Boulevard and released the Draft Route Modification Report base on that concept;


**WHEREAS**, on December 13, 2021, Metro Transit and Hennepin County released the Draft Route Modification Report (“Report”) and provided a 6 week comment period; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the City to formally comment on the Report to complement and supplement the City’s Statement of Principles based on the additional information received since September 15, 2020.

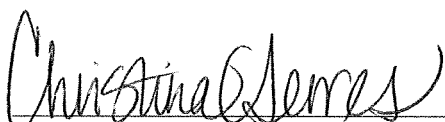
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council makes the following comments on the Draft Route Modification Report for the METRO Blue Line Extension:

1. The “Engagement in Crystal” section on page 8 does not at all mention concerns about the vehicular mobility impacts of reducing the roadway from 6 lanes to 4, despite that concern being expressed repeatedly throughout 2021 in multiple ways and venues. That concern was at least as prevalent throughout the community engagement process as the four items that are listed in the Report. Therefore a fifth item acknowledging the community’s serious and consistent concerns about the impact of lane reduction on vehicular mobility should be added to this section.
2. “Goal 1: Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations” on page 40 does not at all address the negative impact of lane reduction and reduced vehicular mobility on access and connections to jobs and regional destinations. The Report reads as if Metro Transit and Hennepin County are unconcerned with vehicular mobility. The Report should at least acknowledge that the improved transit access and connections may come at the expense of reduced vehicular access and connections due to lane reduction.
3. “Goal 2: Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor” on page 42 mentions the lane reduction and vehicular mobility, and asserts that, with a grade separation of Bottineau Boulevard over Bass Lake Road, the Project “would result in similar intersection delay and travel times compared to no-build conditions.” This is premature because (a) the City Council has not endorsed the grade separation due to serious concerns about public safety, and (b) the traffic analysis to determine the adequacy of 4 lanes between Bass Lake Road and Trunk Highway 100 is still a work in progress. The Report should not assert as a matter of fact that which is uncertain and remains to be determined. It would be appropriate and accurate for the report to instead say, “The impacts of the proposed lane reduction on vehicular mobility, and potential design solutions to mitigate the impacts, are recognized as a serious community concern and will require more in-depth technical analysis and community input.”
4. In general, the City supports continued exploration of the proposed route but it is important for the Route Modification Report to emphasize that the Report merely endorses further study and design work, and does not confirm community support for the route.

Adopted by the Crystal City Council this 18th day of January, 2022.

  
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Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Christina Serres, City Clerk