

# PROJECT UPDATE

Milwaukee County Committee  
on Transportation and Transit  
May 9, 2023



## TODAY'S PURPOSE

To update the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on the initiation of the next phase of the North-South Transit Enhancement project.



# Feasibility Study Recommendation

- Recommended route is **Bayshore to IKEA**
- **18 miles** (79% dedicated transit lanes)
- **33 stops**
- **Electric** bus rapid transit (BRT) vehicles
- **10-Minute** headways during peak hours



# Project Purpose

To build upon Milwaukee's existing transit infrastructure and investment to **enhance mobility** along 27th Street and throughout Milwaukee County, **focusing on underserved residents** in the corridor and supporting the local commitment to racial equity and social justice investments.

**Racial equity** is a top priority of Milwaukee County government.

## COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

WITHIN 0.5 MILE OF ROUTE

73%

People  
of color

1/5

Households  
without a car

26%

Families  
in poverty



# Why Now

- Leverage current federal infrastructure funds
- Further Milwaukee County's commitment to racial equity
- Realize MCTS NEXT system redesign efficiencies and SEWRPC VISION 2050
- Build on CONNECT momentum



# Updates Since Study Completed

- ✓ Began environmental review and design phase
- ✓ Entered Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Project Development
- ✓ Received a Categorical Exclusion (CE) class of action, saving time and resources



# | Timeline



# What to Expect During Project Development



FTA Coordination



Public & Stakeholder Outreach



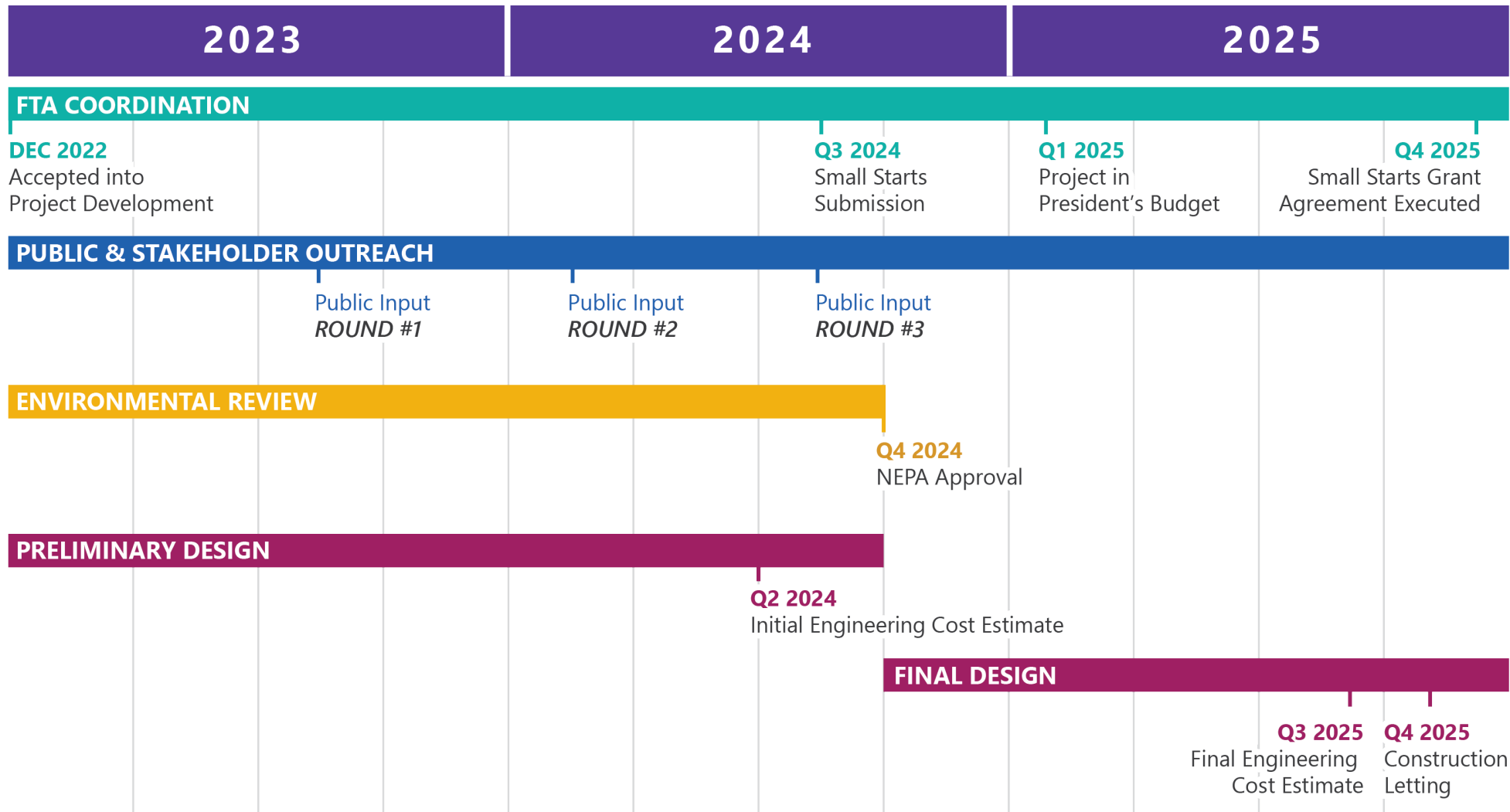
Environmental Review



Preliminary & Final Design



# Project Development Milestones

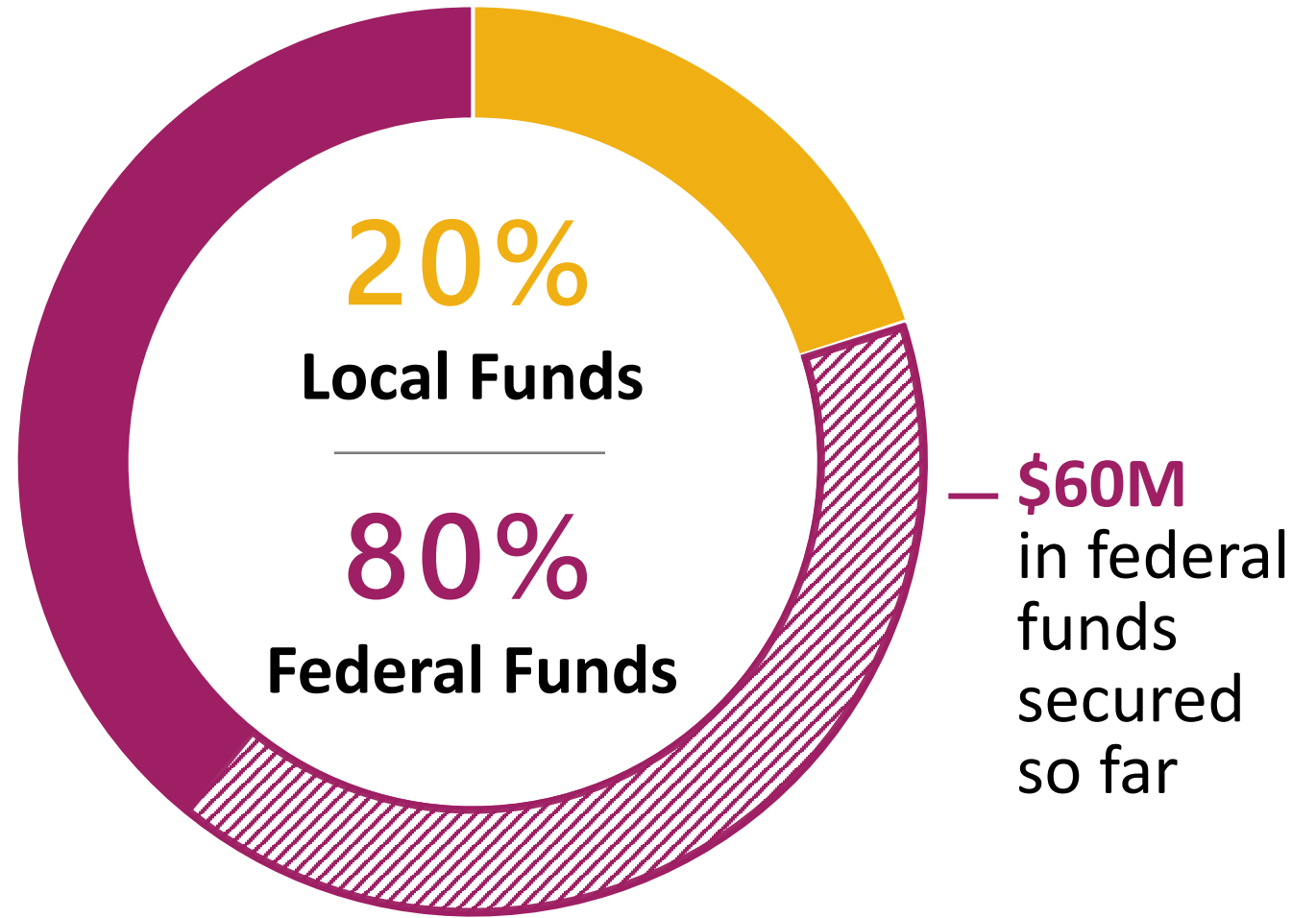


*Note: Schedule subject to change pending approvals and funding.*

# Anticipated Funding

Feasibility Study  
Cost Estimate\*

**\$148.15M**



# Funding Sources

## Federal

FTA Project Development Funds*	\$20M
Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant – Battery Electric Buses*	\$30.4M
Surface Transportation Urban Program (STP-U) – Battery Electric Buses*	\$9.6M
FTA Capital Improvement Grant (CIG)	\$58.5M

\* Funds secured so far

**\$118.5M**

Anticipated Federal Funds

## Local

Milwaukee County/Other Non-Federal Sources	\$29.65M
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**\$29.65M**

Anticipated Local Funds



#### OUTREACH APPROACH

Provide consistent, frequent messaging, using outreach methods tailored for the diverse communities along the corridor.

# Outreach Methods

- Elected Official Briefings
- Partnership with Community Organizations
- Participation at Community Events
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Community Advisory Committee
- Traditional Public Involvement Meetings
- Website
- Mailings
- Social Media





# | Outreach Team



**Outreach Specialists**  
Facilitate meaningful participation in the decision-making process



**Community Partners**  
Connect MCTS to community members alongside needed services



**Equity Advisors**  
Collaborate with stakeholders to develop culturally-sensitive messaging



# Upcoming Outreach



## Spring/Summer

Re-establish lines of communication with elected officials and stakeholders



## Summer

Kick-off committees to guide this phase



## Summer/Fall

Begin stakeholder outreach, including community events



## Fall

Host first public involvement meeting

# Project Contacts

## DAVID LOCHER

Manager of Enhanced Transit,  
Milwaukee County Transit System  
(414) 343-1727  
[dlocher@mcts.org](mailto:dlocher@mcts.org)

## CAROLYN SEBOE

Consultant Project Manager,  
HNTB  
(414) 410-6743  
[cseboe@hntb.com](mailto:cseboe@hntb.com)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[www.mkenorthsouth.com](http://www.mkenorthsouth.com)