

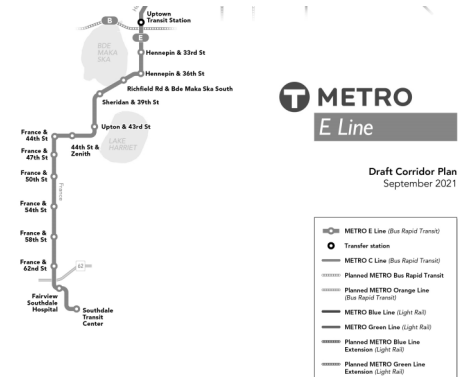


# Fulton Neighborhood News

a publication of Fulton Neighborhood Association

## November 2021

### METRO E Line Bus Rapid Transit Coming to Fulton in 2025



The METRO E Line ([metrotransit.org/e-line-project](https://metrotransit.org/e-line-project)) is a planned bus rapid transit (BRT) line that will provide faster and more reliable transit service in the Route 6 corridor along University Avenue/4th Street, Hennepin Avenue and France Avenue, from the University of Minnesota to Southdale. BRT is a package of transit enhancements that add up to a faster trip and an improved experience on Metro Transit's busiest bus routes. These enhancements could include dedicated lanes, elevated platforms that make boarding easier, payment at the station instead of at the front door of the bus, climate-controlled stations, timed signals at intersections, GPS-tracked arrival signs, more frequent ten to 15 minute service and more.

In Fulton neighborhood, we will see new stations along France Ave. at 47th, 50th and 54th Sts. The proposed platform station at these intersections will have the bus stop in the through lane with traffic. This is to avoid the situation where the bus is delayed by needing to pull back into traffic and being unable or slow to do so (a common experience on the existing local Route 6). There are a number of improvements that come with BRT that reduce the time the bus is stopped at the station and limit the disruption to other traffic. Customers pay their fares at the station before boarding the bus using ticket vending machines and therefore don't have to wait in line at the front door to pay their fare. Because customers have already paid their fares, they can board at any one of the three doors on BRT buses. While a bus is stopped, it will occupy the traffic lane for

only about seven to ten seconds in most cases before continuing in the lane. Metro Transit is working with Hennepin County and the Cities of Minneapolis and Edina on a traffic study for this segment of France Avenue to fully understand these impacts.

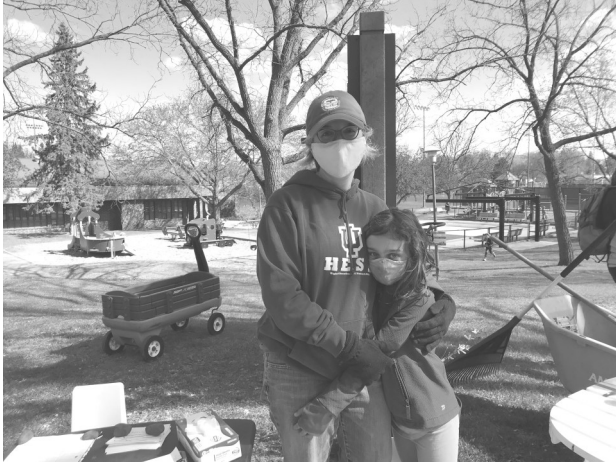
**At 47th St.,** the platforms are proposed to be directly across from each other on the south side of the intersection. It is possible, but very unlikely, that buses will be stopped here at the same time. With the planned ten minute frequency of the E Line, there is about a one percent chance of this occurring.

**At 50th St.,** the northbound bus station will be on the north side of the intersection. There would be three to four parking spaces removed, though new parking spaces could be added along the curb space freed up on the south side of the intersection at the current bus stop location. The traffic study will help better understand the impact of the platform location on that side of the intersection.

**At 54th St.,** there will be upgraded stations, but no parking impact as parking is already not allowed at this location.

The comment period closed on Oct. 31, but MTA will still receive and consider your feedback at [ELine@metrotransit.org](mailto:ELine@metrotransit.org). A recommended Draft Corridor Plan will be developed and released for public comment period in early 2022. The line is expected to be completed by 2025.

## 2021 Friend of Fulton Award Recipients



**Amanda Niskode-Dossett**

Amanda is very active in the community and with FNA. She executed a grant from FNA to provide community events (flower planting and garbage pickup), as a way to energize Pershing Park. She did this work out of the goodness of her heart and her love for the neighborhood, truly wanting connections between neighbors to grow. She is a volunteer block leader, maintains the block list, puts a free neighbor herb garden in her alley and organizes block events. Amanda does all of this while working at the U of M, raising two small kids and having an active family and church life. Congratulations, Amanda!



**Cris, Gabriella and Lucia Olson**

Gabriella and Cris, both 6th graders, and their sister Lucia, a 3rd grader, realized during the pandemic that they could play a small part in keeping the neighbors on their block connected to each other and the outside world, during a time that connectedness was very difficult. In order to do that, they started their own monthly block newsletter, *The Ewing South Post*, recently publishing issue #16.

Gabriella (Editor in Chief), Cris (Business and Circulation Manager) and Lucia (Copy Editor) work hard to produce an interesting issue that appeals to their neighbors. Together they gather content, publish and deliver each newsletter. Congratulations, Gabriella, Cris and Lucia!

### Racial Equity Themed Books for Fulton Little Free Libraries



Having trouble stocking your Little Free Library (LFL) with diverse authors and stories? Do you want to engage readers in an inclusive worldview? FNA's Racial Equity

Committee can help. Fill out our application at [tinyurl.com/Fulton-LFL](https://tinyurl.com/Fulton-LFL) to receive three or more free books with diverse characters and/or written by diverse authors and could include themes about race, equity, anti-racism and inclusion.

We will support one LFL in each quadrant of the neighborhood with new books up to four times per year. We have already identified libraries in three or the four quadrants but are still looking for one in the southwest corner of the neighborhood (south of 50th St and west of Xerxes.) All other library applications will receive a free Little Library Read in Color Launch Pack plus three books.

# What Does Reparations Mean?

*This article is one in a continuing series offered by the FNA Racial Equity Committee.*

This past summer, the House Judiciary Committee held a historic vote on H.R. 40, a bill that would create a federal commission to study “the lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery” and to develop proposals for “appropriate remedies.” While the measure has not yet been brought to vote, it has many people wondering...What does “reparations” mean, and what could it look like?

## The Case for Reparations

Nothing has done more damage to the legacy of the United States than the ugly history of slavery in this country. Reparations seek to acknowledge the violations that were committed, repair the damage done by these violations and identify the root causes to prevent them from occurring again in the future.

While some people argue that slavery was ended 250 years ago, Black people were not left to their own devices with the same opportunities as whites to build their lives. They were denied landownership, housing, jobs, education and voting rights.

It wasn't until the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s that many of these restrictions were finally addressed. The Brown v. Board of Education 1954 decision finally made segregated education by race illegal. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 reduced barriers to voting for Blacks. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 made racial discrimination in approving home loans or home ownership illegal, finally negating many of the racial covenants that were built into the homes in Fulton and surrounding neighborhoods.

## Lingering Effects Remain Today

In those 100 years between the end of slav-

ery and the passing of these bills, Blacks were denied the opportunity to build wealth, and generational wealth is one way in which white families still enjoy greater financial freedoms than Black families. This is one reason why 18% of Black Minnesotans live in poverty, while only 6.5% of non-Hispanic whites do.

Today, the average non-Hispanic, white family has 10 times the amount of wealth as the average Black family. Blacks cannot close this wealth gap by assuming more personal responsibility, as the wealth gap did not result from lack of labor, but rather from lack of financial capital.

## What Reparations Could Look Like

So what could reparations look like? The city of Asheville, North Carolina, provided reparations by way of an apology and the creation of funding programs aimed to increase homeownership among Black residents in their mostly white city. In Evanston, Illinois, the city is setting aside tax revenues to fund programs that narrow the city's racial wealth gap and address housing discrimination.

Reparations could look like business loans at a reduced interest rate to Black residents to encourage entrepreneurship and wealth-building. Other possibilities could include free college tuition for descendants of enslaved Black Americans, or student loan forgiveness for those who have already attended. Another way reparations can be made is by lump sum payments to descendants of enslaved people, as a form of lost wages and damages.

The goal of reparations is to reduce the wealth gap, not by taking away from one group, but by building up others as an apology for wrongs committed long ago which still affect our community today.



## Racial Equity Book Club and Committee

Join the virtual book club! By popular vote, the next book will be *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. We'll plan to meet in January 2022.

Interested in joining the Book Club or Fulton's Racial Equity Committee?  
Contact Ray Klahr at: rayklahr@gmail.com

# Spotlight on Fulton: Sustainability at 50th & Penn

*Spotlight on Fulton features the unique people and places of Fulton neighborhood.*



Two more businesses are here to bring sustainable and local shopping to Fulton residents! **Zero(ish)** and **Kid A** are side-by-side shops in the same building on 50th street, between Penn Ave and Queen Ave – right next to Broders' Pasta Bar.

Kid A buys and sells quality used kid and baby gear. Their mission is to help busy families declutter outgrown kid stuff as easily as possible - and help the environment in doing so.

"Too often, parents let outgrown stuff sit unused for months, or years," says Matt Rittenhouse, founder of Kid A.

"Why don't they just sell or donate it right away? Time, energy and potential frustration. I have two kids. One day I realized how much useful kid gear we had all over the house, but that my family stopped using long ago. As an eco-conscious parent, I felt compelled to start Kid A. We are here to make selling - and buying - used kid stuff as easy as shopping Amazon."

Kid A picks up used toys, strollers, baby carriers, bicycles, and much more right from homes across the Twin Cities. They buy everything that they will sell, and donate any-

thing they don't buy to local non-profits. Folks that sell to Kid A can even donate their sales proceeds to a non-profit, including Burroughs and Lake Harriet Community School PTAs.

Kid A screens for recalled products, then inspects and cleans every item they sell. Kid A customers can expect high quality products, with no hidden surprises - not even a crumb in a crevice. Kid A offers local delivery, or folks can 'try it before they buy it' at their 50th St. shop. Kid A modernizes the used shopping experience by posting every item on their website, making it easy to schedule pickups and deliveries online.

"I think people like the idea of buying kid and baby items used, but the risk of getting stuck with a dud is a deterrent. I aim to eliminate that risk by acquiring only dependable brands - then inspecting and cleaning every item as if I am going to use it for my own child. Everybody that comes into our shop should see the dependability, safety, cleanliness, and quality in every used item we offer."

Zero(ish) is a new eco-friendly shop and refillery that aims to help everyone make a positive impact on the Earth, within their unique lifestyle, by offering products that are ethical, practical, and sustainable.

"We recognize that everyone is different, and what works for some won't necessarily work for others, so we are all about offering sustainable options. We want to help you go zero waste—or at least zero(ish)!" says owner and founder, Kate Marnach.

With the average person in the U.S. producing over 4.5 pounds of trash each day, plastic infiltrating every facet of the environment, and climate change worsening at an alarming rate, Marnach felt an urgent need to help people make their everyday routines more sustainable.

"I wanted to provide a local resource to make zero waste/sustainable living more convenient and accessible, less intimidating, and just plain fun!"