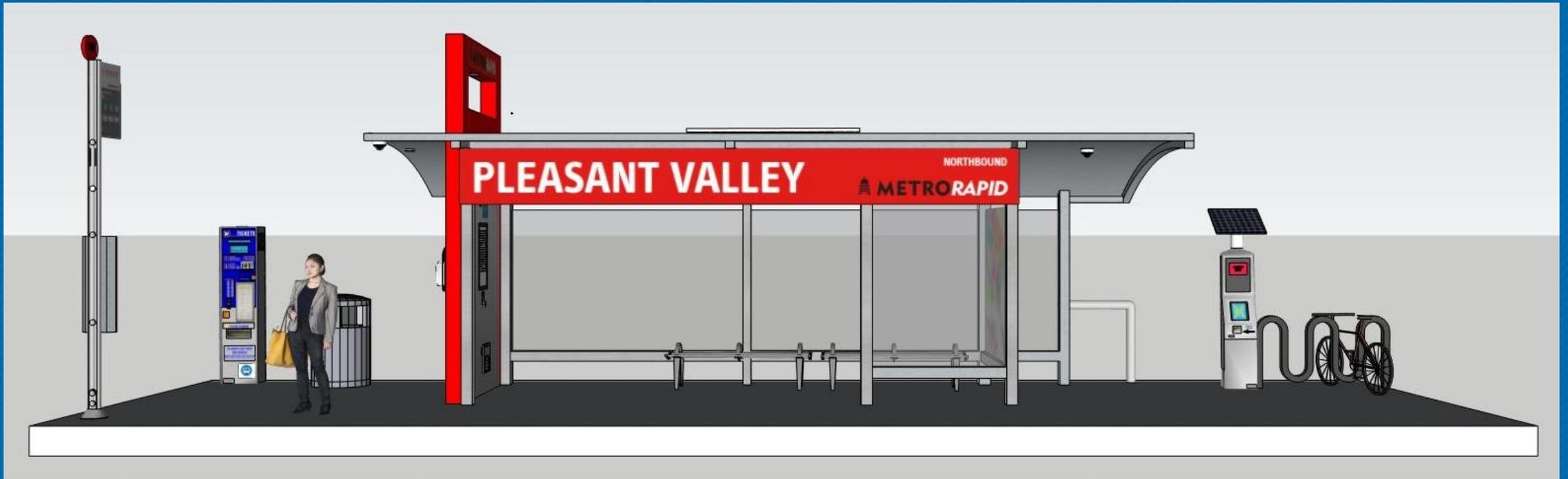


# Project Connect MetroRapid Lines Board Update

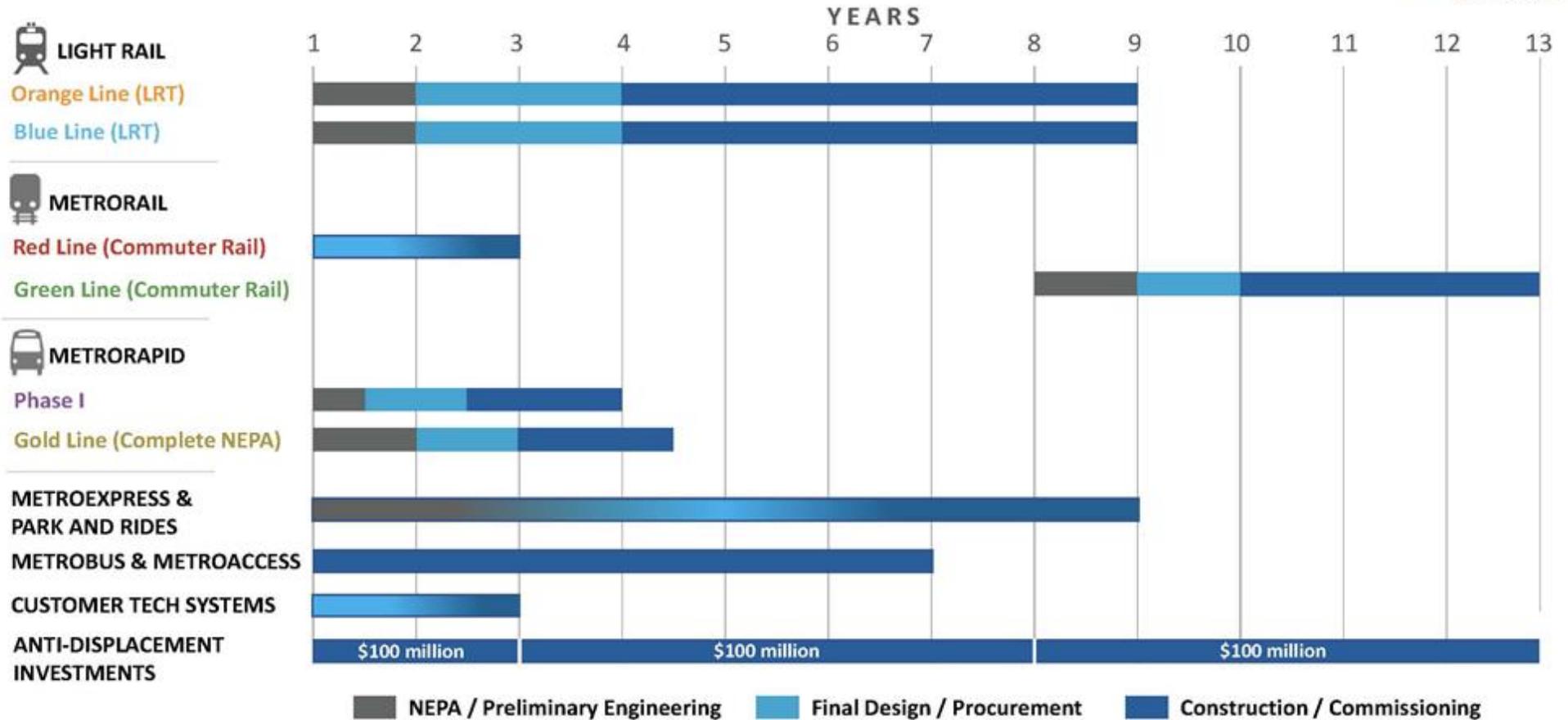
*September 27, 2021*



# Project Connect MetroRapid Lines



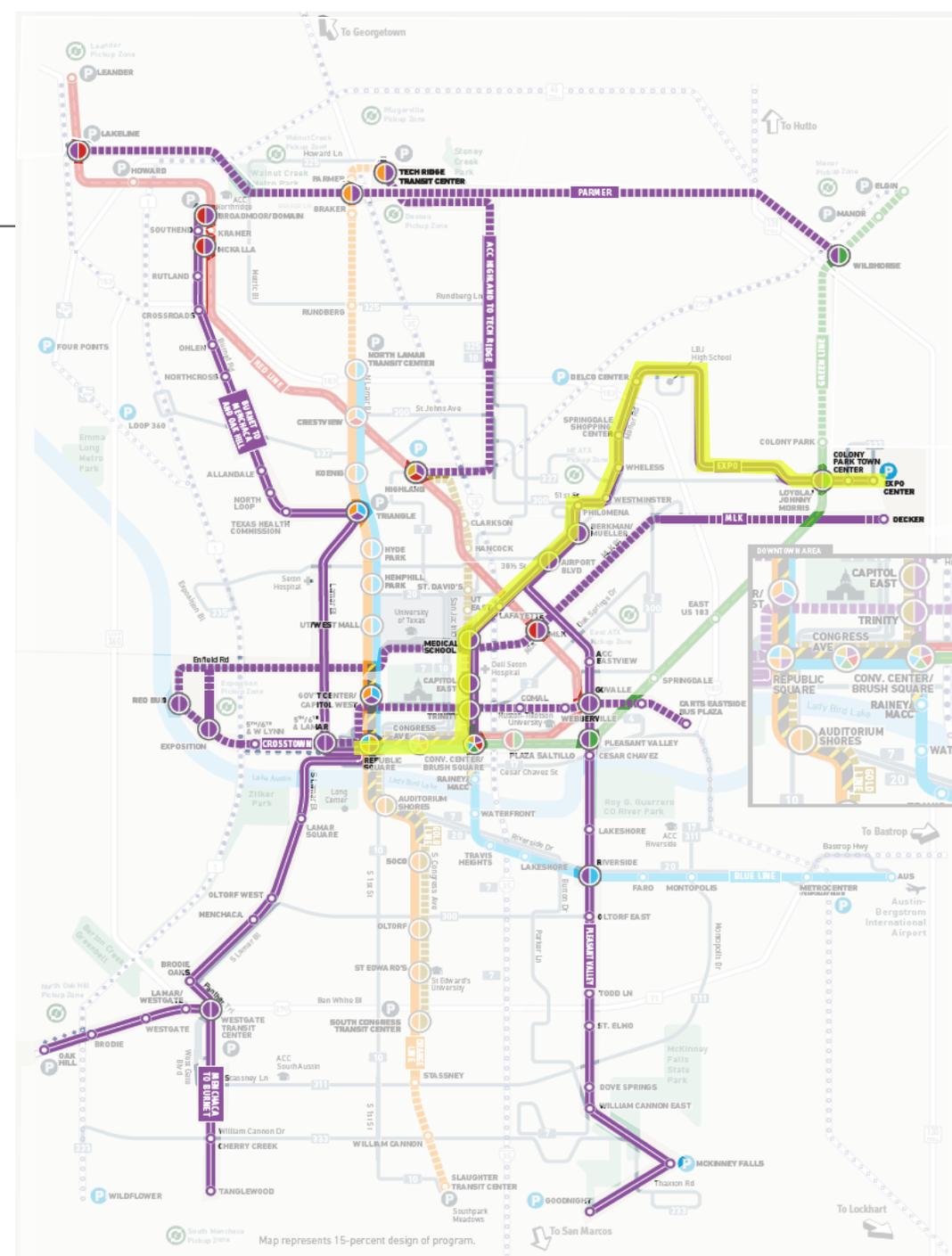
## Project Connect Program Sequence



MetroRapid Projects  
Total Budget: \$170 M

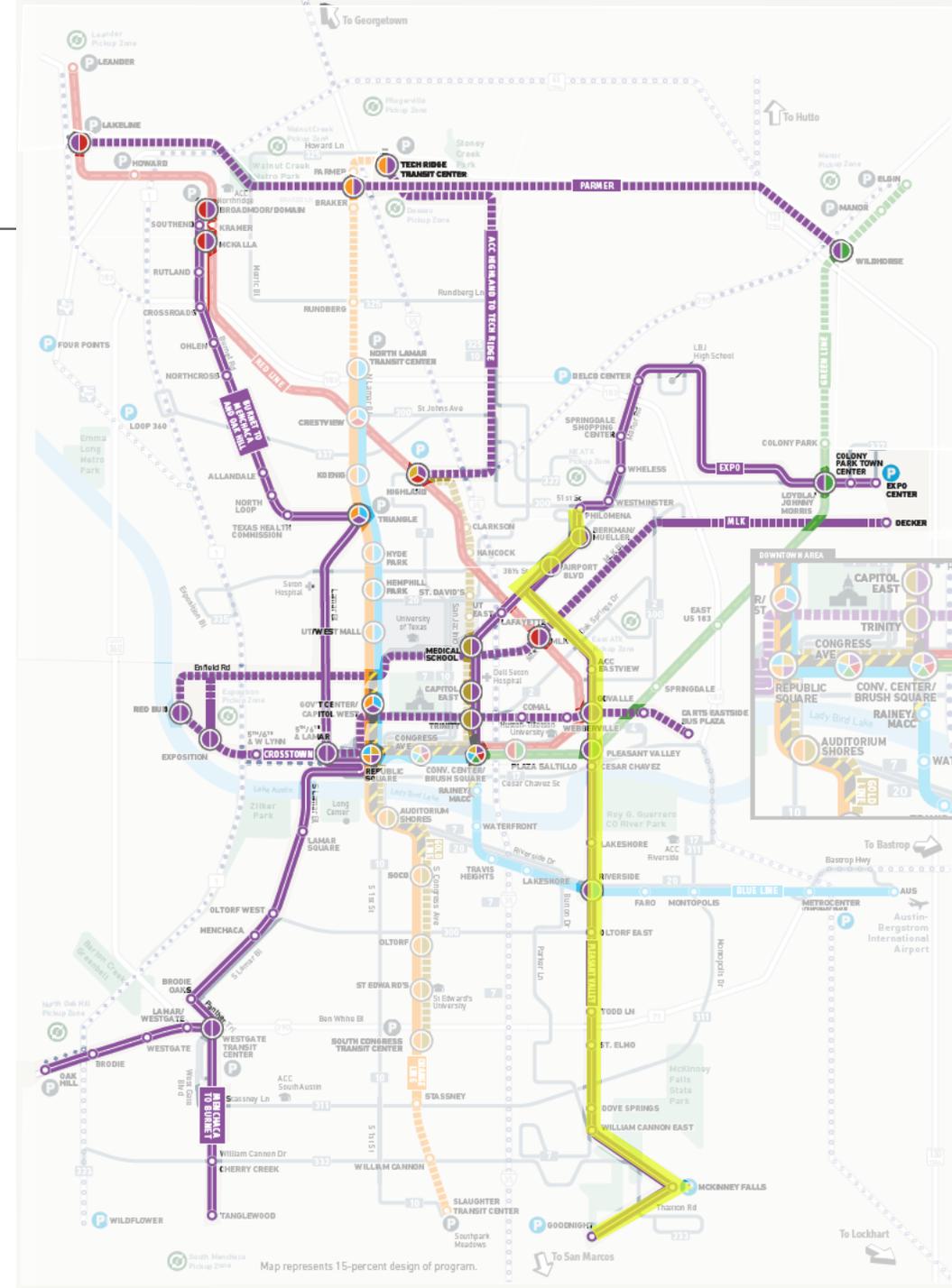
# Project Connect MetroRapid Lines

- **Expo Center** | from Expo Center to UT and downtown
- **Pleasant Valley** | from Mueller to the Goodnight Ranch on Slaughter Lane
- **Menchaca and Oak Hill MetroRapid Extension**: 2 phases, merge with 803 to Domain
- **Gold Line** | from ACC Highland to South Congress and Ben White (future Light Rail)



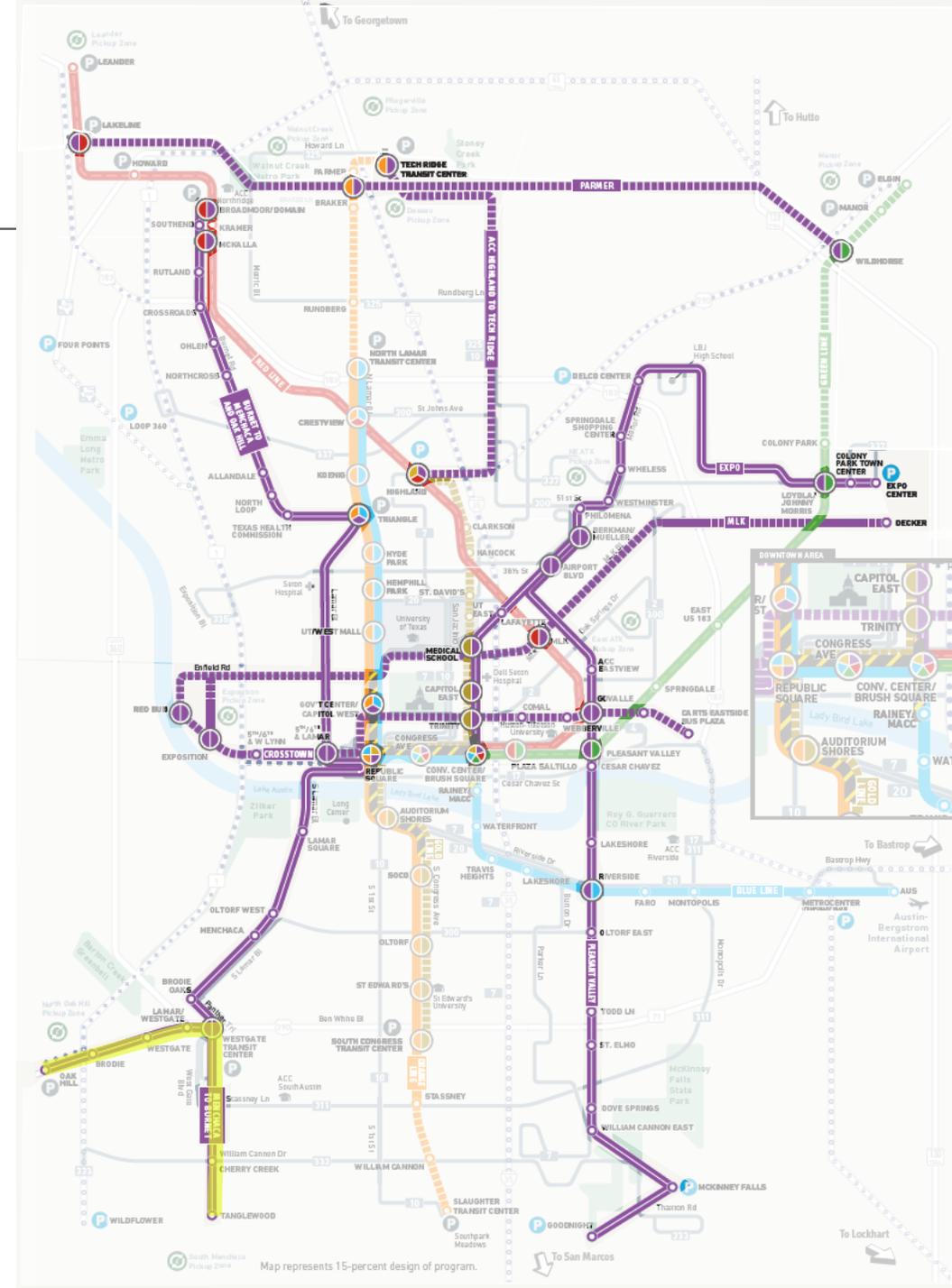
# MetroRapid Lines - Continued

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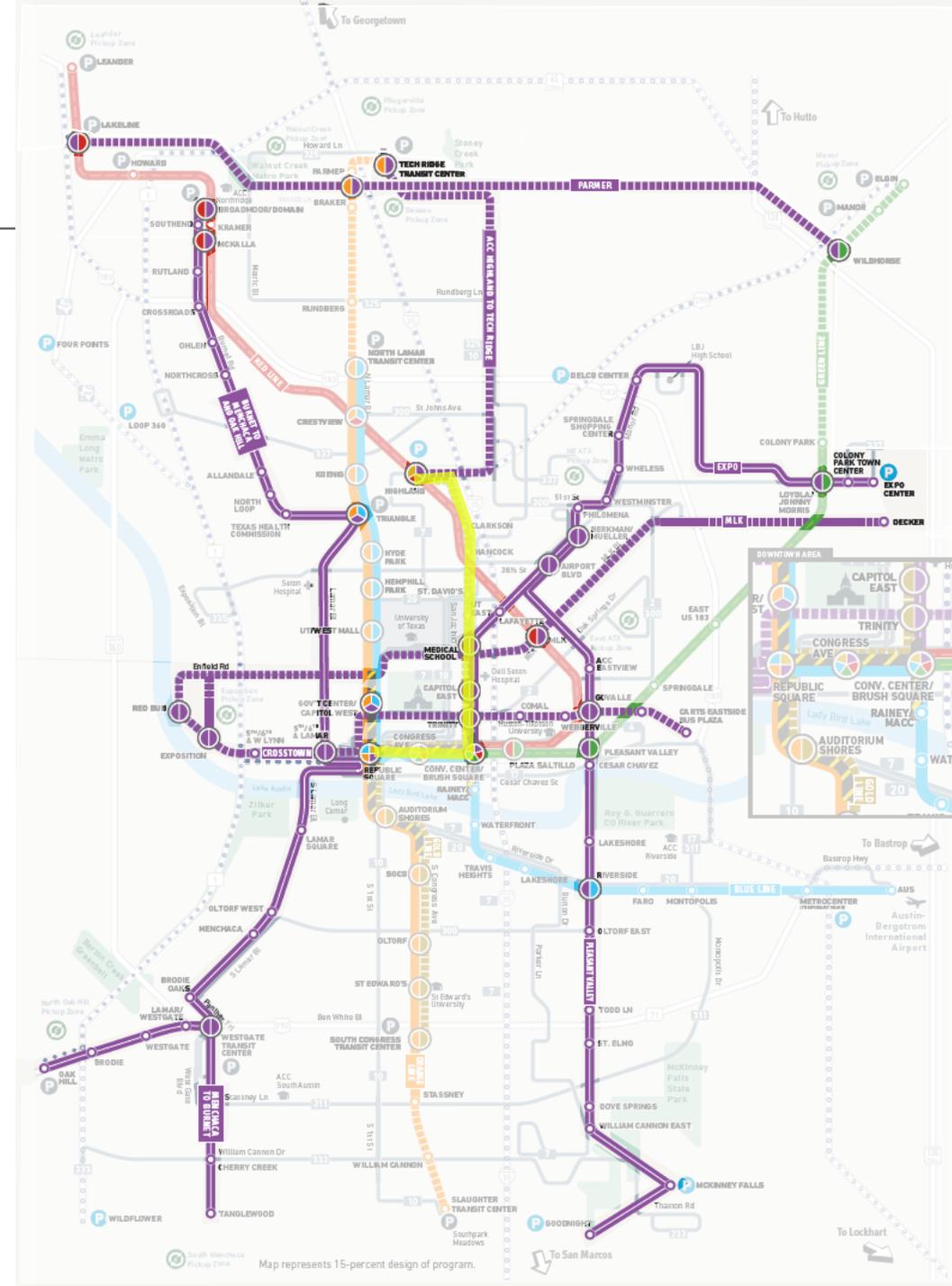
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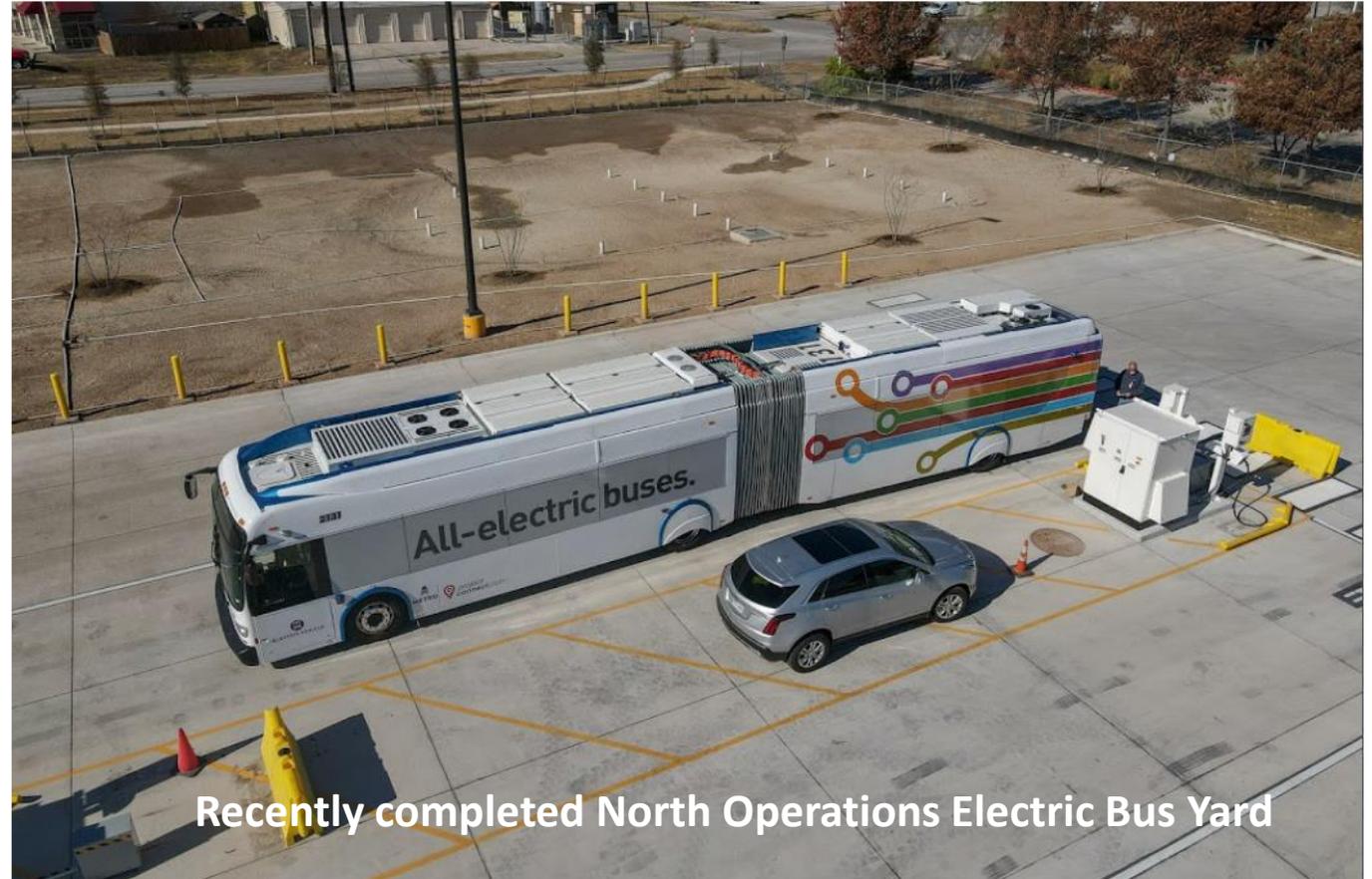
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# MetroRapid Service Characteristics

- 10-minute peak service; limited stops
- Corridor-based Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in mixed traffic
- Transit Signal priority treatments
- All electric fleet with en-route charging



Recently completed North Operations Electric Bus Yard

# MetroRapid Service Amenities

- New shelter design; full and neighborhood scale
- Solar where possible
- Cameras (CCTV)
- Dynamic Message Screens (DMS)
- Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) at key/transfer stations
- Potential for public art, community information panels, trees



# Electric Infrastructure

- 40' electric buses
- Stations designed for 60' buses
- Pantographs
  - Overhead charging
- Fast chargers at end of line



©ABB



# MetroRapid Status

## Expo & Pleasant Valley

- Budget:
  - Expo: \$44.6 M (target launch mid 2023)
  - Pleasant Valley: \$48.9 M (target launch mid 2023)
- Environmental approval process complete
- 30% design complete; 60% design in progress
- Expo & Pleasant Valley Lines grant funding included in President's budget (May 2021)
- FTA Project Management Oversight Consultant (PMOC) assigned
- FTA Grant readiness documents in progress
- Monthly meetings with FTA

# MetroRapid Outreach

- Virtual Open Houses & Community Meetings in February & April (2021)
- Community Groups and Neighborhood Homeowners' Associations

Updates continuing

- Open house update on progress September 9th
- Plan to share shelter concepts in late 2021
- Groundbreaking goals:
  - Expo in December 2021
  - Pleasant Valley in January 2022

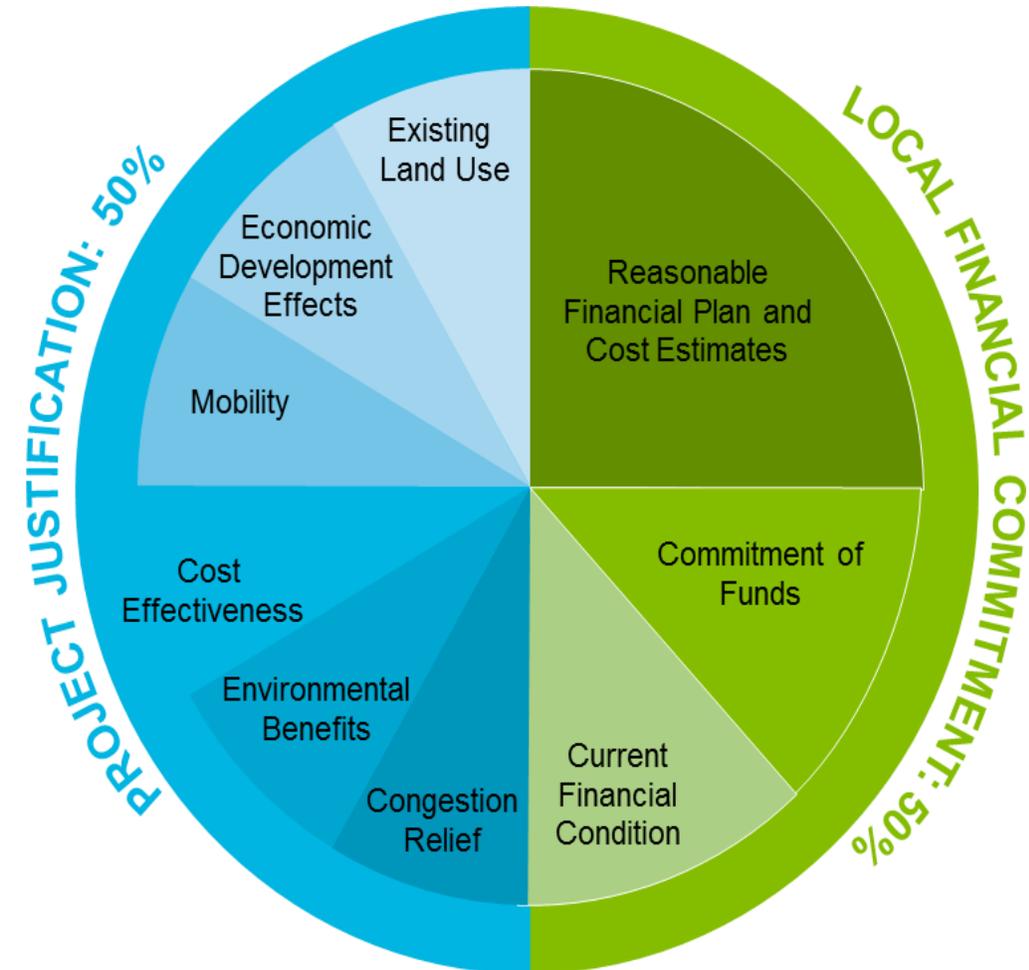
# Menchaca and Oak Hill MetroRapid Extension - Implementation Highlights

- MetroRapid Service as 803 Extension to Menchaca targeted for late 2023
  - Includes new charging infrastructure locations
  - Review Route 3 frequency to support ridership as part of optimal service delivery in the area
  - Extend to Oak Hill in 2026 upon completion of TXDOT Oak Hill Parkway Project
  - Low Small Starts Capital Improvement Grant score
  - Advance with local Project Connect funding



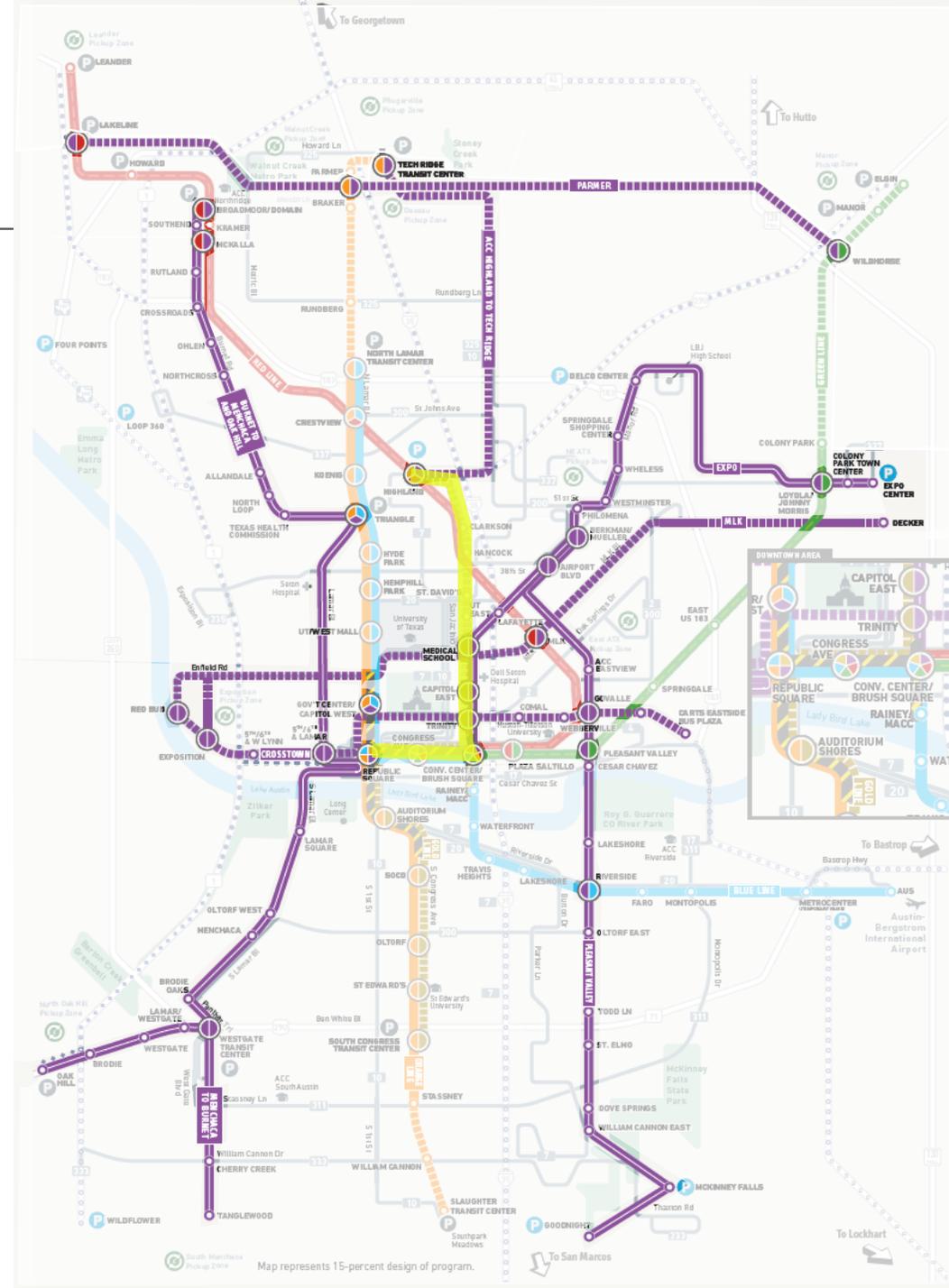
# Menchaca and Oak Hill MetroRapid Extension Small Starts Ratings Criteria /Competitiveness

- *Why Local Funding?* - Assessed for eligibility in FTA Small Starts Grant (*highly competitive*)
- Project Justification includes six categories – Land Use and Economic Development help project future ridership
- Each criterion is rated from Low to High (*Low, Medium-Low, Medium, Medium-High, to High*)
- Must attain at least a ‘Medium’ rating\* to qualify for potential Small Starts funding.
- Ranked low in land use and economic development in both current and future scenarios



# MetroRapid Gold Line

- Continued coordination with City of Austin, UT, State of Texas, and others on Gold Line, Expo and all local and frequent downtown routes.
- Supported by existing downtown service that exhibits high ridership, high delay, and higher bus volumes.
- Premised on Austin Strategic Mobility Plan recommendations for dedicated transit lanes for mobility benefits.
- Advanced with local funds (*allows for future Gold Line Rail grant opportunity*)



# MetroRapid Next Steps

## Expo & Pleasant Valley

- 60% design in progress
- Grant readiness documents complete by October
- Monthly meetings with FTA
- Electric Bus and Chargers Contract at September Board meeting
- Construction Indefinite Deliverable Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract at October Board meeting
- Shelter design/fabrication/installation contract targeting late 2021
- Expo Center groundbreaking in December 2021
- Pleasant Valley groundbreaking in January 2022
- In revenue service mid 2023



**METRO**

**THANK YOU!**