

**City of Minneapolis**  
**Request for Committee Action**

**To:** Transportation & Public Works  
**Date:** 2/16/2016  
**Referral:** N/A  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Prepared by:** Paul Miller, Project Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming  
**Presented by:** Paul Miller, Project Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming  
**File type:** Action  
**Subcategory:** Staff Direction

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**Subject:**

Southwest LRT Station Names

**Description:**

Authorizing proper staff to submit a letter to the Metropolitan Council regarding the City's recommendations for the Southwest LRT Station names.

**Previous Actions:**

None

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**Ward/Address:**

Not Applicable

**Background/Analysis:**

The Green Line Extension (Southwest) and Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) Projects both have included stations with the same name for planning purposes and project office staff have recommended that new names be selected to avoid duplication that will confuse transit riders. We share that goal of project office staff. Duplicate names in such close proximity should be avoided.

We are concerned with the narrow window of time allotted to make these recommendations and the limits that places on community outreach. We are most concerned about the lack of coordination with the Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) Project, which could be affected by these decisions. For this reason and others listed below, we believe the Bottineau project should have the right of first refusal to use the names "Penn" and "Van White."

The City recommends the following names for the stations along Southwest LRT.

<b>Name Used for Planning Purposes</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
West Lake St.	West Lake St.
21 <sup>st</sup> St.	21 <sup>st</sup> St.
Penn Ave.	Bryn Mawr
Van White	Bassett Creek Valley
Royalston	Royalston/Farmers Market

The name "Penn" should be reserved for use by the Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) LRT Project. These are our reasons:

- **Community Identification.** Unlike the station on Southwest, the Bottineau Station on Penn Ave N is actually located on Penn Ave. Penn Avenue is classified as neighborhood connector which runs the whole length of north Minneapolis.
- **Easy for Transit Riders.** The name Penn Ave used on the Bottineau LRT line will help transit riders find their way.
- **Good Alternative on Southwest.** A good alternative name, Bryn Mawr, has already been suggested for the station on the Green Line Extension, which appears to have community support.

The name “Van White” should also be reserved for use by the Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) LRT Project. Here are our reasons:

- **Community Identification.** The residents of the neighborhoods around the Van White station on the Bottineau line already know the name “Van White” and “Van White Memorial Blvd.” They should be afforded the opportunity to keep that name which current residents already identify with. Van White is also classified as an important neighborhood connector.
- **Easy for Transit Riders.** The name Van White used on the Bottineau LRT line could help transit riders find their way.
- **Appropriateness.** Van White was a resident of North Minneapolis, and the first African American ever elected to the Minneapolis City Council. Unlike the station on the Green Line Extension, Van White represented the Van White station on the Bottineau LRT line and the neighborhoods around that station for all of his ten years of service to the City.
- **No Impacts on Current Residents on Southwest Corridor.** There are no residents in the 10 Minute Walk-Shed around the Green Line station that has so far been called “Van White” for planning purposes. We all hope to create new development around that station and we hope that the new residents will identify with that new name. But, unlike the station on Bottineau, giving this station a new name will not take anything from current residents within the walkshed.

### **Bryn Mawr & Bassett Creek Valley**

In 2007, the City of Minneapolis adopted the Bassett Creek Valley Master Plan, which was developed in collaboration with all the affected neighborhoods. While not the only factor, the Bassett Creek Valley Master Plan is meant to help guide the transformation of the area around the station.

Both the two stations that have been called Penn Ave and Van White for planning purposes are located in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood in the seventh ward. While it may be accurate to refer to these two stations as Bryn Mawr West and Bryn Mawr East respectively, we believe that would be confusing to transit riders. The larger western portion of the Bryn Mawr neighborhood is residential, the eastern portion is currently industrial. The name Bryn Mawr should be applied to the western of the two stations where current residents live.

### **Royalston/Farmers Market**

Southwest project staff are not seeking a name change at Royalston, but we recommend “Royalston/Farmers Market.” While the street grid is not currently as accessible as we would like from the station to the Farmers Market, this is the station transit riders will use to reach the Farmers Market, a very large attraction and destination in the region. Moreover there is significant interest in, and community support for, expansion of the Farmers Market including to potential year round operations. This could play a helpful role in the transformation of this area we all hope could occur after the station opens.

### **Financial Review:**

**No financial impact.**