



SITE REPORT: BRANCH OUT

Presented by: Rachel Johnston, Special Education Supervisor
October 12, 2026 School Board Meeting



WHO WE ARE



OUR MISSION

We empower our learners to discover their strengths and build confidence for adult life through continued development of independent living, job training, and post-secondary education.

We help each student build independence, self-advocacy skills, pursue meaningful opportunities, and become a confident, contributing member of their community.





POINTS OF PRIDE



POINT OF PRIDE: AMBASSADORS FOR RESPECT

- Grant-funded initiative from PeaceMaker Minnesota
- Brings individuals with developmental disabilities into 4th grade classrooms to teach students to include others, to use Person-First Language, and to advocate for themselves and others.
- Strengthen **bullying prevention** while building self-advocacy and leadership skills for the adult ambassadors, who are compensated for their work



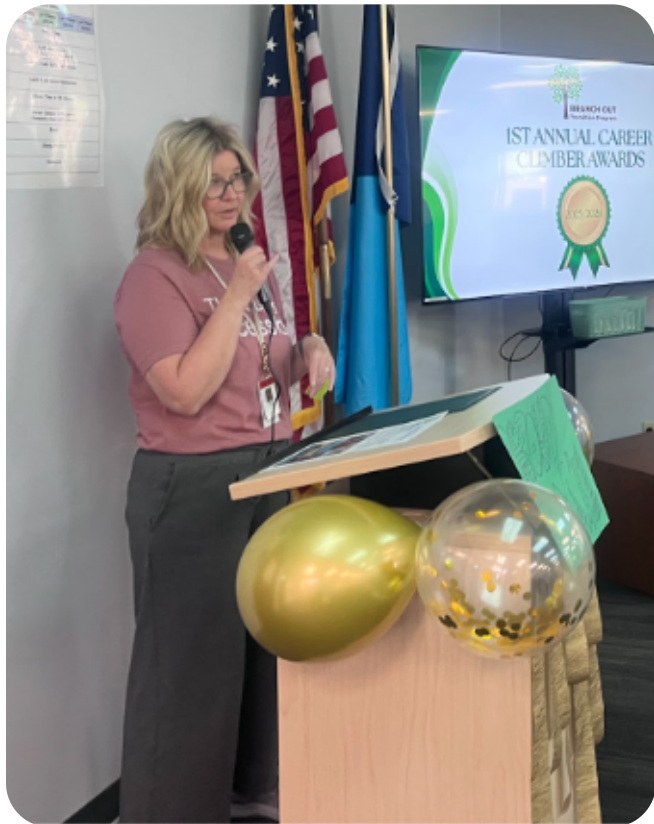
POINT OF PRIDE: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Grant-funded outdoor classroom space with wheelchair accessible tables.



POINT OF PRIDE: CAREER CLIMBERS

Career Climber Awards celebrate the unique talents and accomplishments each learner has demonstrated throughout the school year.





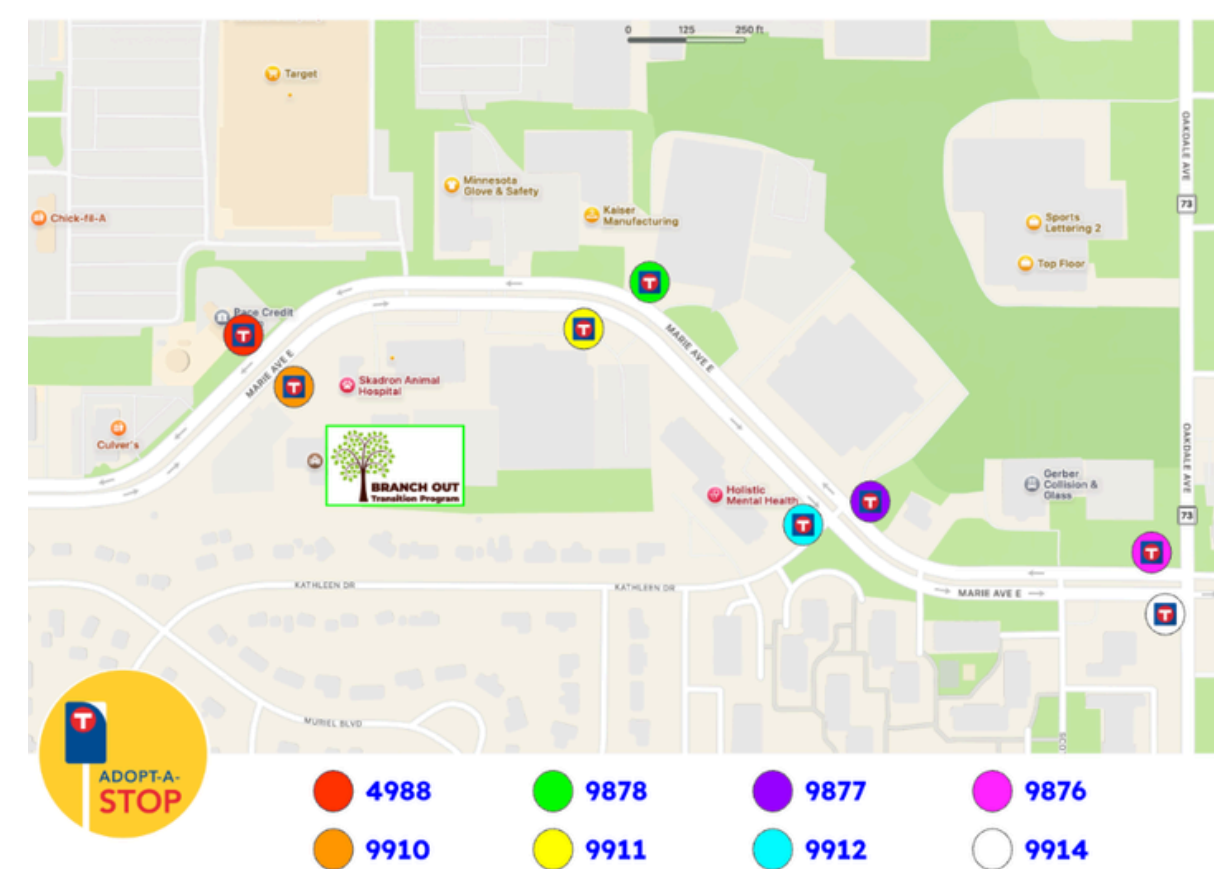
LOOKING AHEAD



LOOKING AHEAD

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

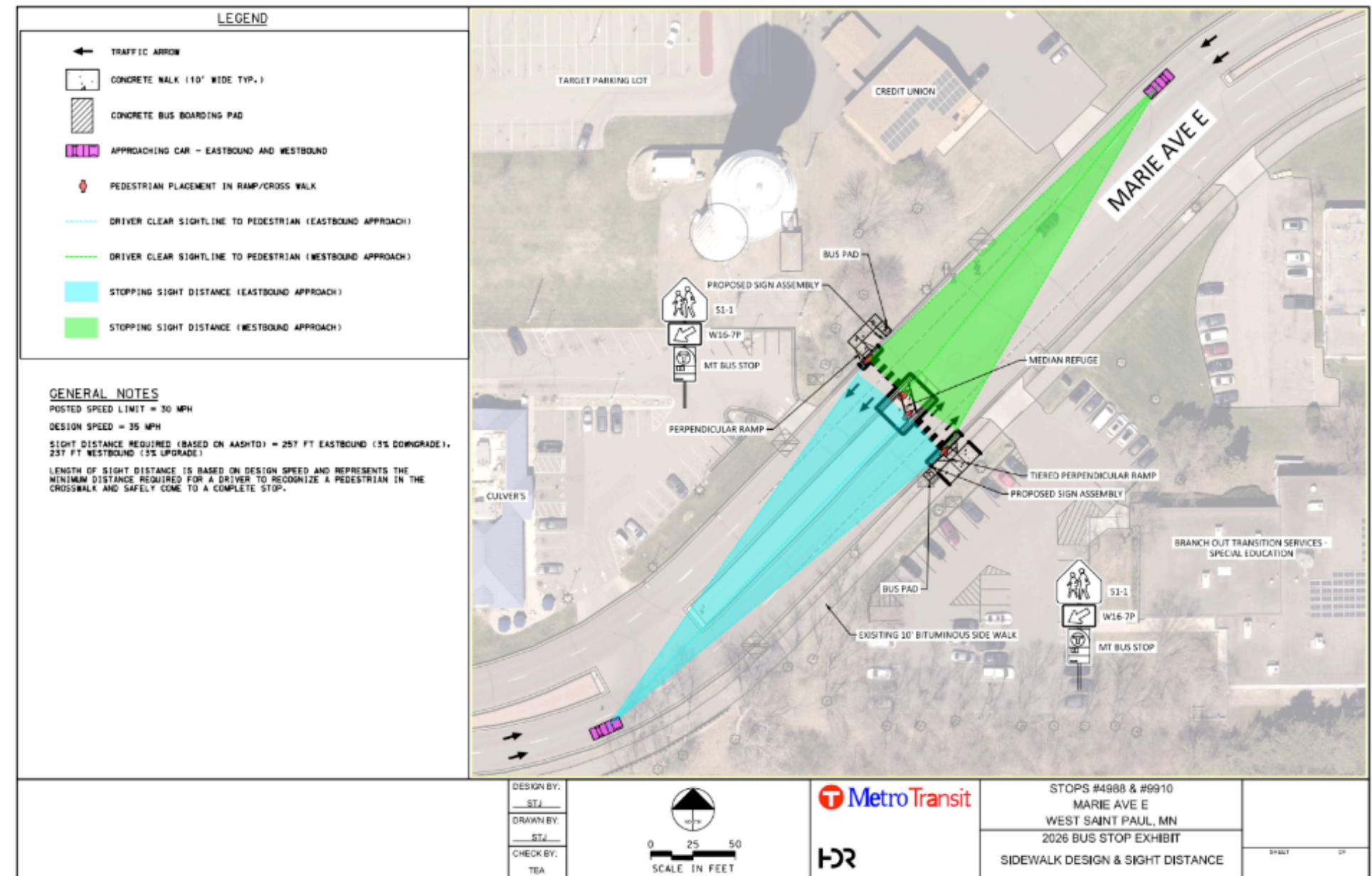
- Adopt-a-Stop has become both a volunteer job site for our learners as well as providing a benefit of **10 free rides per month per stop** (8 stops) for our program, a value of \$160 per month.



LOOKING AHEAD

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

- Partnering with City of WSP and Metro Transit; advocating for having a crosswalk moved and a bus pad installed for improved safety and access.



LOOKING AHEAD

MORE JOB SITE OPPORTUNITIES

More job site opportunities across varying industries to address a variety of interests and skills among our talented learners! Listed below are new, in addition to the sites we had last year.



LOOKING AHEAD

EXPANDED CURRICULA

- Ori Learning
- Disability Hub
- DCTC Career and Tech Ed courses now offering cosmetology
- Two Rivers Intro to Foods class



ONE LAST THING...

**WINTER BOUTIQUE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
11:00AM – 1:00PM**





THANK YOU!

