

Peter Fischer
State Representative

District 44A
Ramsey County



Minnesota House of Representatives

Purple Line Corridor Management Committee
Charlie Zelle, Chair
Victoria Reinhardt, Vice Chair

Chair Zelle and Vice Chair Reinhardt,

I am disappointed by the Maplewood City Council decision to withdraw support for the proposed Purple Line. Based on the input I have received and the information I have reviewed, they did not make the correct decision. It also was also a decision that was only a 3 – 2 vote.

Killing the Purple Line will put our community at an economic disadvantage for years to come and continue to inconvenience our most vulnerable people in society and continue to hold back those who are trying to build a better life.

For the last 12 years I have heard from thousands on the need for the Purple Line. Century College students have asked for years for reliable, frequent transportation. One of the reasons some of them don't finish their degree.

Area businesses have expressed the need for the Purple Line to help address the severe labor shortage they are experiencing in addition to helping bring more customers in.

The medical, mental health and dental providers have asked for it to help address their work force needs and to increase the likelihood that folks will make it to their appointments on time.

The loss of the Purple Line will also lead to loses of related reinvestment in the community that would lead to the loss of vibrancy in our businesses, homes and institutions.

Every day without the Purple Line negatively impacts 3,900 to 4,900 people. These people are more likely to be of color, lower than average income and more likely to be disabled than our average population.

I ask that the Metropolitan Council continue their commitment to the Purple Line going into Maplewood and that they continue to work on the White Bear Avenue alternative, as it seems to be the better alignment.

There needs to be a strong commitment to mitigation for the small businesses along the line and working with them on designing amenities that will bring excitement to their area. When the project is underway provide them with one point of contact 24 hours a day seven days a week for unexpected problems that come up. Some problems do occur on weekends or after the 9 – 5 work day. Another suggestion, and most important, please make sure that there is a micro transit option from Maplewood Mall to Century College running at least every 15 minutes for students and staff. If possible, it would be great to have the Purple Line actually go to Century College.

We need the Purple Line. Please continue to support the work to bring it to reality. Don't let the decision of the Maplewood City Council stop it or prevent it from coming into Maplewood.

Sincerely,

Peter M Fischer
State Representative 44A

From: Rebecca <rktryon11@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 2:41 PM
To: Jones, Elizabeth <elizabeth.jones@metrotransit.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] purple line

Hello Elizabeth,

Please share with the coordinator management committee that I am a proud St. Paul east side resident and currently a car and bike commuter. I am in strong support of the purple line and hope to use this bus line and other rapid bus lines to reduce or completely eliminate my car transit needs. These lines would allow our household to likely go from two to one vehicle. If transit projects do not proceed on the East Side, we would re-consider living in St. Paul. The climate reality we live in necessitates moving away from single passenger car transit as our dominant means of transportation and if St. Paul cannot support us in this effort, we will need to transition to a community that allows us to live our values. Please help us get access to safe, affordable, accessible transit and infrastructure improvements on the east side! The community needs it and the current climate crisis calls all of us who care for the future (and the children who will inherit it) to act accordingly.

Thank you,
Rebecca

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Best wishes,
Rebecca Tryon
Pronouns: she, her, hers
rktryon11@gmail.com

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow, learn as if you were to live forever." -Mahatma Gandhi