



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

FF 10 ('23-'24)

Resolution on Support for the Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project
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WHEREAS: Both the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities attract a significant number of commuting students; and,¹

WHEREAS: The U of M Twin Cities Climate Action Plan calls for a 40 percent reduction in commuting emissions by 2033; and,²

¹ <https://innovation.umn.edu/college-parent/commuter-students/>

² <https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/commuting-less-carbon>



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WHEREAS: Metro Transit has committed to expanding its arterial bus rapid transit (aBRT) network throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area; and,^{3 4}

WHEREAS: The proposed Purple Line would connect communities in the East Side of St. Paul, which is currently not served by any form of rapid or high-frequency transit; and,^{5 6}

WHEREAS: The fifteen-mile link between Maplewood and Downtown St. Paul would provide commuters with direct rapid transit access to both Twin Cities campuses via the Green Line, A Line, and GopherTrip buses; and,⁷

WHEREAS: The current Bruce Vento Trail alignment is ill-suited for the Purple Line, both in terms of nearby population density and local support for the project; and,⁸

WHEREAS: The White Bear Avenue alternative would allow the Purple Line to better connect the growing and historically underserved communities in East St. Paul and Maplewood; and,⁹

WHEREAS: The necessary infrastructure improvements would transform White Bear Avenue into a safer, more accessible environment, creating a plethora of opportunities for small businesses and new housing by way of transit-oriented development (TOD); and,^{10 11}

WHEREAS: Dedicated bus-only lanes on White Bear Avenue would ensure high frequencies and a reliable on-time performance for the Purple Line, establishing a competitive alternative for East St. Paul residents who currently have few viable travel options outside of driving; and,¹²

WHEREAS: The introduction of a flagship rapid transit corridor in East St. Paul would mitigate the increase of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the population of the region continues to grow,

³ <https://www.metrotransit.org/brt>

⁴ <https://www.metrotransit.org/network-next>

⁵ <https://www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project>

⁶ <https://maplewoodmn.gov/purpleline>

⁷ <https://www.metrotransit.org/network-now>

⁸ <https://www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project-design-and-engineering>

⁹ <https://www.movemn.org/action/push-for-the-purple-line-on-white-bear-ave/>

¹⁰ <https://www.metrotransit.org/transit-oriented-development>

¹¹ <https://metro council.org/Communities/Planning/TOD.aspx>

¹² <https://shorturl.at/kIxBJ>



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thereby tempering greenhouse gas emissions, reducing car-related fatalities, and encouraging more sustainable land use.¹³

THEREFORE: The University of Minnesota and the Undergraduate Student Government shall support a travel lane reduction on White Bear Avenue allowing for dedicated, twenty-four hour bus lanes.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The University of Minnesota and The Undergraduate Student Government shall co-sign the partner letter addressed to the Metropolitan Council; Ramsey County; the cities of St. Paul and Maplewood; and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) officially supporting the White Bear Avenue alternative for the Purple Line.¹⁴

¹³ <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1293&context=jpt>

¹⁴ <https://www.movemn.org/action/purple-line-white-bear-ave-route-partner-letter/>