

To Maplewood City Council

Greetings from a faculty member who had lived in White Bear Lake and Maplewood during my career since 2001 at Century College. I wanted to reach out in support of the purple line running through Maplewood, helping all of the northeast metro area and obviously very important for Century College and our future. When I speak of the future, it's not about the college directly. Indirectly, yes. But it's about students who live along the line and have the opportunity to attend college. This could be a game changer for the college and also for the number of students in the Saint Paul area who could take advantage of attending college at a great, rural 2-year school that is comprehensive, liberal arts, and career tech ed.

We really hope you will take advantage of this opportunity with the federal local state money and the fact that Century is very interested in being a partner in this, just like you have been a partner with Century for so many years. We really hope when the discussion continues, you will be supportive of the purple line and supportive of Century College's proposal.

All Minnesota State institutions draw students from the broader community. Century College's demographic includes students from communities outside of areas in the closest proximity to the College, including Saint Paul where 21% of our students reside. Lack of affordable transportation has been a long-standing issue for these Century College students and has inhibited access for others in the East Metro as well. Access to the Purple Line BRT would broaden access for current and future students and provide them with a predictable and reliable transit option. It would add access to programs of study unique to the College. Students, faculty, and staff can also benefit from an environmentally friendly, reliable transportation alternative.

As a potential end terminus for the Purple Line BRT, our campus community has been actively engaged in this process with Metro Transit Purple Line for several months. Century College students participated in the President's State of the College opening presentation to college employees in August 2022 and shared their needs for reliable transportation. Metro Transit shared the Purple Line BRT transit option with the campus community in August and September 2022 through several on-campus information sessions explaining how the Purple Line would operate if Century College were selected as the end terminus. Minnesota State College faculty (Local MSCF) passed a resolution in October 2022 supporting the College seeking a Purple Line station on campus. All "meet and confers" with all other union groups were engaged in September and October. Their feedback showed support for the Purple Line station on campus.

We thank you for our consideration. As a longtime faculty member who has worked in Sports Management, Physical Education, Health, and have been active in Governmental Relations, we really hope you will do the right thing and help those who are in need of mass transit along this line.

All the best,



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