

Re: No Rush Line Coalition ALERT! Wed. March 22nd - 6-8pm - Come, Hear the Deliberations of Maplewood BRT Advisory Committee - Maplewood City Hall

Jeanne Giernet <giernetj@yahoo.com>

Wed 3/22/2023 10:59 AM

To: Diana Longrie <longrie@hotmail.com>

Hi Diana,

I noticed my comments were not listed in the Google Engagement survey so I am including them here (I've also submitted them to the council members, Victoria Reinhardt, and my legislators):

I strongly oppose using the Bruce Vento trail for the Purple Line. I have lived in the Maplewood neighborhood for over 30 years and have enjoyed using the trail for recreation and to bike to work.

In my thirty years, I have tried carpooling, busing, biking, and driving. When I took the bus (15 years ago), even then the bus was not filled! The service was inconsistent and I quickly decided it wasn't for me or my family. Additionally, I did not save any money due to the expense of the tickets.

I have three reasons NOT to use the Vento Trail for the purple line:

Mental health & obesity. Research shows that being in a natural environment improves mental health. The Gateway and Vento trail provide an accessible way to connect to nature without the danger of vehicles. Adding buses will detract from that natural environment, increase pollution and be more dangerous for people, pets and wildlife.

The most enjoyable experience was when I biked to work. Using the trail helped me connect to nature and I felt a general sense of community (much more than taking a bus).

Pedestrians, pets and wildlife. Pedestrians, pets, bikers, and wildlife will be in MORE danger of (deadly) accidents. I see a lot of children on the trail (it's a great location to learn bike riding without the danger of busy roads). Adding a bus line will increase the risk to children, pets, and bikers. The Vento trail is also close to an elementary school where students use the trail to walk to school.

Irresponsible and reckless. MetCouncil has proven to be irresponsible and reckless with taxpayer money. They have lost my trust in their ability to perform responsibly and listen to the people of Minnesota. The "build it and they will come" is an outdated model of thinking. Times have changed, there are more people working from home (I am one of them). Additionally, they must consider other modes of transportation other than buses/light rail.

Building this line will divide the community NOT unite it! Other communities do not support the Purple Line and yet MetCouncil is still NOT listening to the community. Who says they must "build" a new line anyway? If it's federal money, it's still my tax dollars and I suggest they look at other alternatives to spending the money, such as increasing e-bikes or fixing the existing roads (like Hwy 61) to facilitate bikes and buses.

Respectfully,
Jeanne Giernet