

September 23rd, 2024

RE: Gladstone Crossing and Transit



Dear Mayor Abrams and Members of the Maplewood City Council,

I hope you are doing well. Thank you for your support of affordable housing. Your dedication and funding of Beacon's development in Maplewood, Gladstone Crossing, demonstrates your commitment to our shared vision that "all people have a home."

We are aware that you are currently deliberating on the City of Maplewood's support for the proposed Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line project. We understand the complexity of a decision like this and would like to make you aware of the impact we see it having on our future residents.

Gladstone Crossing is located close to White Bear Avenue and would be served by this new transit line. Of the 40 units that will serve families at the site, half will earn less than 50% of the area's median income (\$62,100 for a family of four), and half will earn less than 30% of the area's median income (under \$37,000 a year). Our experience and studies show that these families will be heavily dependent on public transit. The accessibility and ease of a BRT line, like the Purple Line, so close to their homes could dramatically improve their lives.

Beacon is also creating another project in East St. Paul, the Aragon, which will have 53 units of affordable housing that also is in the potential impact zone of the Purple Line. These future residents also stand to gain from the creation of the Purple Line.

The future creation of the Purple Line was a consideration in our choice of both sites and was an important consideration in the award of public funding for Gladstone. It would help make transit available for families who rely on it for access to employment, goods, and services.

Once again, we appreciate your partnership in our shared mission of providing affordable housing. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further information.

Thank you,

Ben Helvick Anderson
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