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March 8, 2023

Dear Maplewood City Council,

As a leading healthcare provider in the region, HealthPartners strongly supports the proposed Purple Line bus rapid transit (BRT) project that will serve the communities of Maplewood, St. Paul, and other surrounding cities. We believe that the Purple Line BRT will be a valuable asset to the community, improving public transportation options, supporting economic development, and promoting healthier lifestyles for our patients and residents.

First and foremost, the Purple Line BRT will provide reliable and efficient public transportation that will benefit our patients and employees. Many of our patients and staff members rely on public transportation to get to our clinics and hospitals, and this will be an important enhancement to existing transit services in the east metro. With the Purple Line BRT, they will have a fast, safe, and affordable option that will improve access to healthcare and support healthier lifestyles.

HealthPartners facilities along this transit line include:

- HealthPartners Maplewood Clinic- offering a variety of primary and specialty care services and providing over 26,000 patient visits per year.
- Regions Hospital – a level one Trauma Center and teaching hospital as well nationally renowned centers for burn, cancer, heart, mental health care and more. Regions' emergency department sees over 90,000 visits per year, the hospital admits over 26,000 patients for acute level care and performs over 13,000 surgeries annually.
- HealthPartners Neuroscience Center – a state-of-the-art care and research facility that specializes in neurological conditions including Dementia and Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Epilepsy, Headaches, Stroke, ALS and Neuromuscular Disorders, and provides over 84,000 patient visits per year.
- HealthPartners Health Specialty Centers provide a wide variety of high-quality specialty medical care:
 - 435 Phalen Blvd provides gastroenterology clinic and procedures, urology, foot & ankle surgery, orthopedics, and sports medicine. Also includes a Same Day Surgery Center, providing over 81,000 visits per year, including 11,000 surgical cases.
 - 401 Phalen Blvd provides many medicine and surgical specialties, high tech imaging/radiology, physical and hand therapy and more. Over 264,000 visits per year.

For a corridor with so many medical facilities, BRT is even more promising because its systems are designed to provide faster, more reliable, and more accessible transit service than traditional buses. BRT systems often include features such as level boarding, wider doors, and low floors to make boarding and exiting easier for individuals with mobility challenges, including those who use wheelchairs, scooters, canes, or walkers. In addition to physical accessibility features, BRT systems offer real-time arrival information, dedicated lanes, and priority signals, which can reduce wait times and make travel more predictable. Furthermore, the Purple Line BRT will connect to other transit lines, providing seamless access to the wider transit network, and making it easier for individuals with mobility challenges to get around and participate fully in their communities.

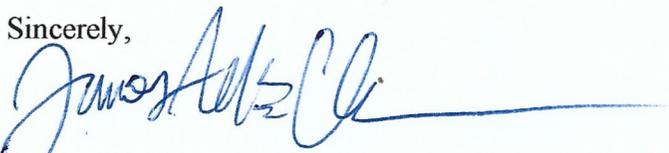
We believe the Purple Line BRT will be an important driver of economic development in the region as well. By connecting major job centers, commercial areas, and residential communities, the Purple Line BRT will help attract new businesses and stimulate economic growth. This will create new job opportunities, increase property values, and support the vitality of our community.

Finally, the Purple Line BRT will promote healthier and more sustainable lifestyles. By encouraging people to use public transportation, the Purple Line BRT will reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and carbon emissions. This will have a positive impact on the environment, public health, and the overall quality of life in our community.

In conclusion, we encourage the Maplewood City Council to support the Purple Line BRT project and to work collaboratively with other stakeholders to make this important project a reality. We believe that the Purple Line BRT will be a transformative investment in our community, improving access to healthcare, promoting economic development, and supporting healthier lifestyles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James McClean", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James McClean

Government Relations Director – Care Delivery

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