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tubman.org

September 20, 2024

Maplewood City Council
1830 County Road B East
Maplewood, MN 55109

Tubman Chrysalis Center
4432 Chicago Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Harriet Tubman Center East
1725 Monastery Way
Maplewood, MN 55109

Dear Mayor Abrams and Council Members Cave, Juenemann, Lee, and Villavicencio:

On behalf of staff and clients, I am writing to express Tubman’s support of Metro Transit’s Purple Line. We encourage the Maplewood City Council to not withdraw support of the Purple Line until the full project plan is released later this year and can be considered in your decision making process.

Tubman offers a range of community-accessible, violence prevention, intervention and support services in collaboration with other organizations, right here in Maplewood, to help people thrive. Safe and reliable public transit supports survivors and their ability to make progress on key goals, including connections to loved ones to reduce isolation and loneliness that can heighten emotional despair many are already experiencing. One of the top requests we receive across programs is for help with basics, like transportation access. We field these requests in Maplewood via drop-in support provided at Tubman’s NorthStar Youth Outreach Center at the Maplewood Mall, through community-based violence prevention programs in homes, schools, and courts, and through additional site-based services, including shelter and housing provided at our Maplewood facility, Harriet Tubman Center East, to name a few.

In addition to our clients a growing number of Tubman staff rely on public transportation to and from work. Public transportation is an invaluable way for Tubman staff to travel to and from work each day and staff would like better access to this resource. The availability of public transit allows Tubman to attract and retain a diverse workforce.

In summary, due to these and many other reasons, Tubman strongly supports increased access to public transit opportunities in the city and have seen firsthand how essential transit is to building strong communities; ones that support safety, hope, and healing.

Thank you for your work and continuing partnerships with Tubman.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Polzin
Chief Executive Officer

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