

Peter Fischer
State Representative

District 44A
Ramsey County



Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Maplewood City Council,

I am disturbed by the prospect that the Maplewood City Council is proposing to take action to withdraw support for the proposed Purple Line coming into Maplewood.

Killing the purple line will put our community at an economic disadvantage for years to come and continue to inconvenience our most vulnerable people in society and continue to hold back those who are trying to build a better life.

For the last 12 years I have heard from thousands on the need for the purple line. Century College students have asked for years for reliable, frequent transportation. One of the reasons some of them don't finish their degree.

Area businesses have expressed the need for the purple line to help address the severe labor shortage they are experiencing in addition to helping bring more customers in.

The medical, mental health and dental providers have asked for it to help address their work force needs and to increase the likelihood that folks will make it to their appointments on time.

If Maplewood withdraws support and kills the Purple Line coming into and through our City, we will lose related reinvestment in the community that would lead to the loss of vibrancy in our businesses, homes and institutions.

Every day we delay moving forward with the purple line will have a negative impact on over 3,900 people. These people are more likely to be of color, lower than average income and more likely to be disabled than our average population.

While the City Council is suggesting other transit options – they would not meet the needs of people the way that the Purple Line would. In turn Maplewood would deny the best transit opportunities that our college students, people of color, those with lower incomes and those who are disabled deserve and would increase their chances of success.

By not having the purple line does the City of Maplewood allow a disparate transportation system to exist compared to the rest of the Metropolitan area.

We need the Purple Line. Please continue to support the work to bring it to reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter M. Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter M Fischer
State Representative