

Subject: Public Safety Building and Purple Line support
To: Steve Engstran <sengstran@>

Hi Steve,

I see there is a Council Work Session next Thursday 2/17 "to discuss the Public Safety Building Project and the Purple Line BRT." I would like to share my opinions.

I hope that the state will chip in 50% on the Public Safety building. It has been widely discussed that the Governor has proposed utilizing the budget surplus to support front line workers and our public works. WBL would greatly benefit from this new building and our Police and Fire will have the support they need. We approved this at the Planning Commission on 1/31.

The Purple Line has taken front and center lately with the Anti Rush Line group voicing their concerns loudly. I want to reiterate my support of the Purple Line. This line will bring good investment to the community and access to those that are transit dependent. We want a WBL for ALL, not only for those that can afford a \$1mm lake front home. The bus traffic is a drop in the bucket (90/day) compared to the 120,000 cars per day on hwy 61! This fact seems to be lost on that group.

I am concerned that our new mayor and the new council member will push to block the Purple Line. I'd like to remind you that law states that municipal consent is only required for Light Rail Transit.

WBL's reputation is on the line as the Purple Line moves forward. Are we putting up walls and saying "Stay Out" or are we a community that wants to embrace people from all walks of life?

One last note, from our history. "The extension of Lake Superior and the Mississippi Railroad to White Bear Lake in 1868 turned what used to be a three hour horse and buggy ride from St. Paul into a twenty minute trip. Rail service provided new and exciting opportunities for business and industry in the area..." The Purple Line is our next opportunity to connect WBL to the greater Twin Cities.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mike Amundsen

