

all your latest changes into the article (a clean version is attached). So you can see John's latest edits on your iPhone, I have noted them in **highlighted** text with strikethroughs and italics in your email below.

Please let me know how you'd like to proceed at this point. I would be happy to submit the article to Deb Neutkins on your behalf, or you may submit it to Deb directly.

Thank you all for your contributions to the article. I think it's in great shape.

**Frank Alarcon**

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**From:** Reinhardt, Victoria <[Victoria.Reinhardt@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:Victoria.Reinhardt@[REDACTED])>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 11:43 AM  
**To:** Alarcon, Frank J <[frank.alarcon@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:frank.alarcon@[REDACTED])>  
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**Subject:** Re: Draft Purple Line Opinion Piece for White Bear Press

The easiest way to cut and paste text and make changes to it. My changes are underlined and italicized. I did not strike through all deletions - again, working from my iPhone hampered my ability to easily edit.

Finally, the text I copied and edited does not include John's additional edits. Please point those out for me.

Thanks,  
Victoria

## Purple Line will strengthen our community and region

By Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt

Those of us who live in the White Bear Lake area enjoy an exceptional quality of life, excellent parks, great schools, fantastic shopping, numerous employers and more.

I've been blessed to live in the City of White Bear Lake for 46 years. Over the past four decades, our city has grown, changed, and evolved while maintaining the character that makes it special and unique. I passionately believe that the Purple Line (formerly Rush Line) bus rapid transit project fits into that history of progress that aligns with our values.

With all the wonderful qualities our part of the Twin Cities has, we continue to lack high-quality, frequent transit. Quality transit is something employees and employers, residents, students and retirees in the Twin Cities and across the country are demanding as they look at where they want to live, work and grow their businesses. For our part of the Twin Cities to stay competitive, we need transportation solutions that will keep us connected to the entire region.

During the past few months, the discourse regarding the Purple Line here in White Bear Lake has started to sound like the hyper-partisan fights we see in Washington, D.C. This *does not reflect our community values and we can do better.* Of course we all hold differing opinions about how we'd like our city and region to grow – or not. As we *continue this conversation, let's first talk about its goals and merits based on the facts.*

Is the project being hurried? No. Planning work on the Rush Line corridor began more than 20 years ago. As the years and years of coverage here in the White Bear Press attests, there have been countless opportunities for public participation, input and discussion. The Pre-Project Development study (performed 2014-2017) examined 55 route segments and several types of transit through an extensive public engagement and technical evaluation process in order to determine which route and type of transit would best meet the project's overall purpose and need. Over