

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED PURPLE LINE (FORMERLY RUSH LINE) BUS RAPID TRANSIT ROUTE

WHEREAS, the proposed bus rapid transit (“BRT”) project, which was formally called the Rush Line and is now known as the Purple Line, (“Project”) was transferred from Ramsey County and is now being managed by the Metropolitan Council (“Met Council”);

WHEREAS, the proposed BRT route would run north from St. Paul and terminate in downtown City of White Bear Lake (“BRT Route”);

WHEREAS, unlike a light rail project or a change in a trunk highway, municipal consent of the affected cities is not required for a BRT project;

WHEREAS, the White Bear Lake City Council adopted Resolution No. 12061 on July 25, 2017 (“Original Route Resolution”) to identify a locally preferred alternative mode for the BRT Route at the request of the Project proposers;

WHEREAS, the proposed BRT Route requires modifications to Highway 61 at the Whitaker Street intersection, to which the City Council consented by adopting Resolution No. 12860 on October 12, 2021;

WHEREAS, White Bear Lake Councilmembers have, for many years, respectively disagreed over the need for and cost effectiveness of the Project, including a split vote on the Original Route Resolution. The few votes the City Council have taken on the Project have narrowly passed on a 3/2 vote;

WHEREAS, concerns regarding the BRT project have continued to mount and the current City Council hereby finds and determines as follows:

- (a) Under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.399, subdivision 1, the Met Council is required to obtain input from the City Council related to a transitway project on heavily traveled corridors, including in designating the locally preferred alternative transit mode in the corridor;
- (b) While municipal consent is not required for a BRT project, the Met Council should seriously consider the wishes of the affected municipalities as BRT projects produce many of the same negative impacts as light rail projects or trunk highway alterations;
- (c) The City Council is in the best position to understand the needs of its residents and the potential impacts on the community from a major transportation project;