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The City of Vadnais Heights
 800 East County Road E
 Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

Memorandum:

TO: Mayor Krachmer and City Council Members

FROM: Nolan Wall, Planning/Community Development Director

DATE: February 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Purple Line BRT

Background

Project management team members will be attending the workshop to provide a status update and discuss next steps in the process. Due to several factors, the project has been delayed and key metrics are being re-analyzed in order to secure federal funding. As a result, project planning and design along the corridor north of Saint Paul has been impacted.

The following links containing project information can be reviewed in advance of the discussion:

- <https://www.metrotransit.org/purple-line-project>
- <https://maplewoodmn.gov/PurpleLine>

Attached is the resolution adopted by the City Council on December 6, 2022 withdrawing support for the project. There may or may not be action required in the future as regards the resolution, depending on several factors that the project management team will detail.

Action Requested

Consider providing any direction requested by the project management team.

Attachments:

- Resolution

**CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. 22-12- 152

**A RESOLUTION WITHDRAWING SUPPORT FOR THE PURPLE LINE BUS RAPID
TRANSIT PROJECT MODIFICATION UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS**

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

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council (and its Metro Transit division) is leading the design of the Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Project”); in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Ramsey County, Saint Paul, Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, and White Bear Township (“Municipalities”); and

WHEREAS, a proposed modification of BRT route would run north from St. Paul and terminate in downtown City of Vadnais Heights at the current park and ride location at County Road E and 35E (“BRT Route”); and

WHEREAS, the Vadnais Heights City Council supports and understands the need for mass transit in the East Metro, the current Rapid Route number 275 schedule has been cut back as of November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Vadnais Heights City Council in support of neighboring municipalities Maplewood, Gem Lake and White Bear Township, has requested an updated feasibility study to determine need based on today’s ridership numbers and as it pertains to potential future ridership based on historic real numbers; and

WHEREAS, the Vadnais Heights City Council wishes to work collaboratively with MnDOT, Ramsey County, Metropolitan Council, and the Municipalities to identify the best options for transit given declining ridership, necessity for route changes, potential eminent domain, cost and sustainability of the Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit system; and


WHEREAS, the City of Vadnais Heights desires that Ramsey County, MnDOT, Metropolitan Council and the other Municipalities to work collaboratively to address these issues with the Vadnais Heights City Council, to satisfactorily resolve issues that have arisen or could arise and to establish a working framework to develop new plans that include transparency, inclusion and communication with the residents and the business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota as follows;

1. The City Council requests an updated feasibility study be performed to determine need, cost and sustainability of project.
2. The City Council requests that the modification study timeline be expanded to create an engagement plan to evaluate existing and future transit options/routes that works effectively for all.

This Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted and was signed by the Mayor and attested to by the City Administrator this 6th day of December, 2022.

Attest:



Kevin Watson, City Administrator

(SEAL)



Heidi Gunderson, Mayor