



Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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November 29, 2022

Liz Jones, Senior Community Outreach Coordinator
METRO Gold and Purple Lines Project Office
Metro Square, 121 7th Place East, Suite 102
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: MetroTransit's study about possible relocation of the Arcade Street Station on the Purple Line

Dear Liz:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Payne-Phalen Community Council. Our Board of Directors met in community, in our regular meeting on Tuesday night, November 22, 2022. As you know, one of the items on the agenda was MetroTransit's study about possible relocation of the Arcade Street station.

*The Board of Directors of the Payne-Phalen Community Council voted in **support of retaining the intended Arcade Street Station on the Purple Line at the intersection of Neid Steet and Arcade Street.** The Board voted against the two other locations "down in" Phalen Boulevard that were recently studied by MetroTransit.*

In their discussion, the Board noted that the long-intended location 'up at' Arcade at Neid is the only option that is convenient to a large population of residents and businesses in the area on and around Arcade Street:

- Of the three options studied, it will provide the best transit connectivity with existing bus routes.
- Likewise, this location will best support existing businesses, schools and cultural institutions operating on and around the Arcade Street corridor.
- The location at Arcade at Neid is the only one of the three locations studied that will successfully generate new transit-oriented development. The Board noted that the construction of the Purple Line is a significant public investment in the East Side of St. Paul and for that reason, it is imperative that the public investment is a springboard to new public and private economic development that will serve the community. More specifically, the construction of the Purple Line is about more than providing another bus line to the existing population; it is an opportunity to catalyze new investments in Payne-Phalen for the coming generation.
- The Board noted – as they have many times in the past – that the most sizeable opportunity for positive infill development along the Purple Line is in and around Seeger Square. That opportunity won't materialize if the alignment doesn't stop 'up at' Arcade at Neid.

The other two locations under consideration were deemed by the Board to be unhelpful for residents and business because their location 'down in the hole' of the Phalen corridor is considered hard for pedestrians to get to and from. Because of that, the Board feels strongly that ridership at these stops will be very low, thus undermining the beneficial attributes of the high-frequency bus rapid transit running through Payne-Phalen and the Purple Line project's stated purpose of serving communities that are highly transit-dependent.

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In their deliberations and decision, the Board called upon three earlier circumstances where they made formal decisions and adopted positions that reinforced their support for Arcade and Neid as a key station stop along the length of the Purple Line Corridor. Those earlier decisions are in three actions adopted by the PPCC Board:

- Rush Line EAW - PPCC Review and Comment, (dated June 23, 2021), see especially pages 2-5 (Top Line Issues) and pages 10-11 (Arcade Street Station).
- Arcade Street Redesign - PPCC Actions-Recommendations (dated June 28, 2022 and August 19, 2022), see especially pages 2-3 (Items 1-4) and pages 10-11 (items 60 and 61).
- Item 1c-Hamm's RFP--Joint Statement on Community Values, (April 26, 2022), see especially page 6, item 36.

These previous Board actions are attached for your reference herein.

Please include this letter in the comments filed for this study and for this project. We are grateful to MetroTransit, The Project Office, and the Purple Line Corridor Management Committee (CMC) for taking the position of the Payne-Phalen Community Council into full consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,



Jack Byers
Executive Director

- cc. Charlie Zelle, Chair, Metropolitan Council and Purple Line Corridor Management Committee
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County, District 7 and Chair of the Rush Line Policy Advisory Committee
Council Member Chai Lee, Metropolitan Council, District 13
Councilmember Nelsie Yang, City of St. Paul, Ward 6, and Vice-Chair of the Rush Line Policy Advisory Committee
Representative Betty McCollum, U.S. House of Representatives
Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo, Chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, Ramsey County, District 3
Commissioner Jim McDonough, Ramsey County, District 6
Mai Chong Xiong, Ramsey County Commissioner-Elect, District 6
Ryan O'Connor, Ramsey County Manager
Johanna Berg, Deputy County Manager of Economic Growth and Community Investment
Elizabeth Tolzmann Ramsey County, Director of Policy & Planning
Melvin Carter, Mayor, City of St. Paul
Council President Amy Brendmoen, City of St. Paul, Ward 5
Councilmember Jane Prince, City of St. Paul, Ward 7
Russ Stark, City of St. Paul, Chief Resilience Officer
Noel Nix, City of St. Paul, Director of Community Initiatives
Kaohly Her, City of St. Paul, Policy Director

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Nicolle Goodman, City of St. Paul, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Jimmy Lyod, City of St. Paul, Economic Development Director
Jonathan Reisetter, City of St. Paul, Planning and Economic Development
Luis Pereira, City of St. Paul, Planning Director
Bill Dermody, City of St. Paul, Principal Planner
Sean Kershaw, City of St. Paul, Director of Public Works
Rueben Collins, City of St. Paul, Public Works
Melissa Barnes, PE, North Area Manager, MnDOT Metro District
Fay Simer, North Area Coordinator, MnDOT
Molly LaFleche, Payne Arcade Business Association
Paris Dunning, East Side Area Business Association
Anne DeJoy, East Side Neighborhood Development Corporation
Veronica Burt, Dayton's Bluff Community Council
Paul Schroeder, HOURCAR
Will Schroeer, East Metro Strong
Craig Lamothe Project Director, METRO Gold and Purple Lines Project Office
Ciara Schlichting, Toole Design
Denetrick Powers, Director Of Planning and Engagement, NEOO Partners
Jerome Benner, NEOO Partners
Rebecca Nelson, President, Payne-Phalen Community Council
Board Members of the Payne-Phalen Community Council