

Dear [Name of Relevant Official],

We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the proposed light rail project that is to be developed along West Broadway Avenue's Cultural business corridor. We strongly believe that this project will have a detrimental impact on our community, and we urge you to take immediate action to prevent it from happening.

As residents, business owners, and employees of North Minneapolis, we are deeply concerned about the negative impact that the proposed light rail project will have on our community. The construction and operation of the light rail will cause significant disruptions to our neighborhood, including noise pollution, traffic congestion, and environmental degradation.

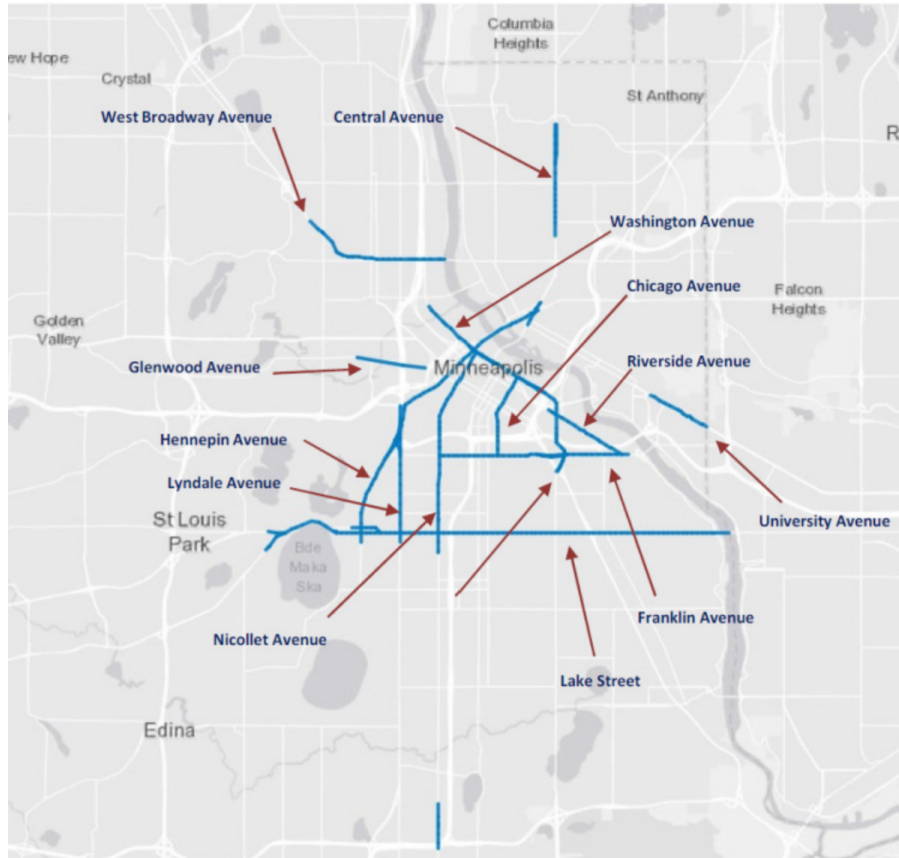
Furthermore, the proposed project will have a significant impact on the economic and social well-being of our community. The construction of the light rail will require the displacement of many families and businesses, resulting in a loss of jobs, revenue, and community cohesion. In addition, this project resembles the same bifurcation that happened to the Rondo Community in St. Paul which divided a cultural corridor to the point of extinction. This will have a ripple effect on our local economy and will negatively impact the livelihoods of many residents, businesses and their descendants.

Moreover, the proposed light rail project will pose significant safety risks to our community. The increased traffic and congestion that will result from the construction of the light rail will create hazards for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. This will put the safety of our community at risk and will threaten the well-being of our residents. Met Council has not addressed the issue of heightened crime along the current Blue and Green Line routes. Due to insurance underwriter's categorizing North Minneapolis as an 80% crime area, many businesses are being forced to pay exorbitant premiums for liability insurance or are unable to remain licensed due to being uninsured.

When we attend Met Council's listening sessions about the Blue Line Extension, Met Council staff have refused to answer very important technical concerns such as; potential building impacts, traffic slowing issues such as; safety concerns in regards to reducing the lanes from 2 to 1 (east and west), how they will accommodate automobiles, buses, turning lanes, emergency vehicles, metro mobility vans, and business delivery trucks all driving in one lane.

According to the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan, 'West Broadway Alive' West Broadway Ave is defined as a cultural corridor and main street of North Minneapolis which there is no mention of public transportation or LRT in this plan. Keep in mind that

the City of Minneapolis has several commercial corridors throughout the city, yet in the North there is only one, which is West Broadway Ave (see picture below).



Comparative Geography of Minneapolis' Commercial Corridors

Finally, there has been no economic impact study led by the community, for property owners, businesses, and residents that will be adversely affected by this project. There is no plan or budget for them to be made whole after the construction of the BLRT.

Considering these concerns, we urge you to reconsider the proposed light rail project along West Broadway Ave and urge you to revisit Lowry Ave which is a much wider street with less density, resulting in less negative impact to our community.

We believe that it is our responsibility to protect our community's ecological health, social and economic well-being, and public safety, and the proposed light rail project puts all of these at risk.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we hope that you will take the necessary steps to prevent the proposed light rail project from being implemented on West Broadway Ave.

Sincerely,

/ Board Chair
West Broadway Business and Area Coalition

/Board Chair
Jordan Area Community Council

/Board Chair
Hawthorne Neighborhood Council

/Board Chair
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council