

February 12, 2025

We are a coalition of labor organizations that support the construction of the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit (LRT) project. Each of our organizations represent thousands of men and women who build and maintain the state's road, bridge, and transit system.

The Blue Line Extension LRT project will create family-supporting construction careers in all corners of the state, spur significant economic development and support local economies. Whether it's laborers, carpenters, electricians, cement masons, iron workers, or operating engineers—this project represents thousands of working Minnesotans and millions of work hours, which support middle class families across the region.

No other transportation infrastructure generates the magnitude of economic development that benefits the entire state than fixed guideway transit like light rail. Between 2009 and 2023, permits have been issued for over \$12.8 billion in projects located within one half mile of a light rail transit station, including 36,300 housing units, with \$7 billion more in the pipeline. This project will ignite economic investment for small businesses, improve affordable housing options, increase access to educational opportunities, and build wealth for working families.

The project is set to leverage more than a billion in federal matching funds. Minnesota residents and businesses pay more in taxes annually than the state receives in federal spending. We can't afford to let federal funding and associated good paying construction jobs go to the peer metro regions like Austin, Denver, and Salt Lake City instead.

Minnesota's future relies on a complete transportation system that includes quality road, bridge and transit options. Our members take great pride in building the state's infrastructure that allows for efficient movement of goods, service delivery, and access to recreational opportunities. From good paying construction jobs to build the project to long-term quality of life improvements, the Blue Line Extension LRT project will bring transformational improvements to the lives of residents from Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park.

We strongly encourage you to support the Blue Line Extension LRT project to keep these jobs on track.

