



February 11, 2025

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Blue Line Coalition, we are writing to oppose bill HF14, the moratorium for light rail transit funding. Our coalition of organizations represents BIPOC residents across the corridor of Blue Line Extension project (BLE), and has over a dozen years of experience working closely with partners at all levels of government and on the ground in community to ensure that the planning and development of the BLE project is successful and that our communities can enjoy the benefits without being displaced.

The Blue Line Extension is about more than a train: it's about the people who currently live, own a business, go to school, and worship along its corridor and across the region. The benefits of the project go far beyond access to transportation. Current residents and businesses will be benefited by increased traffic. Quality of life along the corridor will improve, as investments in small businesses and residents ensure that the project brings increased prosperity for all. This will catalyze the economy and activate the corridor to generate even more housing, business, transit connections, and vitality.

The economic and social benefits of the Blue Line Extension to our region and state are tangible and closer than ever. The work is well underway, investments have been promised, and now is not the time to break your commitments to your constituents. The Blue Line is nearly 60% designed. The municipalities across the corridor have already voted their consent and expressed their support for the project. If funding is paused, 20 years of momentum will be lost.

If HF14 is adopted and funding is frozen, even temporarily, the Blue Line Extension project would effectively be eliminated, along with years of investments and planning. Travel and commuting across the region would become significantly more difficult for everyone, from workers commuting to elders getting to medical appointments.

Minnesotans across the corridor, from business owners and their shoppers, landlords and renters, drivers and public transit users, families and community members, urgently need the improvements this project would bring. They are counting on legislators to respect the established project timeline and agreements.

I urge you to vote down HF14, and let planned and needed investment come to the corridor of the Blue Line Extension project.

Signed,

The Blue Line Coalition

*Denise Butler - ACER, Inc*

*Brandon Detvongsa - Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota*

*Dipakshi Sarma - CAPI USA*

*Candy Bakion - MICAH*

*Anndrea Young - Heritage Park Neighborhood*

*Karla Arredondo - Pueblos de Lucha y Esperanza*

*Ricardo Perez - The Alliance for Metropolitan Stability*

*Daylon Prochaska - MN350*

*Lee Guekguezian - Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota*

*Alesha Alexcee - Housing Justice Center of MN*