

The Northstar rail is a fundamental part of Northern Wright County. I live out in Buffalo, and it is an incredible line to get into the cities when I cannot use a car to get there. I also have anxiety while traveling on the freeways, so it is especially a life saver when I have to come down on busy days. There should be no talks about shutting down and defunding. There should be talks about expanding reach and increasing frequencies. What about the people that live in the apartments next to the line that use it to get to school and to work everyday? What happens to those people, especially if they do not have transport outside of bikes they bring with them? This is deeply short sighted thinking. This would cause more traffic on the road and leave anyone that lives in the apartments that were built right next to the rail for the specific purpose of being their lifeline into the city hung out to dry. We should be funding more public transportation options so there are less drivers on the road so the State doesn't keep increasing the budget to repair roads that keep falling apart more and more every year. With the Northstar getting high traffic over the last few years, it would be deeply concerning if it was cut because the House thinks roads are more important to the people they are supposed to serve.

If you have any more questions, or would like a different format for the written statement, feel free to email me any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Brady Rathbun