

Letter of Support HF269

I overwhelmingly support shutting down the Northstar rail. MN isn't ready for commuters' rail due to low density and extensive highway system.

Northstar doesn't even terminate in the downtown core, requires a transfer, in addition the schedules are very limited, only useful for people working downtown 9-5. Sharing tracks with freight is absurd and causes major delays. The trains are only used for 3 trips and are parked for 20 hours downtown or Elk River.

After Covid, the ridership is too low with a high subsidy. The high subsidy could be used to improve all-day services on #852 Express, adding weekend services.

The money would be better spent on Rapid Bus along University Ave NE to Coon Rapids / Blaine / Fridley, similar to Orange Line on 35W south metro.

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