

June 2, 2023

C Terrence Anderson, Director, Community Based Research
Center for Urban & Regional Affairs
330 Humphrey Building
301 19th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

RE: City of Minneapolis Feedback on Blue Line Extension Anti-Displacement Recommendations

Dear C Terrence,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the report outlining recommendations for anti-displacement strategies for the Blue Line Extension project. As representatives of the City of Minneapolis supporting this project, we appreciate the opportunity to be included in the Anti-Displacement Work Group process. The ADWG was facilitated thoughtfully, and we appreciated that the experiences, priorities, and concerns of local community members and business owners were centered in the conversations.

Upon reviewing the recommended policies and process steps in the report, we are both encouraged by the opportunities to mitigate displacement impacts of the Blue Line Extension project and also concerned about the level of commitment and resources available to successfully implement meaningful anti-displacement strategies.

Of the 17 recommended anti-displacement policies in the report, the City of Minneapolis has adopted and implemented 12 in some form already, and 3 are being actively considered by City policymakers and staff. Most of the recommended policies are or would be broadly applicable City-wide, or at least available generally to residents and businesses impacted by the construction and market impacts of this project. City staff and leaders are reviewing the recommendations and exploring potential opportunities to amend, target, or deepen the City's investment in these existing strategies to make them more impactful as anti-displacement measures for this project. We are enthusiastic about remaining in conversation with the ADWG coordinating team, project partners, and community members about these opportunities.

Several other components of this work need clarity and concerted development in the very near future in order for the anti-displacement plan for this project to be successful. While these may not be in the scope of this report, we feel they are important to raise as part of the conversation about anti-displacement efforts needed for the project. Items requiring development and/or clarity include:

- A specific plan for near-term residential and commercial property takings that provides opportunities for people to stay in the neighborhood.
- A specific plan for addressing direct construction impacts (including parking, access issues, and wayfinding prior to, during construction, and after rail service begins). A clear plan for

communicating construction plans and updates to local residents and business owners is also needed.

- Identified and committed financial resources for implementation of anti-displacement strategies prior to the commencement of construction. We appreciate the report's acknowledgement of the need for dedicated regional funding for this work, and we want to underscore the importance of these resources being identified as soon as possible. Without the needed resources identified, the City is not able to commit to specific new or deepened investments for this very important work.
- Identified roles for the coordination and implementation of anti-displacement work.
- An intentional plan for aligning anti-displacement work with the project timeline, engagement plan, and upcoming milestones.

We urge the Project Office to begin this work in earnest as soon as possible in partnership with the City.

Thank you again for your leadership in coordinating the ADWG, and for the opportunity to provide feedback on the work so far. The City of Minneapolis remains committed to helping develop and implement specific, impactful strategies to mitigate involuntary displacement impacts of the Blue Line Extension project.

Sincerely,

Jim Voll, Manager, Community Planning
City of Minneapolis

Joey Dobson, Housing & Equitable Development Policy Coordinator
City of Minneapolis

Cc: Cathy Gold, Hennepin County Public Works Administration, Transit and Mobility Department