

## Opening day riders talk about the Green Line



**Nancy Newman**

"I live in Minneapolis near St. Louis Park, and I'm very happy about the Green Line. As far as I'm concerned, the more rail, the better. It's more convenient, has more connections, and it replaces cars on the road. I'm also very much in favor of the Southwest light rail project."



**Veniese Ashmet, with daughter Laurice**

"I like the University Avenue scene with light rail here. It looks safer. I will definitely use the light rail for my errands, to do my coupon shopping. I'm really happy the train is up."



**Cait & Craigh Griffon**

"We're from San Diego and visiting here. We wanted to see this part of the Twin Cities riding on the Green Line. We'll be back to visit and we'll ride again."



**Nii-Obilit Harper (right)**

“I’m in urban studies at Augsburg College and I’ve been following light rail transit in the Twin Cities for a long time. I like the redevelopment that’s going on with University Avenue – it’s becoming more revitalized and light rail may benefit that, especially with transit-oriented development. Trains and streetcars were the original ways to get around, and we seem to be going back to that.”

**Julida Kochanowski**

“I’m a teacher at a middle school in Minneapolis. At one point, my car was totaled and then I started taking transit. I found I could make it work for me.”



**Rachelle Morris, with sons Jacob (left) & Andrew**

“We’re here today because their dad [Bill] is a train operator. Today he’s driving on the Blue Line.

**Jacob**

“I think trains are awesome!”



**Gail Haglund (right, Minnetonka) and her mother, Mavis Fisher (Richfield)**

“We both think investments in mass transit are long overdue. It helps to get rid of traffic congestion. We can see taking the green Line to the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Children’s Museum, and the History Theater. When the Blue Line opened, we were there.”



**Victoria Stoudemire**

"I am a nurse at Regions Hospital, and this is excellent that we will be able to commute and even go right by the hospital, the Capitol, and everything. Everybody has been excited and waiting for this line to open.

"Today I am going to go grab my grandson so we can just ride the trains and check out the connections."



**Lynn & Mark Schwartz**

"We live in St. Louis Park and we were curious about the Green Line and wanted to check it out – the stops along the way, the connections between the two downtowns, and the options we might have. There'll be opportunities to use the Green Line in the future. We've bused and biked to work. We are transit advocates. We just want as many options as possible."



**Bethany Deline**

"I can take the Green Line almost door to door from home to my work. I live in the Carlton Lofts near Raymond Avenue in Saint Paul and work just a couple blocks from the Fifth Street Garage in Minneapolis. This is great because I don't have a car."



**Whittier Strong, Minneapolis**

"I think the Green Line is fantastic. We've got a challenge to overcome our car culture and develop a transit culture. But people don't realize that outside of New York and San Francisco, the Twin Cities has one of the most robust transit systems I've encountered in this country."

**Lily Barnes**

"It's the clean energy that I appreciate – taking the pollution from cars out of the air. I will take the Green Line to the downtown Saint Paul Library and the History Center, where I do a lot of my studying."



**Mary Brackins**

"I used to ride the other light rail, the Blue Line, and I am really excited because I just moved to Minneapolis and now I can get to work [near Snelling Avenue] easily."

## **Thoughts from other residents (not pictured) riding the Green Line on opening day:**

### **Percy Williams, Saint Paul**

“I’ll be on the train to go to work, shopping up and down the line, to go to the doctor’s office. I want to be part of history. The rain is not going to stop this party!”

### **Janna and Andrew Lipstein, with children Alexis and Aaron**

“We like to ride our bikes, take trains to the Twins games. {The Twin Cities} used to have one of the best transit systems in the country [with the streetcar system]. We can bring that back...and show we’re a progressive community. We travel a lot, and everywhere we go they have really good public transit – New York, San Francisco, and in Europe. Green modes of transportation are really important to us, not having a huge carbon footprint.

### **Daniel Kodet, Saint Paul**

“I’m really interested in the potential the Green Line will have for new development along University Avenue. I live in Highland Park in Saint Paul and hope to use the Green Line to come downtown to the new Saints stadium and other attractions.”

### **Nicole Heffron, Minneapolis**

“I’m happy to take public transit to places I need to go. I would like to be able to take trains everywhere. I live in Minneapolis but I go to Saint Paul almost daily.”

### **Fowsiyo Hussein, Minneapolis**

“We don’t want to use the car – we will use light rail all the time. Now I can get to know Saint Paul. It’s wonderful. I’m so excited today.”