

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

March 28, 2022

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan's transportation proposals, as included in House File 4486.

Minnesota has a unique opportunity in 2022 to invest in equitable climate solutions that will bring tangible co-benefits to families and communities across the state. With a state budget surplus, incoming federal funds from both the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the possibility of a Capital Investment bill, **we have the means this year to make historic investments in better connected, cleaner, and more equitable communities.**

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan have made several meaningful proposals to do this in House File 4486. Three stand out.

First, we support the Governor's investment of \$200 million to support the Blue Line light rail extension. This line would serve Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park, including some of the most racially inclusive, working class communities in Minnesota. This line would better connect these families to work, shopping, school, and health care facilities. With planning in place since 2020 and ongoing community engagement, this line is ready for state investment.

Second, we support the one-time investment of \$3.2 million in electric buses and charging infrastructure for Metro Transit. In December 2018, the Metropolitan Council announced that they planned to shift to the purchase of 100% electric buses in 2022. This appropriation would help make this important transition happen. We would encourage the Committee to go further by creating a 100% deployment goal for the Metro Transit fleet by 2040 and requiring the deployment of these buses in the places that need them most, those areas with the worst air quality. This is a critical policy to promote public health in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by transportation-related pollution, too often, the neighborhoods where Black, Indigenous, people of color, and low-income Minnesotans live.

Finally, we applaud the Governor's proposal to provide matching dollars for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: \$40 million in multimodal programs (including electric vehicle charging infrastructure programs) and \$2 million in the IJJA's climate-related programs. Minnesota should make the most of the opportunities we have over the next five years to draw down federal investments in our state. We encourage the Committee to see these as must-do investments that set a floor for state investments. We hope the committee will go further in ensuring that these state and local matching dollars are focused on transit, vehicle electrification, and climate adaptation strategies.

Our transportation investments in 2022 have the potential to be transformative for Minnesotans. We can use them to build a better connected, cleaner, more affordable, and more equitable system that serves all Minnesotans. The proposal from Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan moves us in that direction.

Please build on these proposals when creating the Committee's omnibus bill this year.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114