

Testimony of Mary Jean Mulherin, St. Paul, MN

I am 69 years old and get to ride Metro Transit during off peak hours for \$1 a ride. I greatly appreciate this, as I live on a low-income. I am concerned with fines for riding the Metro Transit system, as I feel that young persons and those without funds but in need of transportation might upon occasion not have the full fare to ride. I am hopeful this legislation will pass to reduce the fines for fare "evasion."

I also like the idea of Transit Ambassadors. I have felt like a volunteer "Ambassador" myself. I remember the time I met a grandmother and her grandchildren on the Green Line and they were going to exit at Hamline Ave to get to Como Zoo for an outing. I was able to tell her that while it looked like the Zoo was north of University Ave on a map it was a long, long way north and one could not walk up Hamline to get there. (BNSF train tracks in the way) I was able to help her get off at Lexington and switch to a Route 83 bus which took them to the Zoo.

This public face of a caring Metro Transit is just what we need for both residents and visitors to the Twin Cities. Those without their own personal automobile should not be penalized and ridership should be encouraged. I think Transit Ambassadors assisting the public is a great idea and I hope it is implemented. A much better way to spend our transit dollar than on over-policing.

Mary Jean Mulherin
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