



March 10, 2026

Dear Minnesota Legislators,

On behalf of the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and the continued operation of suburban transit providers serving the south metro.

Transportation is essential to a strong regional economy. Businesses across the region depend on accessible and efficient transportation systems to connect employees to workplaces, support customer access, and sustain economic growth.

MVTA plays a vital role in helping workers travel between suburban communities and major employment centers throughout the Twin Cities region. For many employees, transit provides a reliable option for commuting to jobs in downtown Minneapolis, downtown St. Paul, the University of Minnesota, and other major destinations. These connections also help expand the available workforce for suburban-based employers while providing residents with greater access to career opportunities.

Suburban transit providers like MVTA were created to meet the unique travel patterns of suburban communities. Over time, this locally responsive model has developed efficient express bus service, park-and-ride facilities, and regional connections that support both commuters and businesses.

Changes that eliminate suburban “opt-out” transit providers could disrupt transportation options that many workers and employers depend on. Maintaining strong suburban transit service helps ensure that businesses across our region can continue to attract and retain talent while supporting economic vitality.

The Shakopee Chamber of Commerce encourages policymakers to preserve suburban transit providers like MVTA and continue supporting transportation solutions that strengthen workforce mobility, regional connectivity, and economic competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Zunker", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tim Zunker, President
Shakopee Chamber of Commerce