

April 13, 2019

Representative Fue Lee
485 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155
(Sent via electronic delivery)

Dear Chair Lee and House Capital Investment Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF 1159, the 2021 House bonding bill. We are writing on behalf of Move Minnesota, the leading advocacy organization for expanding transit and active transportation access in our state. We are an active member and leader in the Transportation Forward Coalition, which brings together advocacy groups who seek to expand and improve our transportation system.

We greatly appreciate the inclusion of \$40M in general obligation bonds for the planned E Line bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor. This investment will provide a crucial connection between the south Metro, Uptown and the University Avenue community, and will accelerate the buildout of a comprehensive BRT network in the region. Our organization's top legislative priority is a robust, sustainable funding source to develop and maintain a transit and active transportation network that meets the needs of all Minnesotans. The bonding dollars for the E line ensures that those new revenue dollars can stretch further to finance additional BRT lines and service improvements.

We also thank you for the \$1M investment that will enable Metro Transit to deploy electric buses in the corridors where reductions in vehicle emissions could make the most significant impact on community health and support electrification across the metro system. This investment in functioning charging infrastructure so Metro Transit can achieve a zero emission fleet is imperative for addressing climate pollution, air pollution, and environmental justice.

Finally, we applaud the \$24.5M investment in passenger rail projects. The \$10M for a second train to Chicago provides the final, critical financial commitment from the State of Minnesota that will secure federal grant dollars and allow Minnesotans to more easily travel between the Twin Cities, southern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Chicago without use of a personal vehicle. Investments in passenger rail can help our state reach our preliminary goal of a 20% reduction in vehicle miles traveled by 2050, and encourage use of transit connections at rail stations upon arrival.

We look forward to continuing the conversation in the coming weeks, and hope that our support will strengthen the House position on transit and passenger rail investments in final negotiations.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Sobotka
Director of Policy and Research



Sam Rockwell
Executive Director