

March 10, 2026

Honorable Representative Jon Koznick
Co-Chair, House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Representative Brad Tabke
Co-Chair, House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Koznick and Chair Tabke,

On behalf of the Maple Grove City Council, we are writing to strongly oppose legislation that would eliminate Maple Grove Transit and fold the suburban transit providers into the Metropolitan Council system.

Maple Grove Transit was established in 1990 following the 1981 legislative framework which provided suburban communities like ours with an opportunity to provide local transit service to people who were receiving little to no benefit from transit taxes they were paying. Since that time, we have provided over 17 million rides for commuters traveling to downtown Minneapolis, students attending the University of Minnesota, and residents who rely on transit to reach employment and essential services. We're proud to have served the community effectively for over 36 years.

While we are recognized for operating the most utilized park and ride ramp in the metro and the lowest-cost-per-passenger subsidy commuter route in the region, Maple Grove Transit also provides a vital service to the regional economy and residents living in the northwest metro. Our MY RIDE micro transit service connects employees with businesses from retail stores to medical technology innovators making our regional economy stronger. Our service has seen continued growth since the pandemic with an annual increase of over 10 percent from last year.

Our local transit service also provides essential mobility to people who don't drive and depend on transit for making medical appointments, shopping, or access to services like the local food shelf in Rogers. This community service is relied on by Maple Grove community members of all ages and extends beyond our borders, providing access to residents of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Osseo.

As a local provider, we are uniquely positioned to support regional transit goals while remaining closely attuned to community needs. Being part of local government allows us to ensure that services adapt as the community changes and that every dollar is used effectively. We have documented history of this



and maintain a very positive working relationship with the Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, and Plymouth Metrolink staff. We work regularly with these partners on regional policy considerations, to find synergy and efficiencies in our service, and bring that local perspective to the broader transit vision. A recent example of this was a joint service study completed by the Cities of Maple Grove and Plymouth to explore additional efficiencies in our micro transit service and smart phone applications. This partnership is leading to additional efficiencies in service for both agencies.

The 1981 legislation that enabled suburban providers has ensured that Minnesotans in the northwest metro had access to transit service, and we proudly continue to provide that service for the economic viability of the region and state. We respectfully request that you reject legislation which would eliminate the suburban transit providers and continue to support the strong tradition that our locally lead service has provided for the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, your service to the state, and your leadership in progressing transportation policy across the state.

Sincerely,

Mark Steffenson
Mayor

Cc: Representative Kristin Robbins, 37A
Representative Kristin Bahner, 37B
Representative Ned Carroll, 42A
Senator Warren Limmer, 37
Senator Bonnie Westlin, 42