



MINNESOTA PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Transportation Conference Committee (HF2438 and SF2082)

Chair Dibble, Co-Chair Koznick, Co-Chair Koegel

Senators Johnson Stewart, Jasinski, Carlson, Clark; Representatives Olson, Tabke

While transit rides are not quite back to where they were pre-COVID, communities and residents continue to rely on the local service and are increasing their local financial commitment to maintaining transit operations. Whether going to medical appointments, work, school or supporting local businesses, greater Minnesota residents often have a longer distance to travel and yet few travel options, the local bus may be their only means of transportation.

The rural transit systems work closely with local governments to efficiently and effectively serve their residents; and they are counting on the growth in funding from the 2023 funding package. They are facing a number of challenges including significant increased costs for transit buses, labor, insurance, etc. as well as the loss of federal COVID funds.

We greatly appreciate the Senate position, which provides a slight increase in 28-29 biennium and urge the conferees to adopt this provision; and not adopt the proposed House cuts.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryan I. Daniels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ryan" and last name "Daniels" clearly legible.

RYAN DANIELS
President MPTA
CEO Saint Cloud Metro Bus