

100%

100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

April 5, 2022

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for several provisions in the Transportation budget omnibus bill, as amended in H1683DE1.

Our transportation system is how we stay connected as Minnesotans. It's how we go to school and work. It's how we get to retail or visit family. Whether we drive or bike, walk or take a train, we could all use more affordable, more equitable, and cleaner transportation options in our communities. This omnibus budget would help us create that system for everyone, from Red Wing to Red Lake. To get there, the bill invests in six strategies.

First, the bill invests in our **transit** systems across the state.

- It provides over \$20m in FY 23 for Metro Transit on 8.16-8.22; 61.4-62.15. Its \$75k set aside for transit signal improvements would help make routes faster and more regular for riders.
- It invests \$10m in Greater Minnesota transit on 2.21-2.25. Please note that these investments would be most useful over and above being an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act match. Our Greater Minnesota providers have existing service and material needs that these funds could help meet.
- The bill supports transit shelter improvements with \$2m in FY 23 on 9.7-9.11.
- The bill provides \$1.3m in FY 23 on 9.12-9.24 for microtransit services.
- The bill invests \$2.305m in FY 23 on 9.25-10.19 on temporary transit fare reductions, an important way to support riders as summer ridership increases.
- Finally, the bill commits \$500k in FY 23, FY 24, and FY 25 on 9.1-9.6 for Bus Rapid Transit planning for the J, K & L Lines, a critical need to make sure the system meets future rider demand.

Second, the bill continues to support **walking and biking** through two key active transportation programs:

- Our state's Active Transportation Program supports the walking and biking infrastructure that makes nonmotorized transportation easier and safer for Minnesotans. The bill's \$12.5m on 2.26-2.31 would create better connected communities with more options for Minnesotans.
- Our Safe Routes to Schools program is a proven program that ensures students are able to get to their neighborhood school on time and safely. The \$1.859m on 3.3-3.7 would help this program protect more Minnesota kids.

Third, the budget makes overdue investments in two key **passenger rail** systems.

- The bill would appropriate \$51m in FY 23, \$17m in FY 24 & FY 25 on 3.16-3.28 to build the Northern Lights Express route from Minneapolis to Duluth.

- It would improve passenger rail service from the Twin Cities to Chicago by supporting a second daily train with \$740k in FY 23, \$1.49 in FY 24, and \$2.2m in FY 25 on 3.10-3.15.

Fourth, the bill builds on Minnesota's leadership on **vehicle electrification**.

- The bill makes critical investments in building out our electric vehicle infrastructure. Its \$6.8m in FY 23 and \$3.4m in FY 24 & FY 25 on 7.17-7.33 are well-timed and will support our statewide transition to cleaner transportation.
- The bill supports Metro Transit's transition to a zero-emission bus fleet with \$5m in FY 23, FY 24, and FY 25 on 8.23-8.32. This will help meet the agency's 2018 goal of switching to the purchase of 100% electric buses in 2022.

Fifth, the bill provides \$330k in FY 23 on 4.9-4.16 and \$2m in FY 23 on 5.11-5.20 for **Living Snow Fences**. This is both a weather preparedness and driver safety investment. It would make a difference on rural roads around our state.

Finally, the bill creates several **federal matches** (ex. \$2m for Climate Funding Maximization in FY 23, FY 24, & FY 25 on 8.1-8.7). These are must-do items that help ensure we make the most of our Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act opportunities.

Thank you for your leadership in creating a cleaner and more equitable transportation system for everyone in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114