

May 8, 2025

Dear Chair Dibble, Chair Koznick, Chair Koegel, and conference committee members,

Thank you for all of your hard work to advance HF 2438 through each of your respective bodies. I look forward to working with each of you to come together on a final agreement.

The Council supports several provisions found in either one or both versions of the transportation omnibus bill.

I appreciate that both bills include two Met Council priorities:

- Authorization for the Met Council to loan the Minnesota Department of Transportation funds from the regional transportation sales tax to advance the F Line BRT project.
- Making fares for Metro Mobility riders permanently free on regular route transit. This would continue part of the pilot fare project that went into effect following legislative action in the 2023 legislative session.

I also appreciate the inclusion of additional Met Council policy priorities in the Senate bill:

- Language from <u>SF 2038</u> (Pha) that would align statutory tools for the Metropolitan Council to procure goods and services with small businesses with the small and targeted business procurement authority already provided to Minnesota state agencies.
- Language from <u>SF 2886</u> (Johnson Stewart) that would change required Metropolitan Council transportation reporting requirements to streamline reporting processes, reduce redundancies, and optimize transparency.

Again, thank you for including these Council initiatives in the omnibus bill. Please reach out to me or Judd Schetnan (judd.schetnan@metc.state.mn.us) with any questions or comments. We are available to meet at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Zelle Chair