

Members of the House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee

By email

June 22, 2021

RE: HF10

Dear Chair Hornstein and members of the Committee:

East Metro Strong is a public + private partnership of two counties, six cities, and private employers working together to bring more and better transit investment to the East Metro to support job growth and economic development. Our members stretch from the City of White Bear Lake to the north, to the City of Cottage Grove to the south. Our members come together to support smart investment whether or not it happens to be in their city, their county, or in front of their business.

We come together today to thank you for the work in HF10, and especially to support the following provisions:

- *Funding for arterial Bus Rapid Transit projects*

Every new piece of data that comes out underlines how well these lines work to connect people to jobs and school – including during COVID. We support using what we've learned from our current aBRT projects to bring them to more Minnesotans.

- *Funding for Greater Minnesota Transit*

MnDOT has long documented the number of people in greater Minnesota who need good transit. That number has only increased recently for a variety of reasons, including aging populations and increasing vehicle prices. Thank you for recognizing that need and responding.

- *Funding for Metro Mobility*


The needs of Minnesotans who can't use regular transit services, and the challenge of funding Metro Mobility, have been the subject of much discussion. Thank you for recognizing these needs.

The proposed funding will directly connect hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans across the state to work, to school, and to medical appointments. It will further support many more Minnesotans as they build the infrastructure and transit vehicles.

We heard bi-partisan support in the Committee this year for other policies that are not included in HF10. We look forward to working with you to advance those in the future.

Thanks for your work this session.

Sincerely,



Will Schroer
Executive Director