



March 10, 2026

Dear Minnesota Legislators,

On behalf of DARTS, we are writing to express our support for Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and the continued operation of suburban transit providers serving communities across the south metro.

DARTS works to help older adults and caregivers live with independence and dignity in their homes and communities. Access to reliable transportation is a critical component of that independence. For many older adults, transit services help provide safe and dependable ways to reach medical appointments, grocery stores, community programs, and social connections.

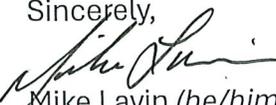
Suburban transit providers like MVTA play an important role in helping residents remain connected to their communities. For individuals who may no longer drive or who have limited transportation options, access to transit can make the difference between isolation and continued participation in community life. Transportation also supports caregivers and family members who assist older adults maintain their independence. When transit services are available and reliable, older adults have more opportunities to access essential services and remain active in their communities.

Suburban transit agencies were created to meet the unique transportation needs of suburban communities. Their responsive, community-grounded services help ensure that residents throughout the region have transportation options.

Proposals that would eliminate suburban “opt-out” transit providers could disrupt transportation options that many older adults and caregivers rely on every day. We encourage policymakers to preserve suburban transit providers like MVTA and continue supporting transportation systems that help older adults remain connected, independent, and engaged in their communities.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our communities.

Sincerely,

  
Mike Lavin (he/him)

President

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