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March 10, 2023

The Honorable Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Room 463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Frank Hornstein
House Transportation Finance Chair
Room 563 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Kari Dziedzic
Senate Majority Leader
Room 3113 Minnesota Senate Building,
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Scott Dibble
Senate Transportation Finance Chair
Room 3107 Minnesota Senate Building,
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Legislative Leaders,

I am writing this letter to express support for Hennepin County's request for \$200 million for the Blue Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) Extension project.

The Blue Line Extension will serve communities that are among the most racially and economically diverse and transit-reliant in Minnesota. Communities along this corridor have a disproportionate number of people experiencing poverty and a greater percentage of people of color and have been historically subject to underinvestment in transportation and other public resources. This project will improve accessibility for residents with shorter travel times to work, school, healthcare, and resources, while also spurring long overdue economic development and building wealth for working families.

State funding is crucial to meet the transportation needs of the region's fast-growing population, address historic economic and racial inequality, spur economic development and benefit the residents, businesses, and commerce in our state. The state's investment will help leverage hundreds of millions in federal matching dollars from the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, bringing significant federal resources to Minneapolis, the region and the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Jacob Frey
Mayor, City of Minneapolis