

3/30/2023

To: Members of the House and Senate Transportation Committee
Re: Transportation Funding

Why is effective, safe and affordable mass transit necessary? Let's look at this piece by piece.

- Evidence is no OVERWHELMING that we are facing a climate crisis of massive proportions AND that it is not possible to reach the goals we need to reach. It is clear we need to drastically increase the overall use of mass transit, biking, walking, etc and the only way to do that is by making those options appealing, affordable and convenient to us all. To make this transit system a reality we MUST invest in creating it NOW.
- To create a just society ALL members must have access to its opportunities. Currently that is not the case and transportation is often a significant barrier to many in obtaining well paid jobs, gaining access to educational opportunities and so on. Those most at risk of being impacted by those barriers are our communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities. Again, to truly give all groups equitable access we MUST invest significantly in our transit system.
- If we have learned anything in the last three years, we have learned how important our health is and in particular the health of those we love. Everyday that we as a community focus on single occupancy vehicles, we make our air dirtier and are damaging the health of those we love. Again, to address this issue and create healthy air to breathe we must look at electrifying our transit fleet but even more importantly increase our access and use to non-single occupancy vehicles. (ie busses, walking, biking)

I could go on and on but I think you get the point. We stand at a time of great challenge but also great opportunity. I am very hopeful that the State of Minnesota will lead the way for other states in boldly pursuing an efficient, clean and equitable mass transit system. To make this a reality we need the House, Senate and Governor to lead us into this new and exciting future.

Thank you!

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