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March 3, 2022

Rep. Frank Hornstein
Chair, Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
545 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF3767, HF3623, HF2997

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,

I write to express the City's support for development of the arterial bus rapid transit network and specifically, appropriation requests for the F, G and H lines. The success of arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) in the metro is well-known. The A-Line on Snelling Avenue serving St. Paul and Roseville and the C-Line on Penn Avenue serving Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis have both increased ridership in those corridors and have proven to be a service that people value and depend on. During the pandemic, ABRT routes retained significant ridership compared to other types of service.

The City of Minneapolis is happy to express support for the ABRT network including lines that do not directly touch the city because we understand a robust network of fast and reliable service will benefit everyone in the region and provide improved access to key destinations and services. ABRT is a cost-effective investment that encourages economic development, enhances mobility, and benefits the economy.

As we build-out this critical network, I would like to note that delivering ABRT as an integral part of a robust transportation system requires a "Complete Streets" approach. I encourage the State and Metro Transit to examine policies and practices so that projects are properly scoped and funded to ensure that all infrastructure improvements that are necessary are included.

ABRT projects need sidewalks that are accessible for all. Building and maintaining the right of way in accordance with the ADA is a requirement. ABRT projects may also benefit from elements such as bus priority lanes coordinated with local governments to improve speed and reliability, infrastructure improvements to prevent severe injury and death from traffic crashes, conditions that promote multi-modal transportation, and green elements aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change and managing stormwater.

Thank you for your consideration and all that you do to meet the transportation needs of Minnesotans.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Jacob Frey,
City of Minneapolis

