

428 Minnesota St., #500
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

March 20, 2023

Dear Chair Hornstein and members of the Committee:

East Metro Strong works with businesses, cities, and counties to bring more and better transportation choices to the East Metro. We also understand the value of quality transit to the whole region.

East Metro Strong supports HF2700 because:

1. People across the region need transit to connect to work, medical appointments, family—all the destinations of daily life.

That need is higher now than ever. Employers in a tight labor market need access to employees. Cars are more expensive than ever. Not everyone can drive; even if one can, cars are unaffordable to more people than ever.

2. Suburban transit providers have been creating successful new models to meet new transit needs.

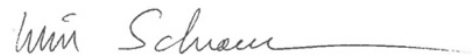
No one yet knows how travel patterns will evolve into the future. Microtransit options such as SW Prime and MVTA Connect are providing valuable connections while helping operators and users understand how new models and new routes can work.

The support for equipment replacement, service expansion, and microtransit in HF2700 will help operators build on the vital service they have been providing through the pandemic, and meet new needs.

On Transit Equity Day, East Metro Strong shared with you an economic case for more and better transit; other shared a variety of other reasons. HF2700 will help meet the transportation needs identified by your constituents from across the region.

Thank you for your work to create and support a transportation system that connects us all.

Sincerely,



Will Schroer
Executive Director