

March 6, 2024

Representative Frank Hornstein, Chair
House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
563 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF4268 - Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Scoping and Funding (ABRT)

Chair Hornstein and House Transportation Committee Members,

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and 11 Greater Minnesota counties.

Expanding Metro Transit's customary approach to scoping and funding Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (ABRT) projects was a priority identified by metropolitan counties related to adoption of the metropolitan area sales tax enacted in 2023.

Under current practice, Metro Transit's ABRT work focuses on, and funds, pedestrian accommodations and transit related improvements to only two of the four intersection quadrants impacted by an ABRT project. Completed ABRT projects involve substantially broader scoping to provide the intended access for all people and to ensure full ADA access.

Metro Transit's early engagement and collaboration with counties and local agencies to improve safety and mobility along the corridors is essential. We support that HF4268, authored by Representative Sencer-Mura, will require more comprehensive scoping of ABRT projects, and provide for project costs to be funded from regional sources.

Thank you for consideration of HF4268.

Sincerely,



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association

c: Steve Novak, MICA Transportation Legislative Liaison