



Testimony of Gregory White

February 23, 2021

Rep. Frank Hornstein
House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
545 State Office Building
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gregory White. I have had multiple disabilities since early 2000, including chronic arthritis, sleep apnea, neck, and back problem. I rely on an electric wheelchair to help me with my own mobility. I am very strong and do not give up despite my disability.

I have been riding the Metro Mobility bus since August 1999. It takes me to the grocery store, and everywhere else, I need to go. I have found that the drivers can be 30 minutes late, but they can only wait for you for five minutes. Sometimes I need more than five minutes. Everyone is late sometimes, but with a disability, this becomes more frequent. I also need them to be more flexible in the winter. They will not leave you out in the cold, but they are not flexible with the wait time of five minutes. There have been multiple occasions where I have witnessed drivers that are not trained to work the lift of the bus. During the winter months, having to wait for a driver or a new bus can be a health issue being out in the cold. I also think there needs to be an expansion of the metro system from east, west, south, and northbound.

I need your help to support full funding of public transportation. This includes Metro Mobility, regular route buses and light rail. I need your assistance to thrive and to have a better quality of life. This issue of transportation may seem small, but for people like me, this is my way of survival. I especially need Metro Mobility to function so that I can go out into the community and access supports. I hope that you can support increased funding for public transportation in the Transportation Omnibus spending bill. Help advocate for better public transportation for people with disabilities going forward.

Thank you so much for your time, and listening to my story.

Gregory White
St Paul, MN