

# *Move Minnesota Testimony* *Conference Committee on HF 1684*

*Transportation Finance Omnibus bill: ABRT*

*May 7, 2021*

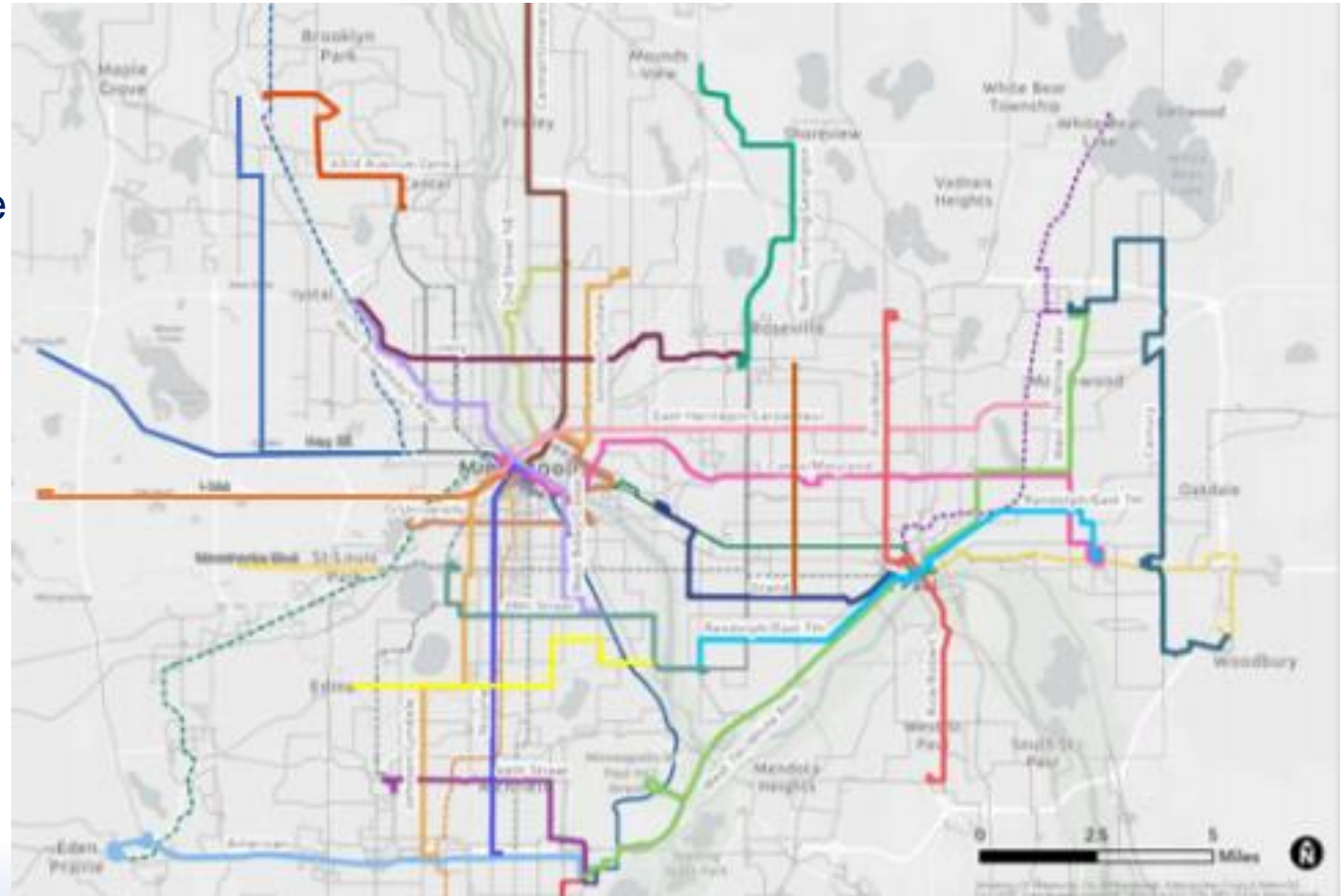
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# Our advocacy: A fair and just system for all

Invest such that in 10 years the metro area has a comprehensive transit system:

- That is of high enough quality (speed, frequency, reliability) that everyone will be interested in using it;
- That has sufficient coverage (walkability to lines) to allow people to rely on transit and forgo car ownership: ½ mile walk (average) within 694/494 beltway;
- That dramatically improves the lives of those who currently rely on transit; and
- That rolls out on a timeline commensurate with required emissions-reduction schedules and our moral obligation to address racial, economic, and class inequalities.



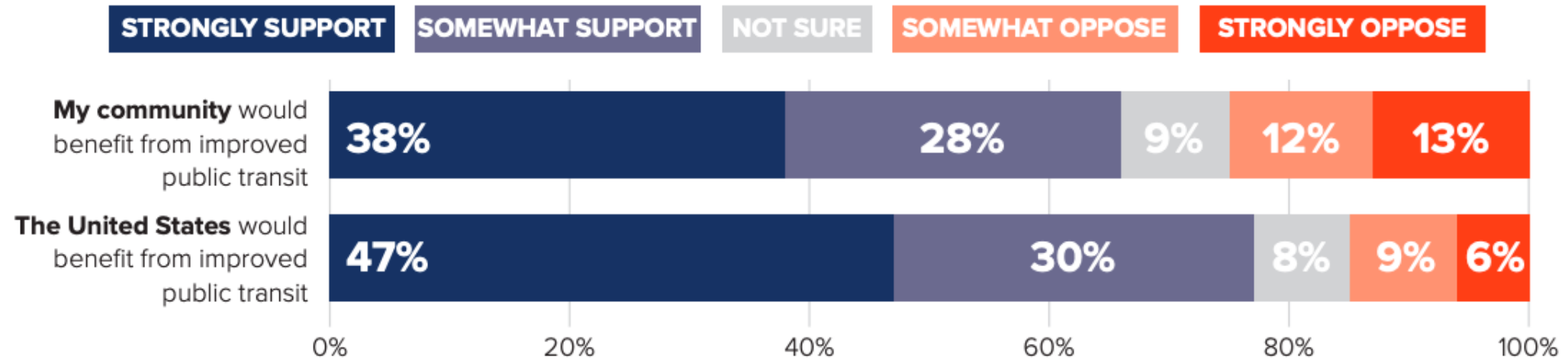
# What we know

- Despite COVID-19, ridership remains high
- Through the heart of the pandemic, ridership dipped the least on ABRT
- Introduction of new levels of service means year-to-year ridership comparisons aren't apples to apples
- Access to transit is a racial, social and economic equity issue:
  - **A disproportionate amount of transit riders are people of color.** BIPOC Minnesotans make up around 25% of the population of the twin cities yet account for 44% of Metro Transit riders.
  - 30% of people of color in cities do not have access to a car vs. 12% of white.
  - Providing adequate support to transit is an important step in the fight for racial justice.



# Americans want better transit

## IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSIT the US v. my community



**Among those who reported a car was their primary mode of transportation, about 80 percent reported agreeing with the statement they have “no choice” but to drive as much as they do.**

*Source: Data for Progress. “Voters Want a Better Transit System for America.” March 2020.*



## Recent action in other U.S. metro areas

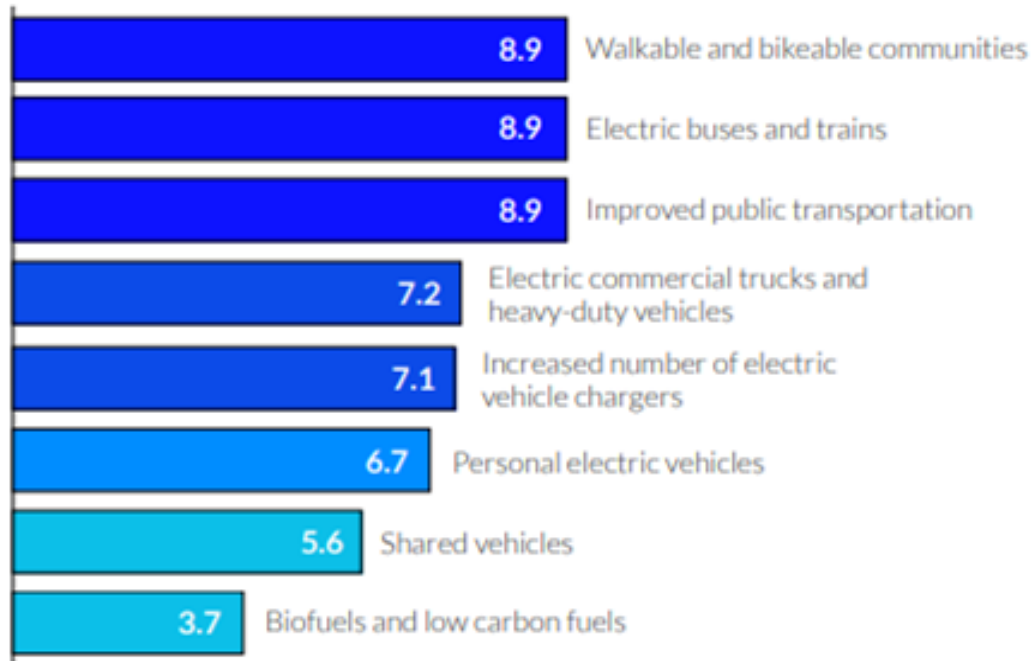
- Austin, TX: Just approved (2020) \$7.1B in funding via property tax increases for a transit system roll out.
- Denver, CO: Created a 2.5-cent increase in 2020 to the city's sales tax for fighting climate change, including transit investments.

*NOTE: Multimodal transportation has historically been underfunded—funding must correct for past lack of funds and support a just and sustainable future*



# Minnesotans want more transit

Public scoring results for transportation decarbonization strategies (10 = support)



Survey results from MnDOT Pathways report



Word cloud from Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan engagement

# What we must do

- Seize the opportunity to invest in our system while Minnesotans are contemplating how they move
  - Minnesotans will increasingly use transit– if it works
  - Personal economic recovery and savings fuels a larger recovery
- Ensure adequate funding to build out our ABRT system quickly. A 0.5% sales tax can build out 15 lines in the next 10 years.
- Make transit a priority



*Thank you*

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