

Dear Chair Hornstein,

Thank you for putting together such a critically important bill. Transit funding is an important tool to grow and support not just the Twin Cities metro, but the entire state. As I write this, my Amtrak train to Chicago is delayed by four and a half hours. For this reason I greatly appreciate the increased funding for better service between the Twin Cities and Chicago, providing us a train that doesn't have to come from Seattle, likely reducing many delays.

I also applaud the funding for the Northern Lights Express (NLX), which would provide incredible economic and recreational benefits to everyone along the corridor.

The metro area sales tax to fund transit properly is sorely needed: this would make transit a permanent priority in the Twin Cities metro, as it should be. Having a transit network that is safe, reliable, and frequent provides benefits far beyond getting from point A to point B without driving. It provides access to good jobs, healthcare, and housing that might not be accessible for those without a car. Simply providing transit access is one small step towards addressing income and health inequality in this state.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this bill and advocate for such a historic investment.

Sincerely,
Owen Young