

**The role of  
(arterial) Bus Rapid Transit in creating  
and connecting jobs in Minnesota**

**William Schroeer and B Kyle**

**Transportation Conference Committee**

May 7, 2021

## People love BRT

- Outperformed every other kind of transit in 2020
- “Star performer was rapid buses”  
– StarTribune



Video at: [betterbusesmsp.com](https://betterbusesmsp.com)

People love BRT

*Employers*  
ask for BRT

“The B Line is a very smart investment,” said Ecolab CEO Doug Baker, during a news conference Tuesday. “It will speed up transit greatly.”

Efficient and reliable public transit will help the St. Paul-based company, one of the largest employers downtown, attract and retain employees, he added.

- StarTribune

## People love BRT

*Residents  
ask for BRT*

### Public input on BRT, during COVID:

- Asking for Como/Maryland
  - Improves east-west service
  - Connects neighborhoods, key destinations, and U of M
  - Connects home, work, school
- Asking for Rice/Robert
  - Improves north-south connections
  - Connects residents and retail
  - Would improve speed and reliability

## People love BRT

*Residents  
ask for BRT*

### Public input on BRT, during COVID:

- Asking for Central
  - “I am a property owner in Fridley. The number of rental and housing units in Fridley is growing rapidly. The commuter line is excellent for moving people who work traditional work hours, however many residents of Fridley do not work traditional hours. Having additional bus access would bring new opportunities to a community that is growing...”
  - “It gets a lot of people where they need to be, even out to the suburbs/ Northtown where ppl can work.”

## People love BRT

*Residents &  
employers  
ask for BRT*

- Just as BRT remained heavily used during COVID, it will be in demand post-COVID.
- To the extent that travel patterns change post-COVID, BRT will better serve those patterns.

# C Line buses:

Buses for Minnesotans, made by Minnesotans, with materials sourced from Minnesota companies



Graphic courtesy of Metro Transit

BRT  
Buses are built  
here in  
Minnesota

#### Air filters

Bloomington, MN: Donaldson Company

#### Air lines

Arden Hills, MN: Nott Company

#### Aluminum extrusion

Rice, MN: NETTwork Manufacturing

#### Fittings

Chaska, MN: Swagelok Minnesota

#### FRP (fiberglass)

St. Cloud, MN: Carfair Composites

#### Hardware

Minneapolis, MN: Allegis Corporation

#### Hoses and fittings

Waite Park, MN: Air-Hydraulic Systems

#### HVAC and filters

Bloomington, MN: Thermo King

#### Metal fabrication

Cambridge MN: RITZ Machine Works  
St. Joseph, MN: Sunset Manufacturing  
Minneapolis, MN: Triangle Precision  
Stamping

#### Oils and grease

Golden Valley, MN: Lubrication  
Technologies

#### Steel fabrication

Bloomington, MN: Dalsin Industries

#### WIFI

Eden Prairie, MN: GetWireless

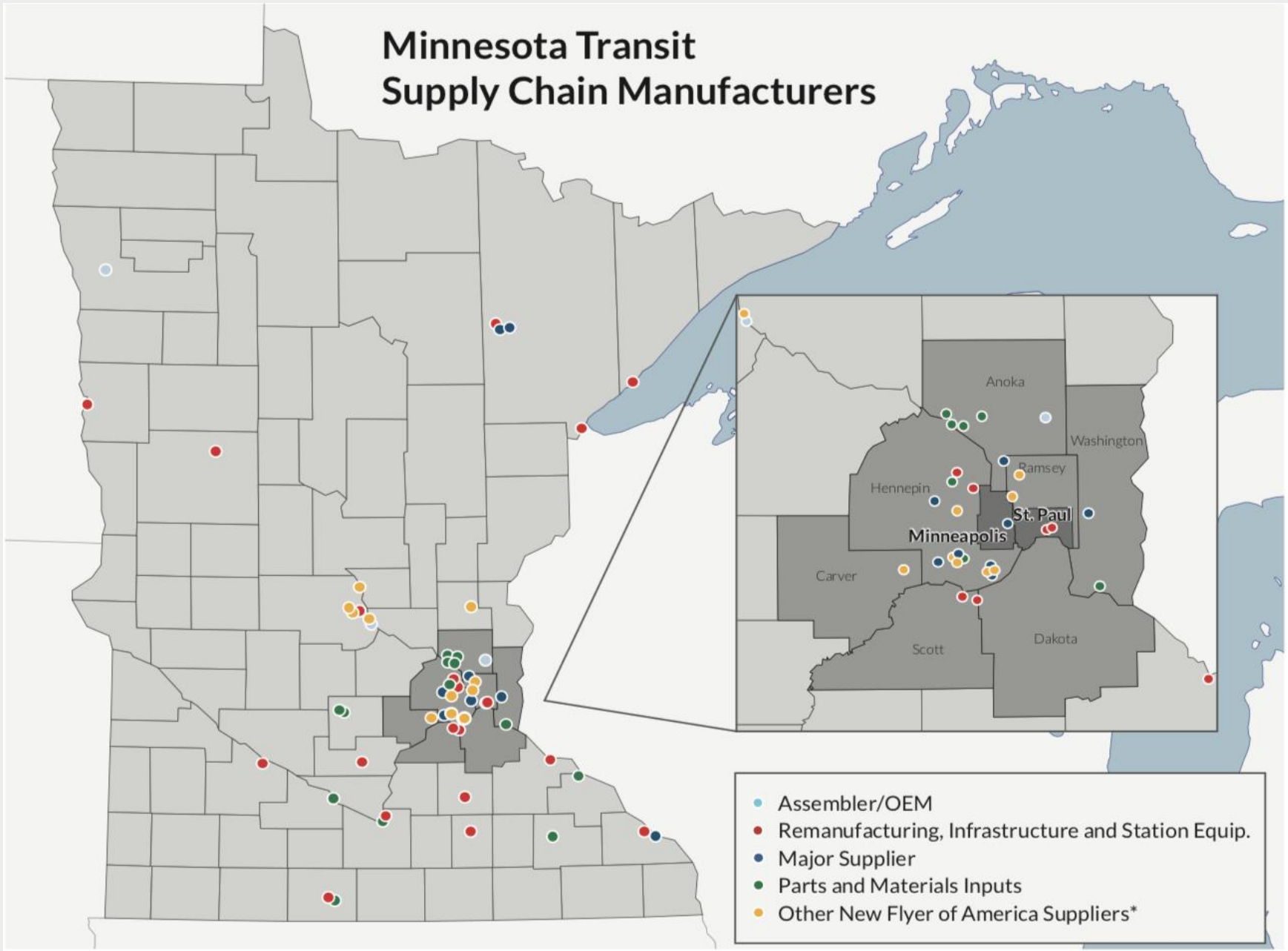
#### 3M products

Eden Prairie, MN: Replenex



Source: Minnesota Transit Supply Chain, [bit.ly/2CxBkwg](https://bit.ly/2CxBkwg)

# Minnesota Transit Supply Chain Manufacturers





*ITASCAproject*

What is the  
Return on  
Investment  
in Transit?

**East Metro**   
**STRONG**

 **MPLS**  
REGIONAL CHAMBER  
Minneapolis Bloomington Northeast

**Who benefits  
from better transit  
service?**

**Study: For every dollar invested in transit, Twin Cities  
gets \$2.90 in benefits**

Apr 25, 2019, 2:07pm CDT

**MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL  
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

## Who benefits from better transit service?



**81%** of the benefits go to people and businesses using the region's streets and highways.



**19%** go to people using transit.



Lower vehicle operating costs alone exceed the cost of building and operating new transit.

## Bus Rapid Transit

1. Is used *including by essential workers;*
2. Is asked for *by urban and suburban residents and employers;*
3. Creates jobs *across Minnesota.*

# Thank you

[will@eastmetrostrong.com](mailto:will@eastmetrostrong.com)

[bkyle@stpaulchamber.com](mailto:bkyle@stpaulchamber.com)