

February 29, 2024

RE: Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Scoping and Funding

Chair Hornstein and Dibble,

Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey Counties, along with the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have come together as stakeholders to call for Metro Transit to change their approach in scoping and programming Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (ABRT) projects to ensure full ADA access and collaboration with local agencies to improve safety and mobility along the corridors.

Our agencies fully support expansion of ABRT to advance regional goals, including mobility, economic growth, equity, and climate action. However, our regional success relies upon the planning and implementation of transit projects in a collaborative manner, including Metro Transit's engagement with local partners early in the development process to fully scope and fund these projects. It is critical that project scoping and funding address the needs of the entire community.

The current scope of Metro Transit's ABRT work is focused on the station area which typically includes shelters, message boards, ticket machines and pedestrian accommodations in two of the four intersection quadrants. This does not ensure access for all people to this important public transportation service. Metro Transit has been willing to include additional transit priority infrastructure, accessibility and safety improvements into ABRT projects, however, the financial burden is placed on local agencies. This approach is not comprehensive nor sustainable based on the level of funding needed and frequency of new ABRT projects.

Elected officials and staff at all levels have been discussing the issue of scoping and funding with Metro Transit. We were promised that project scoping and programming for future ABRT projects will use a more collaborative approach. However, the Met Council has not changed how they scope and program these projects, leaving us seeking a legislative change.

Based on this, Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey Counties, and the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul ask for more accountability from Metro Transit to require that ABRT projects include transit priority infrastructure and legislation to require full ADA upgrades to ensure these lines are accessible for all people and better collaboration

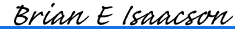
with local agencies to ensure the success of these projects for the communities they are serving.

Sincerely,




Julie Jeppson (Mar 1, 2024 17:06 CST)

Commissioner Julie Jeppson
Transportation Committee Chair
Anoka County



Brian E Isaacson (Mar 1, 2024 11:52 CST)

Brian Isaacson
Director of Public Works
Ramsey County



Lisa Cerney
Assistant County Administrator – Public
Works
Hennepin County



Bryan Dodds (Mar 5, 2024 09:35 CST)

Bryan Dodds
Deputy Director/City Engineer
City of Minneapolis – Public Works
Department



Sean Kershaw
St. Paul Director of Public Works