Name: Catherine Windyk

Minneapolis Resident and frequent rider of the A Line BRT, 74 local bus, and Blue Line light rail

Testimony:

I am mostly supportive of the Transportation Safety bill. Behavior that is annoying (littering, holding the doors) should be handled differently than behavior that is dangerous (fighting, doing drugs), and both should be addressed before focusing on fare enforcement. If service is safe, convenient, reliable, frequent, and pleasant, more people who have a choice will choose to ride, which hopefully will improve fare collection and anti-social behaviors. I think ensuring the safety and good experiences of those currently riding, as well as attracting new riders should be the focus right now.

I would love to see non-police presence on the light rail regularly so that I didn't feel I had to call someone for help if needed. Personally I am hesitant to use the "text for safety" option both because I worry about police interactions and because I don't want to delay the train for other riders if police intervention wouldn't necessarily help the situation anyway.

I do not think that eating or drinking on transit should be prohibited. As long as littering is prohibited, I don't see a need to ban eating or drinking. One of the benefits of taking transit is the ability to multitask because you aren't focused on driving. Eating or drinking while on transit is not likely to impact other passengers when done responsibly, and is just a nice thing to be able to do. When I am using transit as part of a multi-modal trip (biking being another mode, for instance), I want to be able to drink water without worry.