



April 19, 2022

Representative Rena Moran, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
449 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Moran:

In advance of the Ways & Means Committee hearing on HF1683, the omnibus transportation bill, I would like to share the Metropolitan Council's perspective on some provisions in the bill that would impact the regional transit system.

First, I want to express our appreciation for the investment in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) matching funds for electric buses and infrastructure for our transit system. These investments will help Metro Transit advance our Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan and achieve the environmental benefits that electrifying our system will have for the region.

I am also grateful for the support for Arterial Bus Rapid Transit and want to thank Chair Hornstein and the Transportation Committee for their continued partnership in the build-out of an interconnected transit system.

The adoption of an amendment in the Transportation Committee to provide statutory authority for the Metropolitan Council to establish an administrative citations program for fare enforcement is also greatly appreciated. This is an initiative that the Metropolitan Council has worked with legislators on over several legislative sessions and hopes to see enacted this year. We believe authorization and implementation of an administrative citations program will improve our service and customer experience.

As noted in our testimony before the Transportation Committee, we would like to have further discussions regarding the transit signal priority planning group to ensure that there is not a duplication of work that is currently underway, and that adequate time is provided to complete the required report.

Lastly, I would also like to take the opportunity to ask you to consider investing in the Blue Line Extension. This project is an essential component of our regional transit and transportation system. The Governor has recommended \$200 million for the project and your strong consideration would be appreciated.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these comments and I look forward to working with you over the next few weeks to find an agreement on a bill. Please reach out to me or Judd Schetnan with any questions or comments. We are available to meet at your convenience.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Zelle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles A. Zelle
Chair, Metropolitan Council