



## State Representative District 60B

# Frank Hornstein

**APRIL 29, 2005 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Budget Woes for Metro Transit Mean Cuts to Local Bus Routes, Increased Fares**

*Dear Friends,*

*As the legislative session enters its final weeks, the action here at the Capitol can reach a hectic pace.*

*In order to be able to provide constituents with an easy to read update on the important work of the legislature, I have decided to share with you a brief legislative update each of these final weeks.*

*You may have read reports about Metro Transit's current \$66 million budget shortfall, their largest budget crisis of the past two decades.*

*Without action by the Governor and the Legislature, the Met Council will follow through with their proposed service cuts. In their plan, 70% of all routes will be affected, and one in every five transit routes will be completely eliminated.*

*Minneapolis and Saint Paul take the hardest hit, with 50% of the cuts taking place in the core urban area, even though the cities only represent 23% of the metro area population.*

*During times of economic recovery, I believe it is even more important to give working people and families the tools they need to succeed. This means increasing access to affordable healthcare and childcare services and ensuring that working people will be able to get to their jobs through reliable and affordable transit options.*

*We have enjoyed some success in forwarding transit options in the state with the successful inclusion of Northstar Commuter Rail in this year's bonding bill and the success of LRT in Minneapolis. However, these victories will fall far short of their promise if we do not have funds available in Metro Transit to pay for operational expenses and the busses that will feed into these transit systems.*

*We must work now to find a long-term solution. That is why I have joined in supporting the bipartisan "Transportation Choices 20/20," a bill with a clear vision for improving transit statewide (HF1735). This would enable us to make real investments with dedicated funding for transit and meet the needs of our workers, our seniors and our citizens with disabilities.*

*The following is a list of impacted transit routes in our area. I encourage you to contact the Governor and the Metropolitan Council with your personal stories or concerns about transit cuts.*

*As always, I look forward to your calls, emails and visits. Please feel free to contact my office with comments on this or any other issue of state government.*

*Sincerely,*

### **CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE FRANK HORNSTEIN**

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# LOCAL IMPACTS OF MET TRANSIT CUTS IN DISTRICT 6B

## LOCAL ROUTES SET FOR REDUCED SERVICE:

Route 4	Route 146
Route 6	Route 156 (Express)
Route 11	Route 535
Route 12	Route 553 (Express)
Route 17	Route 554 (Express)
Route 18	Route 557 (Express)
Route 23	Route 576 (Express)
Route 25	Route 578 (Express)
Route 46	Route 597 (Express)
Route 135	

## PROPOSED FARE INCREASES:

The Met Council plans to raise fares by 25 cents across the board for regular route service and raise Metro Mobility fares by 50 cents. The increase of off peak fares since 2000 has been 50%; peak fare have increased 33%. Fares for Metro Mobility, a service for Minnesotans with disabilities, have increased 40% in the same time period.

## REPRESENTATIVE FRANK HORNSTEIN WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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