

# Minnesota House of Representatives



# Minnesota State Senate

May 12, 2022

Council President Andrea Jenkins  
Council Vice President Linea Palmisano  
Council Member Andrew Johnson, Chair-PWI Committee  
Council Member Elliott Payne  
Council Member Robin Wonsley Worlobah  
Council Member Michael Rainville  
Council Member LaTrisha Vetaw  
Council Member Jeremiah Ellison  
Council Member Jamal Osman  
Council Member Lisa Goodman  
Council Member Jason Chavez  
Council Member Aisha Chughtai  
Council Member Emily Koski

Dear Members of the Minneapolis City Council,

Thank you for your work to promote public transit and sustainable transportation in Minneapolis. Investments in transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure are critical to the city's goals to address the climate emergency, promote equity, provide economic opportunities, and improve mobility for all Minneapolitans.

We appreciate your support of our efforts to direct state resources to transit and active transportation infrastructure in Minneapolis. Most recently, you have assisted us in securing significant funding for five new arterial bus rapid transit lines. These include the B,C, D, E , and F lines which will serve all parts of our city.

Arterial bus rapid transit (a-BRT) constitutes a new and very successful transit mode. Even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, ridership on a-BRT remained steady carrying frontline workers to critical jobs. Prior to the pandemic, a-BRT significantly exceeded ridership projections. A-BRT is poised to be an important and robust part of our post pandemic recovery.

During the 2021 legislative session, with your support, we secured \$57 million for the E and F lines which will significantly improve transit in Minneapolis. This was a hard fought and rare bi-partisan legislative victory on a transit issue. Of this appropriation, \$40 million was allocated to complete the E Line which will connect the University of Minnesota and Southdale and replace the current number 6 line. The E Line represents the single most important transit investment of this legislative biennium.

We must maximize this significant E Line investment by ensuring that rapid buses can move efficiently and unimpeded through congested areas. **One such area is on Hennepin Avenue, between Franklin Avenue and Lake Street. We support inclusion of an all day dedicated lane for the E Line along this stretch of Hennepin Avenue as part of the Hennepin Avenue Redesign project.**

Our position is informed in part by Metro Transit's August 4th letter to Brette Hjelle, stating that, "all-day bus lanes are critical to the success of both the Hennepin Avenue reconstruction project and the METRO E Line."

Hennepin Avenue does not experience only morning and evening commuter peaks. Throughout the day the corridor experiences heavy use. The Metro Transit letter points out that, “...transit needs, and the City’s policy goals [mobility, economic opportunity and climate], cannot be met without prioritizing all-day dedicated bus lanes.” They assert that, “Data indicate the need for all day bus lanes... and that buses in this corridor are slow and unreliable throughout the day including off peak and weekends.”

Furthermore, Metro Transit’s August 4, 2021 letter states that, “with redesign, dedicated bus lanes will be more important than ever.” They add that based on the strong ridership increases of 30 to 50 percent for the A and C lines, the E Line is “well-positioned for success,” and that, “speed and reliability improvements will reduce disparities.”

According to the Metro Transit communication, “48 percent of Route 6 riders have household incomes below \$35,000 and 36 percent of riders are people of color,” with those percentages being a higher proportion of riders during the off-peak hours. **Schedule interruptions and delays will suppress ridership, and is tantamount to forcing the route to fail, the effort and resource it took to create it will have been wasted.**

We must now maximize the State and Federal investments in the E-Line Arterial Bus Rapid Transit and the City and Federal investments in Hennepin Avenue. Inclusion of dedicated transit lanes will improve mobility, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote equity and economic development. Bus lanes have been planned to work in tandem with other improvements to ensure continued progress and optimal benefits for Minneapolis residents when the E-Line opens for service.

We urge you to ensure a successful E Line opening, and retain exclusive bus lane dedication as part of the Hennepin redesign project.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for your service to the City of Minneapolis.

Sincerely,

Minneapolis Legislative delegation



Esther Agbaje – 59B  
State Representative



Jim Davnie – 63A  
State Representative



Emma Greenman – 63B  
State Representative



Aisha Gomez – 62B  
State Representative



Hodan Hassan – 62A  
State Representative



Frank Hornstein - 61A  
State Representative



Sydney Jordan – 60A  
State Representative



Fue Lee - 59A  
State Representative



Jamie Long – 61B  
State Representative



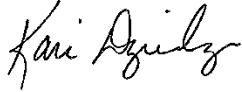
Mohamud Noor - 60B  
State Representative



Bobby Joe Champion – SD 59  
State Senator



D. Scott Dibble – SD 61  
State Senator



Kari Dziedzic – SD 60  
State Senator



Omar Fateh – SD 62  
State Senator



Patricia Torres Ray – SD 63  
State Senator