



The Honorable Mark Dayton, Governor of Minnesota
The Honorable Tom Bakk, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives
The Honorable David Hann, Minnesota Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Paul Thissen, Minnesota House of Representatives Minority Leader

June 23, 2016
Sent via Email

It is the responsibility of Minnesota's political leaders to act. Gridlock is not an acceptable response.

The 2016 legislative session ended with a veto of a flawed tax bill and without passage of either a transportation bill or a bonding bill. The members of 2020 Partners believe we need a special session because our roads and bridges are crumbling, our workers require transit, and our public infrastructure cries out for the investments in the bonding bill.

We represent businesses in downtown Minneapolis and as Minnesotans we have more in common with businesses across the state than some political pundits would have you think. Roads, bridges, and transit facilitate the movement of our goods, our clients, and our staff. We clearly benefit from proximity to the interstate highway system and the two LRT lines that connect us to St. Paul, the airport, the Mall of America, and Dakota County via a Bus Rapid Transit line. We look forward to being connected to the business centers in Eden Prairie and Brooklyn Park and all the cities in between. Inaction by our legislative leadership could snuff out those possibilities.

A statewide poll conducted in 2013 by the Twin West, Minneapolis, and St. Paul Area Chambers of Commerce found 70% support for the supposedly controversial Southwest LRT line. Political leaders who paint this one LRT line and LRT investments more broadly as too controversial are out of touch with the Minnesota business community and the clear majority of Minnesotans.

Clearly there's statewide popular support for transportation and transit investments. Additionally:

- 44 member organizations of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Federation signed a letter supporting transit investments,
- 200+ county officials from across Minnesota signed a letter requesting a bonding bill and a transportation bill that included transit investments, and
- 50+ Mayors from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities also indicated their support.

Legislative proposals to build LRT would allow metro counties to build transit bringing millions of federal dollars into the state and eliminate any state contribution to the capital or operating costs of the new LRT lines.

It's time to fix our roads and bridges, build transit, fund a bonding bill, and pass a tax bill to benefit all Minnesotans. It's time to move beyond destructive gridlock and seize the opportunity to build a modern transit system for the next century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "NICK KOCH". The letters are bold and somewhat stylized, with a cursive-like flow.

Nick Koch, Chair
The 2020 Partners Steering Committee

2020 Partners is a forum to facilitate the continuing transformation of a vital and unique place. Its goal is to lay the foundation and attract investment for future development by knitting together communities and leveraging the assets of Target Field, Minneapolis Farmers Market, transit and energy.

www.the2020partners.com

The 2020 Partners membership includes the following stakeholders, along with many individual participants:

Minnesota Twins Baseball Club	Minnesota Ballpark Authority	Minnesota Timberwolves Lynx
Hines Interests	Covanta Energy Corporation	United Properties
North Loop Neighborhood Association	Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association	Warehouse District Business Association
	HGA Architects & Engineers	