



April 19, 2017

Sent Via Email

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As a public/private stakeholder group in the Twin Cities Metropolitan region who are dedicated to the continued transformation of our community through economic investment and development, we are writing to urge you to continue federal investment in transit infrastructure. We are deeply concerned by Administration efforts to discontinue the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program which would remove a vital economic development tool proven to leverage significant private investment in our community. We understand and appreciate the Administration's desire to leverage public transportation funding with private investment and can affirmatively say—because we have done it—that this federal program has accomplished this goal in the Twin Cities region and is poised to build on this success.

2020 Partners is an evolving private and public forum that organizes to facilitate the continuing transformation of a vital and unique place. Its goal is to lay the foundation and attract investment for future development in the North Loop by knitting together communities and leveraging district assets with a special emphasis on Target Field, Minneapolis Farmers Market, transit and energy. The members of 2020 Partners represent businesses in downtown Minneapolis who have realized the economic and public benefit of transit with the extremely successful Blue and Green lines. Many of our business investments are predicated on transit.

As demonstrated by the success of existing transit projects which have been completed in partnership with the Federal government and those that are in the development phases, our region is committed to a world class transportation system which leverages all the resources available to advance our economic growth. As businesses, community organizations and major investors, we can confirm that any funding for these projects returns an economic benefit which is a significant multiple of the cost of the project. Already, we have seen billions of dollars in construction, development around the transit lines, new jobs, and related business as a direct result of transit development in our region. Continued development is critical to the success of our region and the local, national, and multi-national businesses who call this region home.

Once again, we strongly urge you and the Administration to reconsider efforts to close the Capital Investment Grant program pipeline to new projects which would leverage significant private economic investment in our communities. We firmly believe that projects in our region, which include both Light Rail Transit and Bus Rapid Transit, have proven that they will leverage significant private investment now and well into the future.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions that you or members of the Administration may have.

Sincerely,



Nick Koch  
Chairman, 2020 Partners Steering Committee

cc: The Honorable Tim Walz  
The Honorable Jason Lewis  
The Honorable Erik Paulsen  
The Honorable Betty McCollum  
The Honorable Keith Ellison  
The Honorable Tom Emmer  
The Honorable Collin Peterson  
The Honorable Rick Nolan

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	Target Corporation	Minneapolis Downtown Council
HGA Architects & Engineers	North Loop Neighborhood Association	Covanta Energy Corporation
Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association		Warehouse District Business Association

[www.the2020partners.com](http://www.the2020partners.com)