



May 17, 2017

[Sent Via Email](#)

Governor Mark Dayton

Majority Leader Paul Gazelka

Speaker Kurt Daudt

Senator Scott Newman

Representative Paul Torkelson

Dear Governor Dayton, Majority Leader Gazelka, Speaker Daudt, Senator Newman and Representative Torkelson:

Because of its importance, we again strongly urge you not to support any legislation which would impede continued development of transit lines or eliminate, restrict or limit available funding. Any such legislation would have serious negative economic consequences and affect availability of transit to the public. 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. We request your positive assistance to maintain the momentum of valuable transit projects as currently in progress and planned

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 deeply concerned with certain legislative proposals which would be problematic for light rail transit development.

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 light rail 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 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 these projects return an economic benefit which is a significant multiple of the cost of the projects. 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.

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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
Chair, 2020 Partners Steering Committee
Phone: 612-758-4543

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

Minnesota Twins Baseball Club
Hines Interests
HGA Architects & Engineers
Downtown Minneapolis
Neighborhood Association

Minnesota Ballpark Authority
Minneapolis
Downtown Council
North Loop
Neighborhood Association

Minnesota Timberwolves | Lynx
Target Corporation
Covanta Energy Corporation
Warehouse District
Business Association

www.the2020partners.com