



April 19, 2017

Sent Via Email

Senator Scott Newman  
3105 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Paul Torkelson  
381 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Newman and Representative Torkelson:

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.

We 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.

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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

cc: The Honorable Mark Dayton, Governor  
Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka  
House Speaker Kurt Daudt  
Senator John Jasinski                      Representative John Petersberg  
Senator Mary Kiffmeyer                  Representative Linda Runbeck  
Senator David Osmek                      Representative Jon Koznick  
Senator Dan Sparks                        Representative John Howe

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

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