



August 11, 2017

FTA Program Manager
Office of Program Management
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear FTA Program Manager;

We are writing, on behalf of The 2020 Partners, in support of the FY17 Competitive Funding Opportunity grant application submittal for the for the Metro Transit Heywood II Bus Garage. The 2020 Partners is an advocacy group of stakeholders located in the neighborhoods surrounding Target Field, and comprised of businesses, government and neighborhood residents united to encourage economic development in the west side of downtown Minneapolis

Metro Transit's bus system is the backbone of public transit in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and provides 71% of the 82.6 million annual rides in the region. Currently, Metro Transit cannot add any additional peak (rush) hour bus service without additional bus capacity.

The Metro Transit Heywood II Bus Garage, located in the North Loop, will provide additional bus storage, operations and support functions, and maintenance space to support continued growth in ridership demand and upcoming service expansion identified in the regional 2015-2030 Service Improvement Plan (SIP) including multiple Arterial Bus Rapid Transit and Bus Rapid Transit Lines as well as core urban bus service improvements.

Future improvements in the regional transit network will have a profound effect, creating a region that is more equitable, economically competitive and sustainable. Increased bus service will connect people to education and employment opportunities, recreation, shopping and other activities.

We believe a grant to support the expansion of the bus garage embodies the principles which unite The 2020 Partners and will contribute exponentially to the robust growth of our community. We urge the FTA to support and favorably consider the Metro Transit Heywood II Bus Garage for FY17 Competitive Funding Opportunity grant application.

On behalf of The 2020 Partners,

Dan Collison, ED

Nick Koch,

CC: Mary Gustafson, Manager of Grants