

TRANSIT for Livable Communities



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Minnesota Votes Yes for Better Transit!

Transportation Amendment Victory Provides Additional \$120 Million Per Year for Transit Projects

ST. PAUL (November 8th, 2006)—Minnesotans “Voted YES” for a transportation system that supports increased bus and rail transit, as well as better maintained roads. The Transportation Amendment establishes the first dedicated funding source for transit in the state, giving transit the reliable source of funding that highways have had for 50 years.

Passing the Transportation Amendment provides \$120 million per year to keep key transit projects—including the Central Corridor light rail transit line, Northstar Commuter Rail, and the I-35W, Cedar Avenue, and Bottineau Boulevard bus rapid transit lines—on track. It also eliminates the need for fare increases and service reductions—cuts that would have happened if the Amendment didn’t pass.

“Passing this Amendment shows that people living in this state want to fund more bus, light rail, and commuter rail options, in addition to maintaining good roads,” says Lea Schuster, Executive Director of Transit for Livable Communities. “We will continue working with our elected officials to give Minnesota a more balanced transportation system, either through a regional sales tax or more flexible funding.”

With one million new people living in Minnesota by 2020, our state urgently needs more transit to limit congestion, reduce transportation costs for families and businesses, and maintain the region’s air and water quality. Transit for Livable Communities is working to complete the Met Council’s Transportation plan—which would dramatically expand the availability of public transit in the seven county Twin Cities metro—by 2020. Funding from the amendment is projected to provide about forty percent of the necessary funding.

Transit for Livable Communities, along with the Transit Partners Coalition, will reintroduce the Transportation Choices 2020 (TC2020) initiative at the legislature this year. TC2020 proposes a new local source of transit revenue to fully fund the regional Transportation Policy Plan by 2020, ensuring that Minnesotans can travel safely and affordably.

“Minnesotans are hungry for more transportation choices,” says RT Rybak, Mayor of Minneapolis. “The Amendment gives us the stability we need to protect current service and a good start on building a 21st century transportation system in this state.”

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Transit for Livable Communities is a citizen-based non-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life in Minnesota communities through a balanced transportation system that encourages transit, walking, biking, and transit-oriented development. Transit for Livable Communities was founded in 1996 and is funded through private donations and foundation grants.