



TRANSPORTATION CHOICES 2020

TAKE ACTION!

GOAL

In 2007, the Minnesota state legislature will invest in a transportation system that will dramatically expand the availability of transit, bicycling, and walking facilities in Minnesota.

NEED

Public transit makes our communities more vibrant and successful, connecting our region and shaping communities that we are proud to call home. Unfortunately, what we want from a transportation system and what state policies deliver is increasingly disconnected. It's time for our state legislature to have the courage to invest in a transportation system that will help our region prosper—both today and tomorrow.

SOLUTION

Pass the Transportation Choices 2020 initiative, which uses a half-cent sales tax in the seven county metropolitan area to implement the Metropolitan Council's transit plan by 2020 rather than 2030, and nine percent of Transportation Amendment revenues to substantially expand transit in greater Minnesota.

Specifically, Transportation Choices 2020 will:

- **Construct eight dedicated bus/rail transitways and double bus service by 2020.** A transportation system is a region's circulatory system—and transitways are the arteries. Each transit line, whether it's the Rush Line or the 21 bus line, creates a healthier transportation system, making it easier for all Minnesotans to reach their destinations.
- **Create better transit facilities and new park & ride capacity.** Transit stops are natural gathering places, and they should be comfortable, safe, and well-lit places to wait for the bus or train. Park and rides are increasingly popular options for people who want to use transit but don't live near a transit stop—and many of the suburban park and rides are currently filled to capacity.
- **Provide revenue to local governments for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects.** Local agencies know the needs of their communities; this revenue will give them the flexibility to respond to those needs quickly and efficiently.
- **Expand transit in Greater Minnesota.** Transit is important to greater Minnesota—many young people and elderly residents living outside the metro can't use cars to reach their grocery stores, doctor's appointments, and churches. Also, Minneapolis and St. Paul aren't the only cities in Minnesota—Duluth, Rochester, St. Cloud, and other cities need transit too.

Minnesota shouldn't have to wait a quarter century for the transportation results we need now. With at least half a million new residents living in the metro area by 2020, we need to have the courage to invest in a future that takes care of all of our state's residents.

TAKE ACTION FOR A CONNECTED REGION: WHAT CAN I DO?

Too often, legislators say they don't hear from community members when it comes to public transit needs. That's where you can make a difference.

Your voices and energy can make or break this initiative. We need you to tell your legislators that you support comprehensive funding for a comprehensive transportation system.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

- **Who Is My Legislator?** To find out the names of your legislators, you can call the House (651-296-2146) and Senate (651-296-0504) information desks. Tell them your home address, and they will connect you to the right person.

You can also go to the Minnesota District Finder at <http://geo.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/districts/start.html>. Enter in your home address and zip code, and it will automatically generate the names and contact information for your state legislators.

- **What's the Best Way to Contact a Legislator?** The best way to get a legislator's attention is with a short, well-reasoned, and personal letter.

You can also call your legislator's office. Most likely, you'll speak with a legislative aide who will write down your comments and pass them along to the legislator.

Email is also effective, but it's most effective when it's a specific message to your representative or senator.

When sending anything to your legislator, remember to include your name, home address, and phone number.

- **What Do I Say?** Say that you support comprehensive funding for a comprehensive transportation system, and Transportation Choices 2020 is the way to achieve that. If you have a personal story for supporting transit, it makes your case much more powerful.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are one of the most widely read sections of the newspaper. Keep your letters concise (150-200 words), and lead with your most important information. Focus on one main point and make a compelling case—wit, edgy humor, and pointing out the absurd can go a long way. Include your full name, home address, and phone number with your letter.

TRANSIT PARTNERS

Transit Partners is a diverse alliance of organizations that have joined together to support the Transportation Choices 2020 initiative. It is calling for a new direction in transportation policy—comprehensive funding for a comprehensive transit system.

Member Organizations

Alliance for Metropolitan Stability; Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1005; Fresh Energy; ISAIHA; League of Women Voters Minnesota; Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy; Minnesota Senior Federation; Sierra Club, North Star Chapter; Transit for Livable Communities

Endorsing Organizations

AFL-CIO Minnesota; Jewish Community Action; Minnesota Public Health Association; National Federation of the Blind for Minnesota; University United

CONTACT

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