



TRANSIT

for Livable Communities

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July 11, 2016

Mayor Betsy Hodges
City of Minneapolis
350 5th Street, Room 331
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Kevin Reich, City Council Ward 1
Cam Gordon, City Council Ward 2
Jacob Frey, City Council Ward 3
Barbara Johnson, City Council Ward 4
Blong Yang, City Council Ward 5
Abdi Warsame, City Council Ward 6
Lisa Goodman, City Council Ward 7

Elizabeth Glidden, City Council Ward 8
Alondra Cano, City Council Ward 9
Lisa Bender, City Council Ward 10
John Quincy, City Council Ward 11
Andrew Johnson, City Council Ward 12
Linea Palmisano, City Council Ward 13

Dear Mayor Hodges and City Council Members,

Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) is a non-profit, non-partisan, advocacy organization whose mission is to *“Transform Minnesota’s transportation system to strengthen community, improve the health and opportunity of all people, foster a sound economy, and protect our natural resources.”* TLC has long advocated for expanding multimodal transportation options in Minnesota. We managed the Bike Walk Twin Cities federal Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) from 2007-2014, working with local jurisdictions including Minneapolis to add 100 miles of new bikeways and expand access to bicycling across all communities.

TLC enthusiastically supports the selection of Robin Hutcherson as the new Minneapolis Public Works Director. Transportation in, and to and from, Minneapolis is undergoing significant and important changes that expand options for all, support placemaking, health, and economic vitality, and reflect changing demographics and consumer preferences. Census data shows that transit, bicycling and walking are all on the rise, and increasingly residents and visitors would prefer to get around without depending on car ownership.

We believe the city’s Climate Action Plan which calls for reduced vehicle miles travelled while the city grows should provide strong guidance and accountability for everything the Public Works Department does.

Minneapolisians have shown they are ready to embrace continued progress toward more complete streets and the funding and buildout of expanded transportation options. Achieving a larger mode share for transit, bicycling, and walking will take strong leadership from the top and smart partnering with the full range of community voices. It is critical for the Twin Cities region and the state, that Minneapolis continues to lead in adopting innovative, forward looking policies and investments to reduce car travel without hindering access.

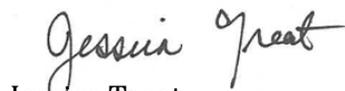
We believe Ms. Hucheson is exceptionally well suited for that opportunity and challenge. Her experience in Salt Lake City is impressive. We are excited to see similarities with Salt Lake City (e.g., protected bike lanes, a growing LRT/streetcar system, and improving pedestrian facilities) and as well as potential innovations to learn from (e.g., a city-based transit pass system and smog reduction policies).

With political leadership that understands the growing importance of bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders, and with agency leadership to implement a new vision, the sky is the limit for Minneapolis. The city is well-poised to complement its remarkable lakes, rivers, parks and neighborhoods with a world-class, multi-modal transportation system.

We strongly recommend that the City Council support Mayor Hodges recommendation to hire Ms. Hutcheson as the new Public Works Director. And it is our hope and expectation that all city departments will work collaboratively and with a willingness to embrace equity and environmental sustainability to improve the public works that residents and visitors rely on daily.

Transit for Livable Communities stands ready to contribute (staff and volunteers) to advance a Minneapolis transportation vision that creates greater safety, accessibility and effectiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Treat".

Jessica Treat
Executive Director
Transit for Livable Communities