

**395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155**

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Ilhan Omar
US House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Letter of Support for Congressional Interest for Community or Member Directed Projects

Dear Representative Omar:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation supports Hennepin County's proposed project improvements along the B and E Line Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (ABRT) corridors. This is a project led by Metropolitan Council-Metro Transit that impacts parts of MnDOT's Trunk Highway System but is primarily on the local system along roadways where new ABRT service will operate. The proposed improvements by the county will promote and enhance accessibility, mobility and safety for people walking, biking, and using transit where ABRT service will operate.

Currently the total cost estimate for these improvements is \$12 million. There is federal funding programmed for the B and E Line ABRT in Minnesota's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) starting in 2022. It is currently MnDOT's assumption that other agencies are responsible for delivery costs and funding gaps. The projects are planned for construction starting in 2022.

MnDOT is committed to partnering with Hennepin County and Metro Transit as they develop ABRT projects and explore funding opportunities for improvements like these. MnDOT looks forward to continued cooperation as the region moves to complete the ABRT system.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,



Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation

CC: Carla Stueve, Hennepin County
Sergius Phillips, MnDOT Federal Liaison
Michael Barnes, MnDOT Metro District Engineer
Chris Kufner, MnDOT Deputy State Aid Engineer
Dan Erickson, MnDOT Metro District State Aid Engineer