



# 2020 Partners

July 16, 2018

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 in support of the FY18 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 in the neighborhoods surrounding Target Field and the Target Field Transit Station. It is made up of businesses, government and neighborhood residents united to encourage economic development in the west side of downtown Minneapolis. As such we are neighbors of the Metro Transit Heywood Campus. They have been excellent neighbors and engaged with stakeholders in their master planning and building planning processes. They are a strategic local and regional transit infrastructure asset.

Metro Transit's bus system is the backbone of public transit in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and provides 71% of the 81.9 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 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 strongly urge the FTA to support and favorably consider the Metro Transit Heywood II Bus Garage for FY18 Competitive Funding Opportunity grant application.

On behalf of The 2020 Partners,



Nick Koch  
Chair  
The 2020 Partners



Dan Collison  
Executive Director  
The 2020 Partners

CC: Mary Gustafson, Manager of Grants