

October 7, 2020

Metro Transit Network Next Team
560 Sixth Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Via email

On August 31, 2020, the West St. Paul City Council held a workshop to discuss transit within the community, including the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Network Next project. From that discussion, the enclosed resolution has been prepared for consideration at the regular October 12, 2020 meeting of the City Council. This same resolution was provided to the City Council on October 2, 2020, in order for Council to provide feedback to Staff should there be any questions or concerns, given that our meeting date is beyond the public process termination date of Network Next.

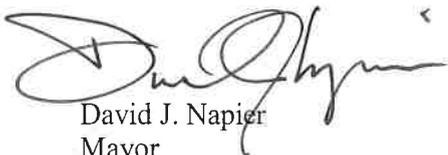
On behalf of the West St. Paul City Council and as Mayor of the City of West St. Paul, I hereby present the enclosed resolution as support for the Robert Street/Rice Street corridor as the next BRT route within the Twin Cities Metro.

West St. Paul is less than two miles south of downtown St. Paul via Robert Street. Even so, the current transit service to/from this community is not as consistent as might be anticipated this close to the downtown core. Furthermore, a significant portion of our community would typically be transit users with regular access to transit services. Moreover, recognizing the need for additional housing within the greater community, the West St. Paul City Council has approved over 1,000 housing units which will be constructed over the next two years. The preponderance of this housing is affordable, which likely means additional transit users will be living within these housing units, all of which are essentially adjacent to Robert Street.

The City of West St. Paul recently completed an upgrade to State Highway 3 (Robert Street). With similar improvements programmed within the City of St. Paul, now is the perfect time to coordinate BRT planning in coordination with infrastructure planning along the Robert/Rice transit corridor.

It is without hesitation that I hereby implore the Network Next project team to provide positive consideration of the Robert/Rice Street corridor as the next Bus Rapid Transit corridor for the Twin Cities metro.

Respectfully Submitted,



David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul