

# CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE

This report presents the results of a comprehensive audit of the Twin Cities transportation system performed in 2005 by the Metropolitan Council. This was done in response to a statutory directive from the Minnesota State Legislature.

## Legislative Requirement

In 1996, the Minnesota State Legislature adopted statutes requiring the Metropolitan Council to perform an audit of the Twin Cities transportation system. The statute reads as follows:

*473.1466 Performance audit; transit evaluation.*

*(a) In 1997 and every four years thereafter, the Council shall provide for an independent entity selected through a request for proposal process conducted nationwide to do a performance audit of the commuting area's transportation system as a whole. The performance audit must evaluate the commuting area's ability to meet the region's needs for effective and efficient transportation of goods and people, evaluate future trends and their impacts on the region's transportation system, and make recommendations for improving the system. The performance audit must recommend performance-funding measures.*

*(b) In 1999 and every four years thereafter, the council must evaluate the performance of the metropolitan transit system's operation in relationship to the regional transit performance standards developed by the council.*

The Metropolitan Council completed the first full Transportation Systems Audit in 1997 and the first Transit System Audit in 1999. There was a subsequent Transportation Systems Audit in 2001 and a Transit System Audit in 2003. This report is an update of the most recent reports but primarily the 2001 Transportation System Performance Audit.

The purpose of the Transportation System Performance Audit, established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1996, is to evaluate the ability of the transportation system serving the Twin Cities metro area to meet the regional need for effective and efficient travel of goods and people.