



Governance of Transit in the Twin Cities Region

October 12, 2020

Twin Cities Region Transit Overview

- Regular-route bus
 - Express
 - Local
- Light rail transit
- Commuter rail
- Bus rapid transit

Key Legislative Recommendations

- The Legislature should restructure the Metropolitan Council.
- The Legislature should clarify the goals and priorities of transit in the Twin Cities region.

The Region's Transit System Performed Relatively Well

- Compared to 11 peers, including Denver, Phoenix, Portland, and Seattle
- Performed well on “efficiency measures”
 - Operating cost per passenger
 - Fare-recovery percentage
 - Subsidy per passenger
 - Subsidy per passenger mile
- Performed well on “service-use” and “access” measures

But the Region's Transit Governance Structure is Far from Ideal

Washington County Regional
Railroad Authority

Anoka County Regional
Railroad Authority

Carver County Regional
Railroad Authority

Washington County Board

Anoka County Board

Carver County Board

Counties Transit
Improvement Board (CTIB)

The Metropolitan Council

Transportation
Advisory Board (TAB)

Scott County Regional
Railroad Authority

Ramsey County Regional
Railroad Authority

Hennepin County Regional
Railroad Authority

Dakota County Regional
Railroad Authority

Scott County Board

Ramsey County Board

Hennepin County Board

Dakota County Board

Shakopee
Transit

Prior Lake
Transit

SouthWest Transit

Maple Grove
Transit

Plymouth
Metrolink

The Minnesota Valley
Transit Authority

Red Rock Corridor
Commission

I-35W Solutions
Alliance

Gateway Corridor
Commission

I-494 Corridor
Commission

Rush Line Corridor
Task Force

Challenges Due to the Transit Governance Structure

- Fragmentation and complexity
- Distrust among some of the transit organizations
- Time-consuming coordination
- No agreed-upon set of priorities

The Composition of the Metropolitan Council Contributes to the Challenges

- Appointed by the Governor
- Limited accountability to the public
- Limited credibility with stakeholders and other transit organizations in region
- Limited stability
- Contributes to large number of transit organizations in the region

The Legislature Should Restructure the Metropolitan Council

- Mix of appointed and elected members
- Serve staggered terms
- Would improve:
 - Accountability
 - Credibility
 - Stability
- Could lead to more streamlined governance

Other Governance Recommendations

- Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)
- Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)
- Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council
- Suburban transit providers

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www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us