



**COMMENTS RELATIVE TO GOVERNOR'S BLUE RIBBON
COMMITTEE ON MET COUNCIL'S STRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

October 2020



History of Suburban Transit Agencies

Suburban communities sought legislation in 1982 to create transit agencies to serve the fast-growing areas. The Legislative Auditor reported that "the existing planning structure was not responsive to the need for a service plan which would address transit needs, particularly the growing suburbs."





History of Suburban Transit Agencies

- Before STA formed, several suburbs were paying into transit system but not receiving service.
- 2016 analysis: Suburban communities **contributing more than 10 percent** MVST funding formula but **only receiving back under 4 percent** of their contribution.



Effective Service

STA is a productive contributor to regional transit system and has developed close relationships with the communities served. Suburban transit agencies have been known for innovations and Legislative Auditor highlighted our pilot tests of new approaches and technologies.





Effective Service

- Employment lifeline – Connecting customers to employment centers in suburban communities and downtown areas. More new jobs coming to suburbs than urban core in next 30 years.
- Innovation (public-private partnerships, microtransit initiatives, mixed-use developments, transit-oriented developments and the first transit app in the region)



Effective Service

- Suburban agencies introduced coach vehicles to region and were first to offer Wi-Fi on buses.
- **STA consistently receives high customer satisfaction rates** over 95 percent from riders.
- Safety records have been reported with accidents, injuries, vehicle breakdowns and ADA compliance incidents below 1 percent based on ridership, revenue miles and hours.





Governance

- STA should receive an equitable, proportional share of transit funding for the region.
- STA favors governance that is more accountable to region and is structured to ensure suburban communities are directly represented.
- The innovation, success and service of STA can be enhanced as a full partner with a "seat at the table."

