



I-494 CORRIDOR COMMISSION

Reducing Traffic Congestion

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October 12, 2021

Chair Charlie Zelle and Members of the Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Proposed American Boulevard Transitway

Dear Charlie Zelle and Metropolitan Councilmembers,

The I-494 Corridor Commission has supported the Metropolitan Council's regional transit oriented development vision and future transitways set forward in the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) for the past two decades. The American Boulevard Transitway is of great interest to us as it would provide a high quality east west transit option paralleling I-494 bringing commuters and residents to destinations along the I-494 corridor.

There are more jobs along the I-494 corridor than in both downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul combined.

It is critical to keep the American Boulevard Transitway in the regional transit oriented development vision and TPP to connect people to the jobs and destinations along I-494. The current east west transit service on route 542 is a route with poor service and a meandering route. Since the pandemic, route 542 has been suspended and removed from service.

Given the significant planning, implementation and investment that has already taken place along the American Boulevard Transitway, the I-494 Corridor Commission requests the Metropolitan Council not remove the transitway from future plans nor from the TPP. Please include the American Boulevard Transitway in the 2040 transitway plans.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schack
Chair, I-494 Corridor Commission
Minnetonka City Councilmember