



2024 Legislative Session

Overview



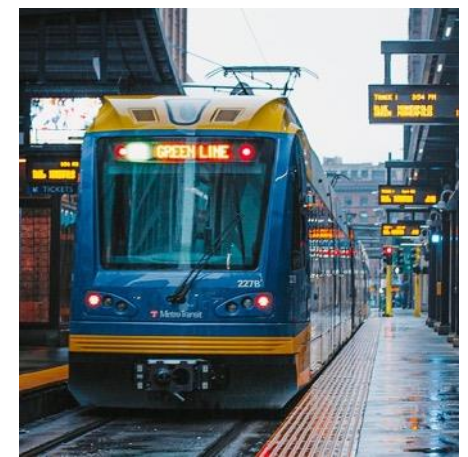
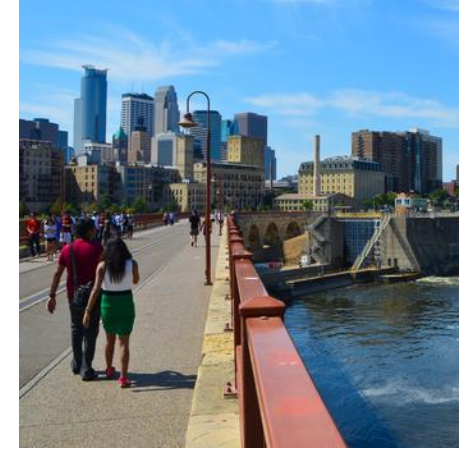
May 22, 2024 – Judd Schetnan, Government Affairs Director

Transportation



Transportation policy and finance

- Zero Emission Bus planning updates
 - Met Council must establish a bus procurement transition strategy so that beginning on January 1, 2035, any qualified transit bus purchased for regular route transit or special transportation service is a zero-emission transit bus
 - Met Council is required to update the zero emission bus procurement plan at least every three years, instead of the previous requirement of at least every five years, with the next report due on February 15, 2025
- Arterial bus rapid transit project scoping
 - Met Council is required to design, fully scope and construct arterial BRT projects with sidewalk curb ramps and pedestrian signals that meet ADA standards at each intersection adjacent to a bus rapid transit station that are not currently ADA compliant or otherwise planned for upgrades. Costs split 50/50 with local road authority
 - Met Council must also design, fully scope, and construct arterial BRT related transit pavement markings and traffic signal priority modifications to improve speed and efficiency of service
- Metro Mobility forecasting as part of the state budget process



Transportation policy and finance



- Additional MNDOT assistance for future light rail construction
- Met Council light rail capital construction funding restricted to federal funds and direct appropriations
- Establishment of METRO Blue Line Extension Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program
 - Re-appropriation of \$10M from FY24 for a FY25 grant to Hennepin County for this work
 - Anti-displacement community prosperity program is established to preserve and enhance affordable housing, small business support, job training and placement, and economic vitality and to benefit the people and sense of community along the Blue Line light rail transit extension corridor.

Transportation policy and finance



- MNDOT-led study on Metro Mobility Enhancements
 - Report due in February 2026
- Modifications to reporting for Metro Transit cleaning and repair standards
- Financial review and legislative reporting requirements
 - Required submittal of an annual financial review that details revenue and expenditures related to the transportation budget, including legislative appropriations, federal funds, fare collections, property tax revenue, and regional transportation sales tax revenue.
- Establishment of Minnesota Advisory Council on Infrastructure
- Transportation greenhouse gas emissions impact assessment and technical advisory committee establishment
- Met Council will participate in State Agricultural Society-led transportation planning for the 2024 State Fair

Community Development



Parks funding

Regional Parks and Trails investment

- \$3M from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for metro regional parks land acquisition
 - Matched with \$2M in regional funds, and an additional \$1.67M in implementing agency funds for a total project budget of \$6.67M



Parks funding



Regional Parks and Trails investment

- **Parks and Trails Legacy Fund**
 - An additional \$3.643M in FY2025 for the Metropolitan Regional Parks System (a total of \$29.167M for FY2025, including \$25.524M in FY2025 allocated in last year's bill)
 - Continues the 40/40/20 split between metro parks, state parks, and Greater MN Parks and Trails
 - Requirement for regional parks implementing agencies that charge a fee for activities or rental equipment to report to the Met Council the opportunities to participate in the activities and rent equipment at free or reduced rates offered in their park and recreation programs.
 - The Met Council would compile this information and then would be required to submit a legislative report on this topic by February 2025.
- **Natural Resources Fund**
 - \$500K in FY2025 from the natural resources fund for fishing piers in the metropolitan parks system

Tree planting grants



Investments in the regional canopy

- \$3.188M from the general fund for community tree planting grants
 - \$688K legislatively directed grant to city of South Saint Paul
- \$1.4M from the natural resources fund for tree planting in the regional parks and trails system



Judd Schetnan

Government Affairs Director

