



November 11, 2020

Mr. Jim Hovland
Chair, Transportation Advisory Board
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Mr. Hovland:

I am writing regarding the federal grant for the I-94 & Manning Park & Ride project. The project was awarded \$7,280,000 in federal CMAQ funds (federal grants MN-95-X038 and MN-95-X041) through the Regional Solicitation to acquire property, build 550 park-and-ride spaces, purchase buses, and fund demonstration express bus operations for three years in the I-94 east corridor between Manning Avenue and downtown Minneapolis in program years 2013, 2014.

Despite significant work to advance the project through a variety of challenges and delays, the I-94 and Manning Ave Park & Ride and a new commuter express service is no longer needed at this location. Factors contributing to this change include continued delays in project approvals, the decline of commuter express ridership pre-pandemic and more significantly during the pandemic, and the growing strategic importance of existing park-and-rides further west in Woodbury for the I-94 East transit market. This letter serves as our notice to return the remaining funds.

Expenditure of federal grant funds to date include the purchase of four 60' buses received in 2015 and added for I-94 east express routes, such as Route 375 serving the Guardian Angels Park & Ride, as well as eligible expenses for design work, real estate services, and staff time. Remaining federal grant funds, estimated to be \$4.4-4.5 million after project close out, will be returned to TAB.

Thank you for your support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marilyn J Porter'.

[Marilyn J Porter \(Nov 11, 2020 14:44 CST\)](#)

Marilyn Porter
Director of Engineering and Facilities

cc: Elaine Koutsoukos

A service of the Metropolitan Council






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Final Audit Report

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