



August 1, 2016

Dear Metropolitan Council members:

As people of faith who work towards racial and economic equity in Minnesota, we are writing in support of the Metropolitan Council adopting the U.S. Employment Plan (USEP) procurement policy for passenger bus and railcar purchases.

USEP requires manufacturers to disclose the quantity and quality of U.S. jobs that will be created as a result of a contract to supply buses and railcars to a transit agency. It provides incentives for manufacturers to invest in job training and commit to hire workers who have been historically underrepresented in manufacturing, including women, people of color, veterans, and people with a criminal record.

USEP is an opportunity for Minnesota to advance racial and economic equity, and it aligns with both the Metropolitan Council's and the state's equity goals.

Governor Mark Dayton's Diversity & Inclusion Council and its Contracting Practices Committee have successfully influenced the Department of Administration to include language in an RFP, awarding points to vendors that hire disadvantaged workers. The Department of Administration also created a fully staffed Office of Equity and Procurement to ensure that vendors meet diversity goals.

The Metropolitan Council's Thrive MSP 2040 plan identifies equity as a top priority. USEP creates incentives for manufacturers, subcontractors, and suppliers to recruit and train disadvantaged workers, which will advance the Council's goal to create more equitable outcomes for people who live and work in the region.

ISAI AH strongly supports and advocates for public investments in our transit system. It only makes sense to leverage those investments to support family sustaining jobs in our communities. We are hopeful that the Metropolitan Council will seize this opportunity.
Sincerely,

ISAI AH

Sincerely,

Doran Schrantz, Executive Director

Rev. Paul Slack, President