



Minnesota Regional Transit
Board: Records.

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REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD
Mears Park Centre, 230 East 5th Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
229-2700

MEETING NOTICE

REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Metro 94

Metropolitan Waste Control Commission Facility

455 Etna Street, Suite 32

St. Paul, Minnesota

Monday, March 23, 1992

4 to 6 p.m.

The members of the Regional Transit Board will hold a working session at the time and place shown above to discuss the findings and recommendations in the Legislative Audit Commission Report. No action will be taken.

A map is enclosed.

Michael J. Ehrlichmann
Chair

METROPOLITAN WASTE CONTROL COMMISSION

METRO 94 FACILITY
455 ETNA, SUITES 27-34



3RD STREET

COMING
FROM THE EAST

Take the Hwy 61 S. Exit,
Take a right hand turn at
the stop sign,
Take the first left turn into
the parking lot.

METRO 94

WILSON AVE.

ETNA

I-94

I-94

94-W

94-E

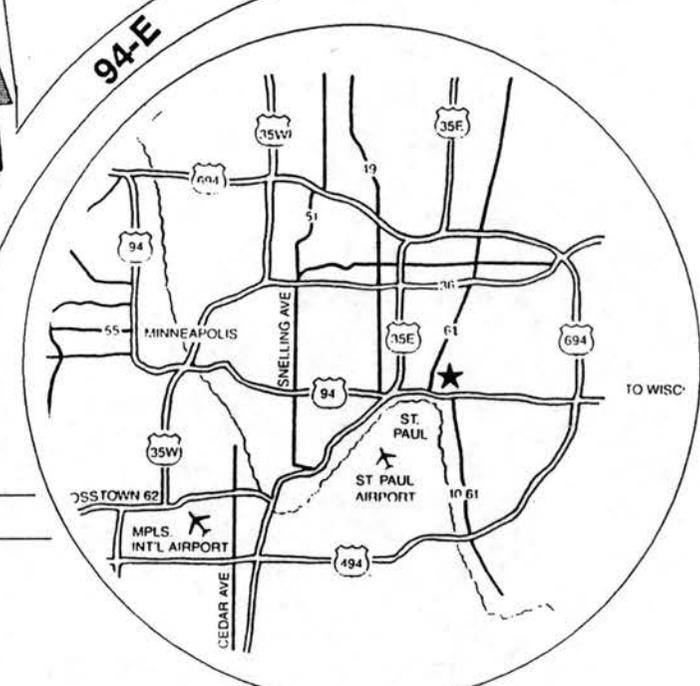
COMING
FROM THE WEST

Take the Hwy 61 S. Exit,
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BURNS AVE.

HWY 61

HWY 61



Pat Fonseca
772-7003

REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE: 3/23/92

BOARD OR COMMITTEE: Board Retreat

Member Name **Present** **Vote** **Vote** **Vote** **Vote** **Vote** **Vote** **Vote** **Vote**

W-9

ISSUE

Mike Ehrlichmann	✓								
Maryann Campo	<i>no</i>								
Doris Caranicas	✓						✓		
Sharon Feess	✓						✓		
Ruth Franklin	✓						✓		
Val M. Higgins	✓						✓		
Sandra Hilary									
Ruby Hunt	✓						✓		
Tom Sather	<i>no</i>								
Don Scheel	✓								
Tom Workman	✓						✓		

Visitors

Staff

a Entzel
M. Robertson
B Auld
J. Yunker
J. Sanberg
7. J. Johnson
mff B Nawrock
D Grabe

gn, jh, ds
eh, hl sm

handout 3/23/92

REGIONAL TRANSIT PLANNING

MARCH 1992

**Office of the
Legislative
Auditor**

**Program Evaluation
Division**

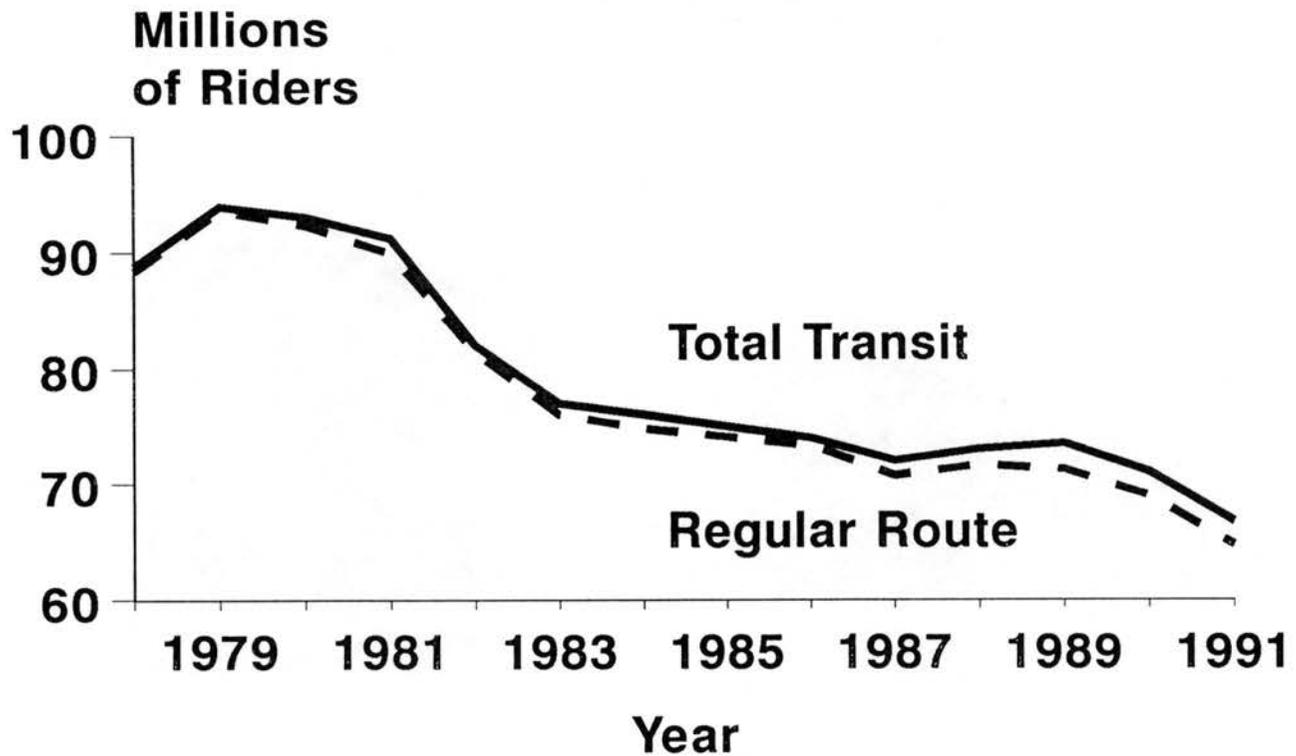
Research Issues

- **Regional Transit Board's performance.**
- **Metropolitan Council's oversight and leadership.**
- **Mn/DOT's cooperation with transit planning agencies.**
- **Fragmentation of transit planning.**
- **Strengths and weaknesses of new transit facilities plan.**

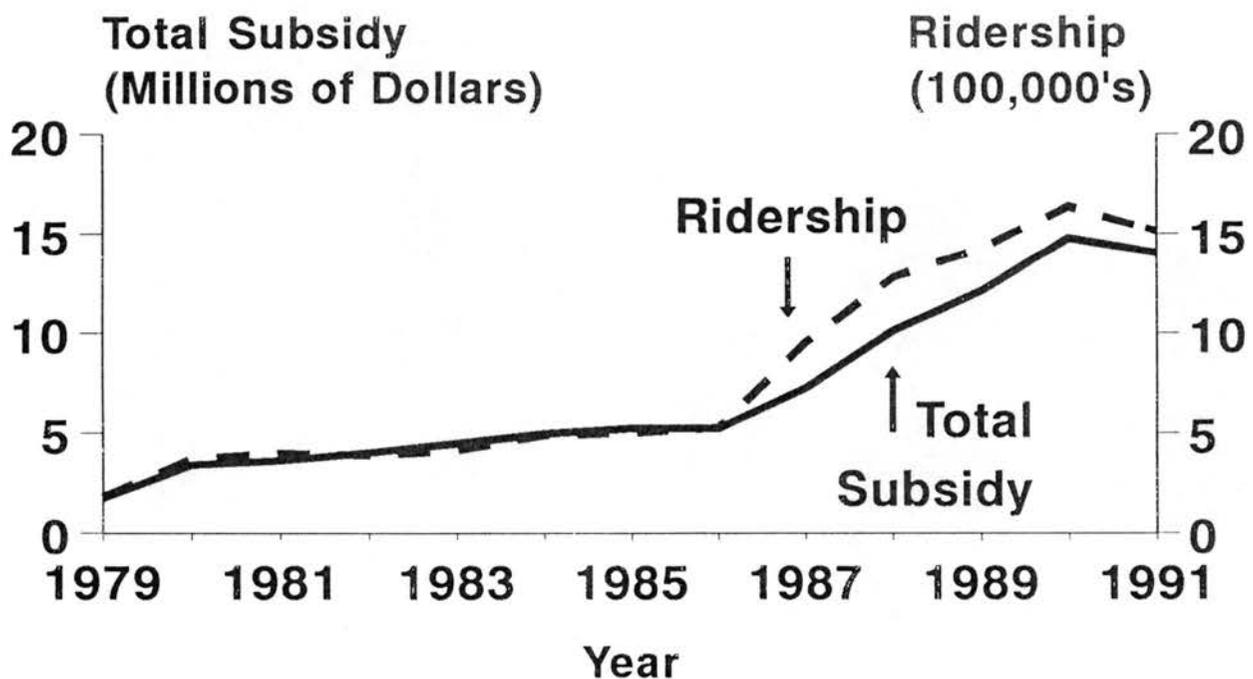
Trends in Transportation

- **Declining transit ridership.**
- **Growing auto travel and freeway congestion.**
- **Lower auto occupancy rates.**
- **Increasing complexity of trips.**

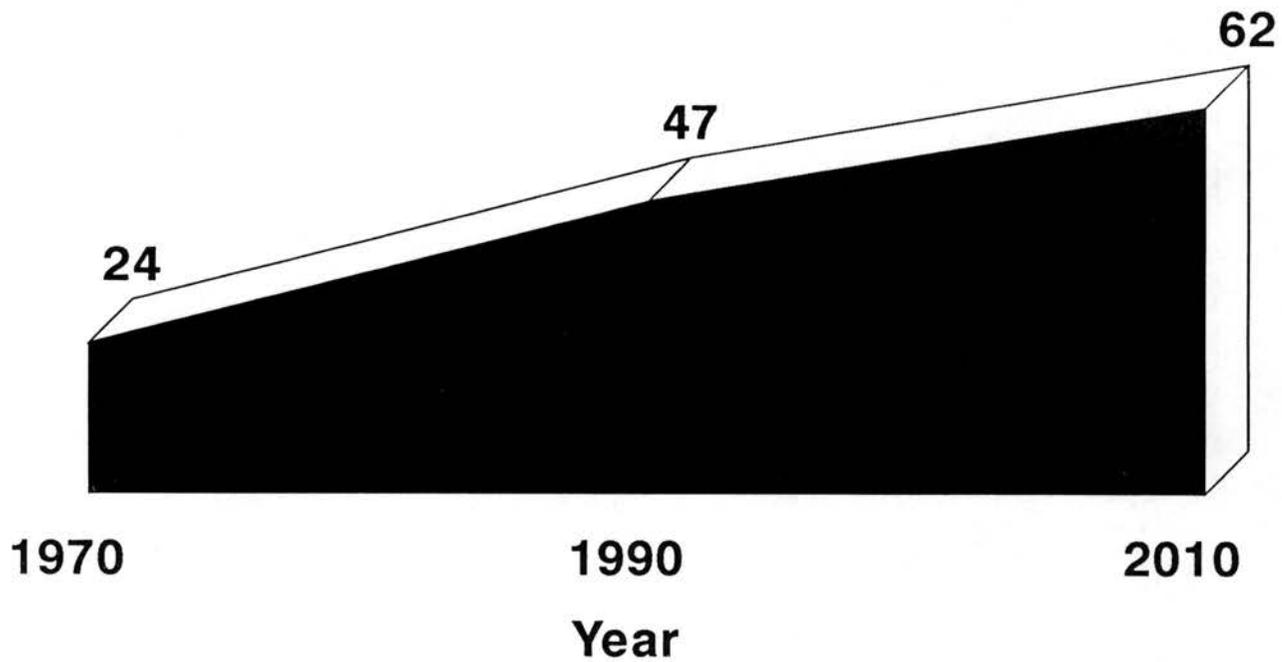
Transit Ridership, 1978-91



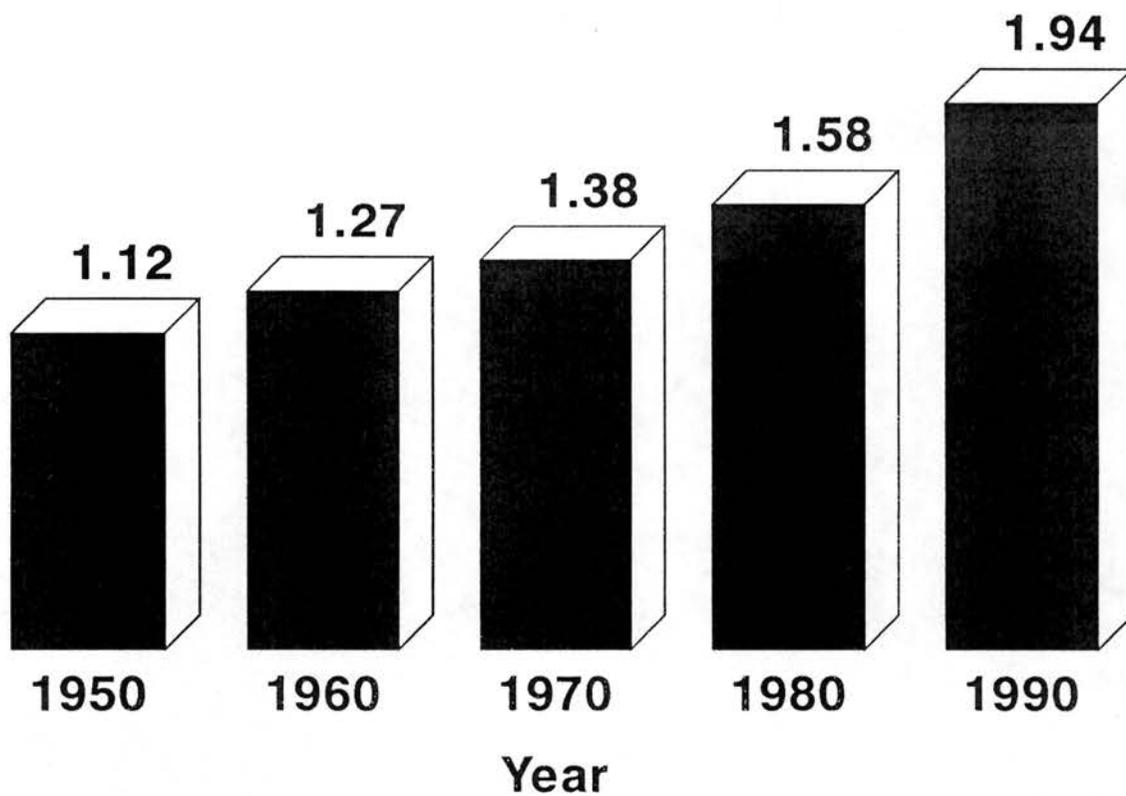
Change In Metro Mobility Subsidy and Ridership, 1979-91



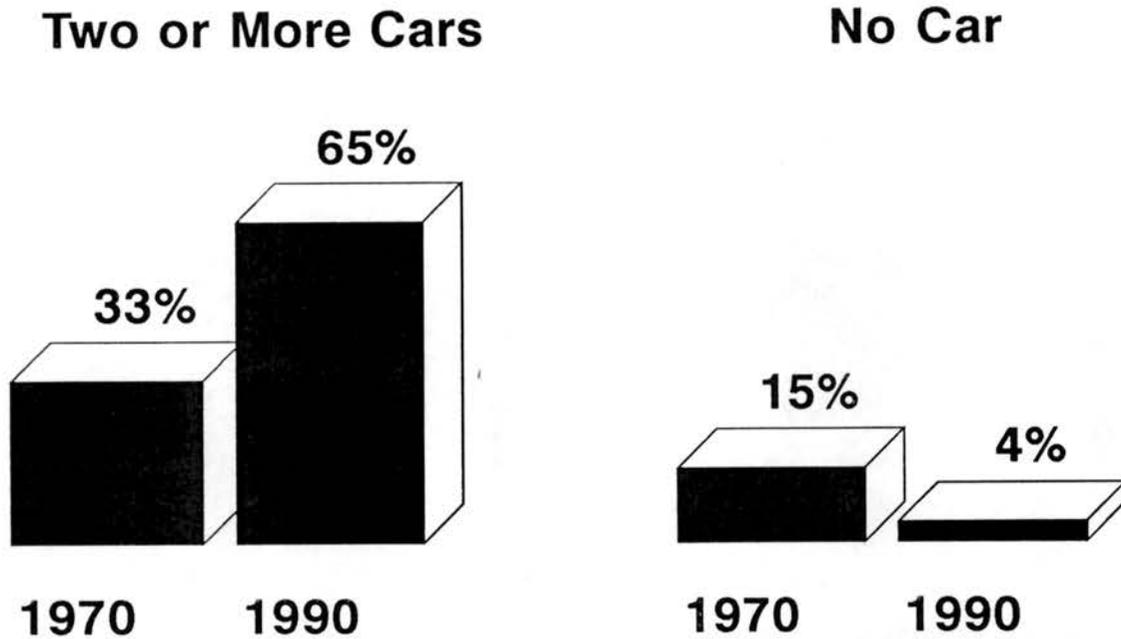
Millions of Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled



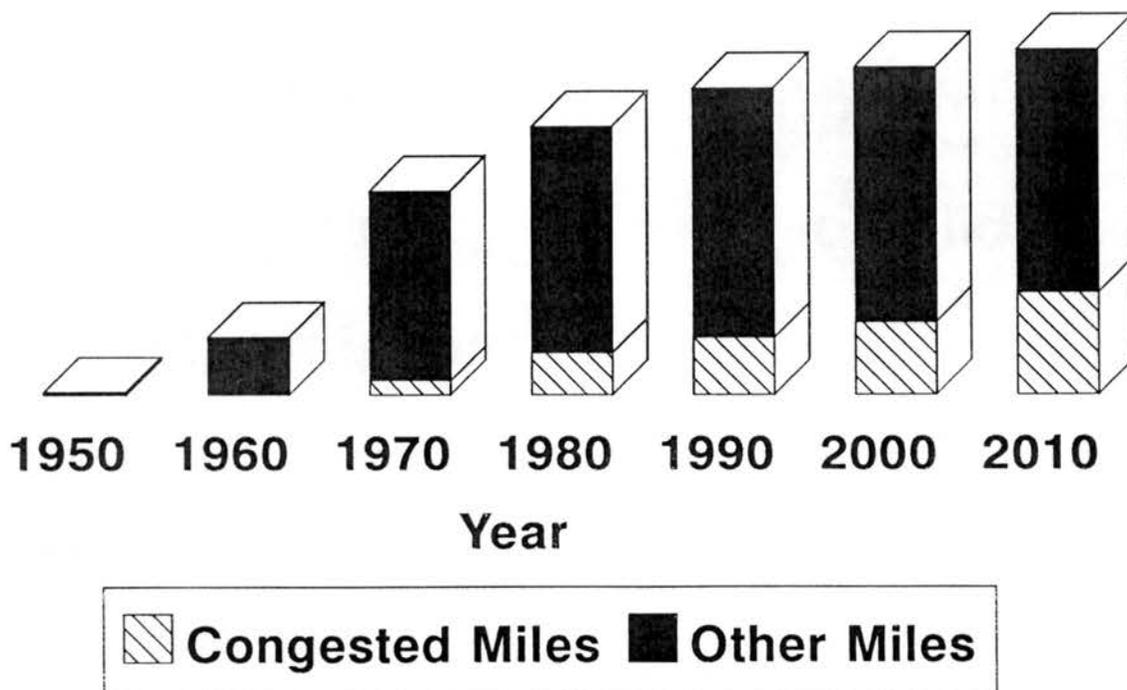
Automobiles Per Household



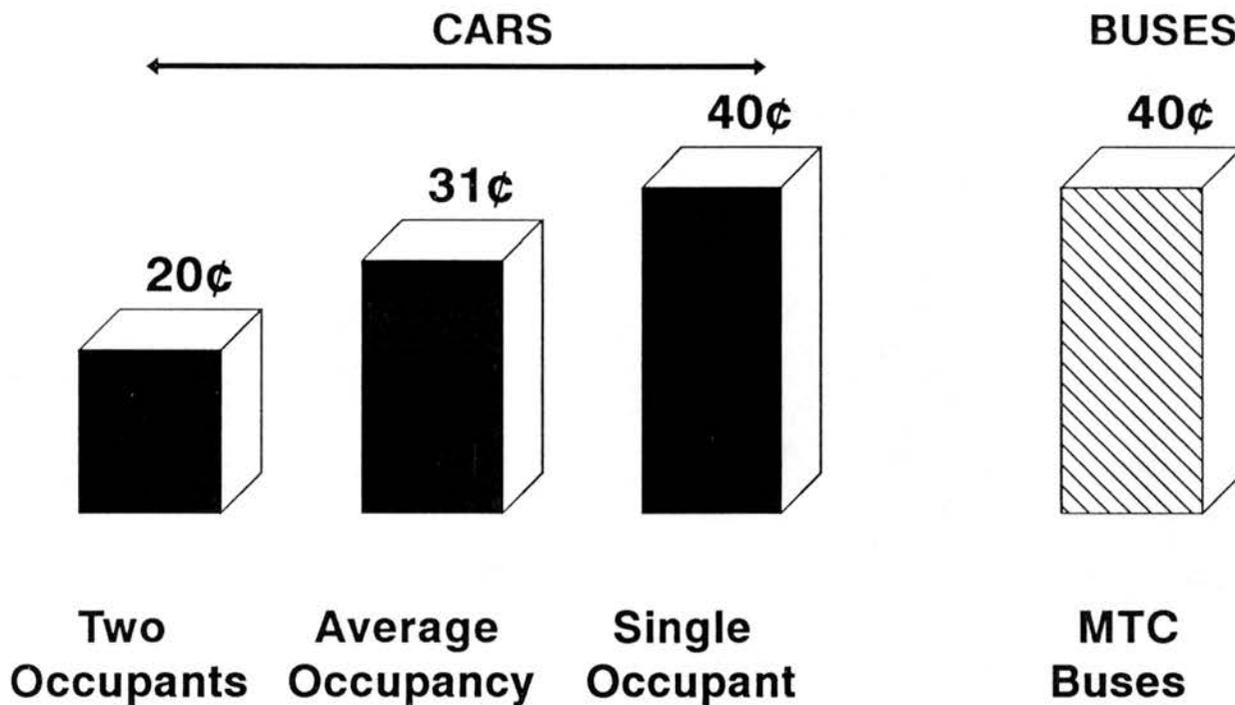
Household Vehicle Ownership



Congested Miles of Twin Cities Freeways



Average Costs Per Passenger Mile For Cars And Buses, 1991



Some Underlying Causes

- More two wage earner households.
- Dispersion of population and jobs.
- Affordability of car ownership and operation.
- Stronger preference for the mobility cars offer.

General Findings

- **Little progress in responding to growing suburban transit needs.**
- **Neglect of the regular route bus service.**
- **Lack of an adequate policy on competitive bidding outside MTC's exclusive service area.**
- **Inadequate analysis of LRT and alternatives.**
- **Insufficient attention to less expensive transit improvements and ridesharing.**

Reasons

- **RTB's progress has been slow.**
- **RTB has been less interested in the bus system than in LRT.**
- **RTB has had staff and Board turnover.**
- **Unanticipated Metro Mobility cost increases have constrained funding.**
- **Met Council was slow to provide adequate oversight of RTB.**

Recent Signs Of Change

- **Aggressive Met Council oversight.**
- **Met Council's Regional Transit Facilities Plan.**
- **RTB-funded marketing study.**
- **MTC comprehensive operations analysis.**
- **MTC and Mn/DOT Team Transit collaboration.**
- **RTB interest in management audits of MTC.**
- **RTB cooperation with opt-out providers.**
- **RTB Vision for Transit.**

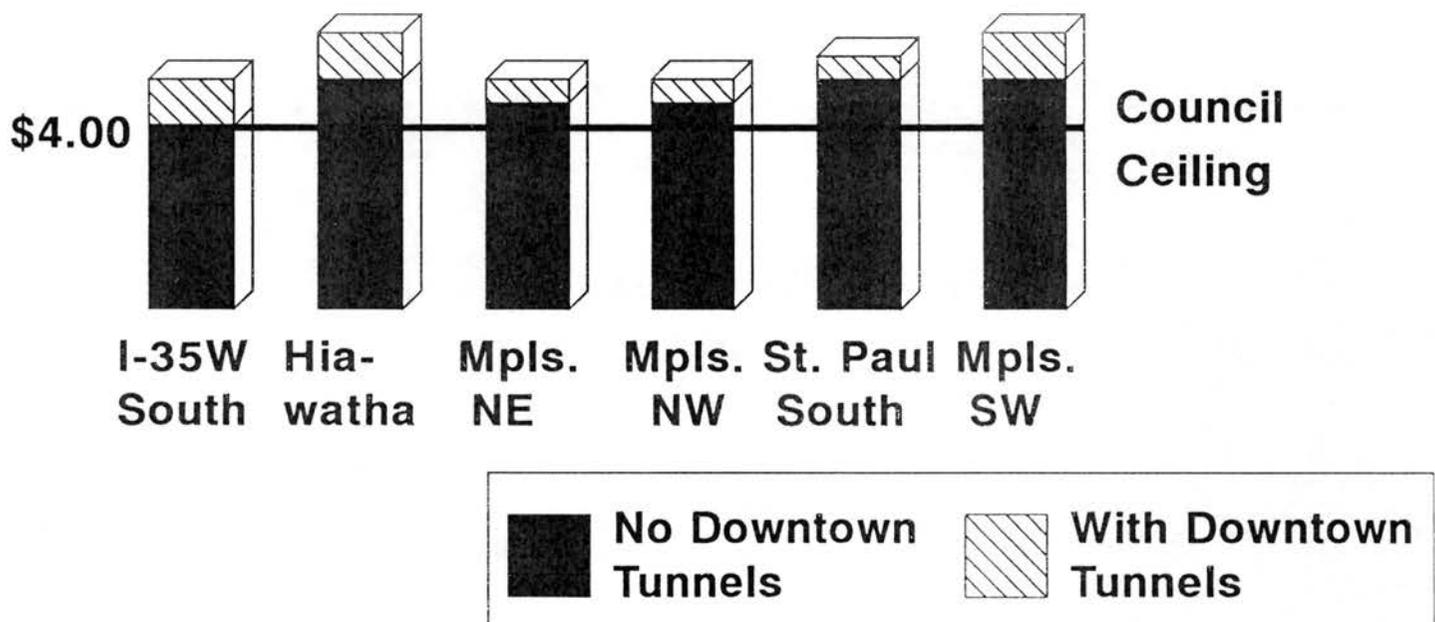
New Transit Plan: Strengths

- **Uses a multiple strategy approach.**
- **Focuses further LRT planning efforts on two lines.**
- **Emphasizes the need for flexibility.**
- **Recommends a regional approach to LRT governance.**
- **Improves existing bus service and expands suburban transit service.**
- **Controls Metro Mobility costs while retaining accessible service in outlying areas.**

Weaknesses

- Lacks details on estimated ridership, costs per rider, HOV usage, and potential congestion relief.
- Understates the importance of an LRT alternatives analysis for the Central Corridor.
- Relies on RTB to prepare the LRT alternatives analysis.
- Is not entirely clear on the role of the county regional rail authorities.
- Does not fully address concerns about future development patterns.

Estimated Costs Per Rider For LRT Lines Paired With The Central Corridor



Legislative Recommendations

- **Change RTB's internal structure.**
- **Give Met Council more power to oversee RTB.**
- **Require RTB to report on its progress and transit service performance.**
- **Consider financial disincentives to car usage.**
- **Support the new facilities plan, but require additional information and analysis.**
- **Require an adequate analysis of alternatives before funding LRT construction.**
- **Change the LRT governance system.**

Recommendations to Met Council

- **Continue strong oversight and leadership of the past year.**
- **Strengthen oversight by requiring additional reporting by RTB.**
- **Study the potential role for financial disincentives to automobile use.**
- **Exercise strong oversight over the LRT alternatives analysis for the Central Corridor.**

Recommendations to RTB

- **Develop an adequate and fair competitive bidding policy.**
- **Do proposed management audits of MTC.**
- **Work with MTC to restructure bus system.**
- **Examine the need and cost-effectiveness of service improvements and hubs.**
- **Report on performance and progress yearly.**
- **Work with MTC to strengthen ridesharing.**
- **Continue to work with opt-out communities.**



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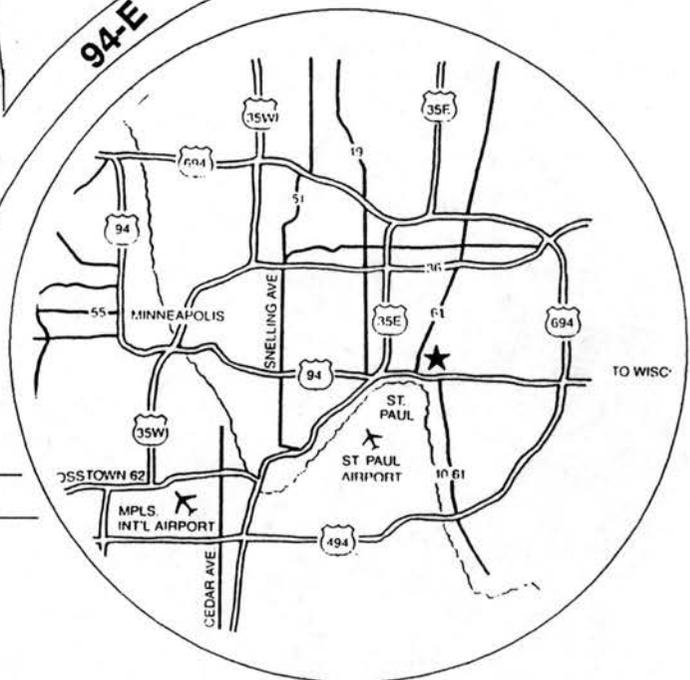
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HWY 61

HWY 61

94-W

94-E



Pat Fonseca
772-7003

REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Mears Park Centre
230 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
612/292-8789

DATE: March 23, 1992
TO: Tom Workman, Legislative Committee Chair
Doris Caranicas, Legislative Committee Vice Chair
FROM: Sherry Munyon, Deputy Chair
PURPOSE: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON TRANSIT INITIATIVES

I. RTB/MTC OMNIBUS TRANSIT POLICY BILL (S.F. 1927/H.F. 2219)

Chief Authors: Sen. Carol Flynn/Rep. Alice Johnson

Status: Has passed House and Senate Transportation, Energy & Metro Affairs Committees, needs to be heard in Taxes for the incentives to employers/employees.

II. RTB BONDING REQUEST FOR LRT CONSTRUCTION (S.F. 2145 /H.F. 2304)

Chief Authors: Sen. Carl Kroening/Rep. Carlos Mariani

Status: Passed out of Senate Transportation and Metro Affairs Committees, now in Finance, never received a hearing in House Metro Affairs Committee.

III. LRT GOVERNANCE BILL (S.F. 2510/H.F. 2510)

Assigns responsibility of alternative analysis and construction to MnDOT, Ramsey, and Hennepin Counties and joint lead agencies. RTB/Met Council have review and approval.

Chief Authors: Sen. Carol Flynn/Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Status: Passed out of House and Senate Metro Affairs Committee and sent to floor for action

IV. RTB BONDING REQUEST FOR MTC FLEET REPLACEMENT, TEAM TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS HUB CONSTRUCTION, PARK & RIDE LOTS, COMMUNITY-BASED AND OPT-OUT VEHICLES (116.5 MILLION OVER 5 YEARS) (S.F. 2144/H.F. 2191)

Chief Authors: Sen. Gene Merriam/Rep. Wayne Simoneau

Status: Passed out of Senate and House Policy Committees and waiting for hearing in Senate/House Tax Committee

Committee Hearing:

**Senate Taxes and Tax Law Committee, Friday, March 27, 8:00 a.m.
Rm. 15 Capitol**

V. TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE FUNDING PACKAGE (S.F. 1750/H.F. 2605)

Chief Authors: Sen. Keith Langseth/Rep. /Bernie Lieder

Status: Passed out of Senate Transportation and is in Finance, but never received a hearing in the House

VI. 4 CENT SALES TAX ON GASOLINE DEDICATED FOR TRANSIT OPERATIONS (S.F. 1869/H.F. 2116)

Chief Authors: Sen. Sandy Pappas/Rep. Harold Lasley

Status: This provision did not get voted on in Senate Transportation and was not scheduled for a hearing in the House

VII. LEGISLATION TO DEFINE "HIGHWAY" TO INCLUDE TRANSIT
Part of Senator Flynn's language amended into S.F. 1750 (Transportation Funding bill)

Chief Author: Sen. Carol Flynn

VIII. STATUTE CHANGE TO DESIGNATE TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S.F. 1770/H.F. 2375]

Chief Authors: Sen. Don Frank/Rep. Carlos Mariani

Status: Passed in Senate Metro Affairs and House Transportation Committees and sent to the floor for action

IX. PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL USE OF LRT PROPERTY (S.F. 1810/H.F. 1909)

Chief Authors: Sen. Ted Mondale/Rep. Jim Farrell

Status:

X. AUTHORIZING NON-OPERATING ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE (S.F. 1914/H.F. 2341)

Chief Author: Sen. Dick Cohen

XI. RAISING TORT LIABILITY LIMITS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION (S.F. 1913/H.F. 2184)

Senate Author: Dick Cohen

- XII. Draft bill/amendment to eliminate the Regional Transit Board and transfer its duties and powers to the Metropolitan Council, failed in House Metro Affairs Committee on Friday, March 13. This bill also provided for the Department of Transportation to design and build the light rail transit system with council oversight. **I have heard this bill will surface as a floor amendment in the House.**