



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Office of the Mayor**

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April 25, 2007

To: The Honorable Governor Tim Pawlenty

From: Mayor R.T. Rybak, City of Minneapolis  
Mayor Debbie Goettel, City of Richfield  
Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland, City of Apple Valley  
Mayor Jim Hovland, City of Edina  
Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, City of Burnsville  
Mayor Gene Winstead, City of Bloomington

Re: Urban Partnership Agreement application for Interstate-35W

The cities we represent have long advocated for improvements to transit service on the Interstate-35W corridor. In recent years we have built a consensus that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is the best way to meet this urgent need.

We are writing you now because the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) program could allow us to provide Bus Rapid Transit service on Interstate-35W in the next three years.

The UPA's criteria of the "Four Ts" – transit, tolling, technology and telecommuting - is consistent with our vision for Interstate-35W. We could be in a position to compete for substantial federal dollars with 80% of total funding coming from the federal government and 20% from a state match.

With this great opportunity at hand to bring federal dollars to Interstate-35W, it is unfortunate that MNDOT has not yet committed to make an aggressive UPA application. MNDOT staff even told the Interstate-35W Solutions Alliance that they were planning on only making a UPA application for the corridor south of Interstate-494. The Interstate-35W Solutions Alliance responded with a unanimous vote supporting a UPA application for the entire corridor all the way to downtown Minneapolis. We appreciate that MNDOT expressed openness to that input.

We agree with the Interstate-35W Solutions Alliance that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) needs to serve the entire corridor in order to succeed. To compete successfully, the application needs to have the congestion pricing component throughout the corridor.

We also hope that you will lead MNDOT to make a competitive UPA application and that together we can make this vision a reality.