

March 15, 2012

Dear Legislator:

We believe now is the time to expand the innovative, cost-effective and popular MNPASS program.

We're writing to let you know that the Citizens League strongly supports the expansion of MNPASS to the I-35E corridor.

- Residents in the east and north Twin Cities Metropolitan Area deserve the same choices and congestion reduction benefits as residents in the south and west parts of the region currently enjoy on I-394 and I-35W.
- MNPASS benefits all motorists and transit users in a congested corridor, not just those who choose to pay for the benefit.
- In addition, expanding the program in other parts of the Metro Area will increase usage everywhere as the practicality and "usability" of the program increases. Those who do participate in MNPASS will also be able to use their transponders along I-35W and I-394 moving toward a greater metro-wide impact on reducing congestion.

When all lanes of a freeway are allowed to congest to the point of "stop and go," fewer vehicles get through the corridor than if free flow is maintained in one lane. Thus, maintaining free flow in just one lane benefits everyone, including solo drivers who choose not to participate in MNPASS. MNPASS is a new level of choice that benefits all commuters.

MNPASS is a key element to providing the greatest number of choices to all commuters and East Metro commuters should not be denied additional choices and benefits that are afforded others in the region.

We urge you to support the expansion of MNPASS to I-35E, and to contact us with any questions.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Kershaw  
Executive Director

Bob DeBoer  
Director of Policy Development



*Common ground. Common good.*

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