

Citizens League non-partisan public affairs research and education in the St. Paul-
Minneapolis metropolitan area. **84 S. 6th St., Minneapolis, Mn. 55402 (612)338-0791**

Mr. Jim Harrington
Commissioner of Transportation
Transportation Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

May 31, 1978

Dear Mr. Harrington:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Transportation Plan of Mn/DOT. Our Transportation Task Force headed by Allan R. Boyce has reviewed the plan in light of recommendations in previous Citizens League reports, most notably "Building Incentives for Drivers to Ride", March 1973.

We will divide our comments in two parts: substance and procedure.

First, on substance, the plan is encouraging but too vague on the critical issue of planning new highway construction in the metropolitan area to include exclusive lanes for high occupancy vehicles. The plan promises to "review" all proposals for opportunities to provide preferential treatment, but this is too reactive. Moreover, the plan is deficient in that it doesn't state any objectives against which such a review would be measured.

We therefore recommend an amendment on page "k" of the yellow pages of the draft, after paragraph No. 4, as follows: "It is the position of Mn/DOT that expansion and improvement of roadways in urban areas shall be undertaken with the objective of serving the maximum number of people during peak hours. Mn/DOT will, therefore, plan its roadway capacity for urban freeways in terms of the number of persons/lane/hour during the peak. For such an objective to be carried out, Mn/DOT will set a vehicle-occupancy goal for the peak hour. If a regional planning organization has established a vehicle-occupancy goal for its area, such a goal will be used by Mn/DOT.

"In all corridors where new or expanded freeway construction is contemplated in the metropolitan area, Mn/DOT will analyze and publish all options, including exclusive lanes for high occupancy vehicles, for meeting the above-stated objectives."

Second on procedure, we note that pages 35 through 68 (white pages) describe the process by which all projects will be evaluated. However, we could not find reference in the white pages to the policies or positions of Mn/DOT as specified in the yellow pages. We believe it is critical that every project be analyzed in light of the specific policies and positions of Mn/DOT. Therefore, we recommend that the planning process as described on pages 35 through 68 be amended to provide that: "Mn/DOT shall review every project in light of Mn/DOT's policy and position statements as stated in its approved State Transportation Plan. If Mn/DOT proposes that a given project deviate from its own policy and position statements, it shall explain its reasons in writing."

Thank you.

Sincerely,

CC: Peter Fausch, MN/DOT

Eleanor L. Colborn
President

Officers

President
Rollin H. Crawford
Vice Presidents
Arthur Naftalin
Jean King
Ray H. Harris
Roger Palmer
Francis M. Boddy
Secretary
James L. Weaver
Treasurer
Wayne H. Olson

Directors

Dale E. Beihoffer
W. Andrew Boss
Barbara Boulger
Allan Boyce
Lloyd Brandt
Fred C. Cady
John Cairns
Eleanor Colborn
Gerald R. Dillon
Joseph L. Easley
Leo Foley
David Grayson

Virginia Greenman

Mary Ellen Grika
Verne C. Johnson
Paul Magnuson
Harry Neimeyer
Martha Norton
Medora Periman
Wayne G. Popham
Rosemary Rockenbach
John Rollwagen
A. Kent Shamblin
Marcia Townley
Imogene Treichel

Esther Wattenberg

Mary Lou Williams
John Yngve

Past Presidents

Charles H. Bellows
Francis M. Boddy
Charles H. Clay
Waite D. Durfee
John F. Finn
Richard J. FitzGerald
Walter S. Harris, Jr.
Peter A. Heegaard
James L. Hetland, Jr.
Verne C. Johnson
Stuart W. Leck, Sr.
Greer E. Lockhart

John W. Mooty

Arthur Naftalin
Norman L. Newhall, Jr.
Wayne H. Olson
Leslie C. Park
Malcolm G. Pfunder
James R. Pratt
Leonard F. Ramberg
Charles T. Silverson
Archibald Spencer
Frank Walters
John W. Windhorst

Staff

Executive Director
Ted Kolderie
Associate Director
Paul A. Gilje
Membership Director
Calvin W. Clark
Research Associates
Jon Schroeder
Margo Stark
Berry Richards
William Blazar