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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MDC Executive Committee Adopts Resolution In Support Of Additional Funding For Transit and Transportation Investment**

**MINNEAPOLIS (February 18, 2016)** — The Minneapolis Downtown Council (MDC) announced today that its Executive Committee has adopted a resolution supporting additional funding for future transit and transportation investments that enhance and grow our region's transit options.

The announcement aligns with MDC's *Intersections: The Downtown 2025 Plan* vision for enhancing the growth and vitality of downtown through the year 2025. One of the 10 core initiatives of the 2025 Plan is to lead the nation in transportation options—which, if achieved, will help ensure a thriving, livable, connected and vibrant downtown Minneapolis.

"Today's modern city needs to make it easy for workers and residents to get around town through a variety of reliable transit options," said Steve Cramer, President & CEO of the Minneapolis Downtown Council. "It is what employees look for in choosing a city, and it is part of what will keep Minneapolis competitive with peer cities. Our biking trails are already world class. Keeping our other modes of transit on par with other markets is essential to attract and keep our future workforce."

The MDC Executive Committee resolution specifically called out the need to fund the **Green Line LRT Extension** and the **Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**.

The Green Line extension, which would run from Target Field Station to the southwest suburbs, needs State of Minnesota support to go along with currently approved local and federal funding. If the final commitment fails to materialize in 2016, the project could face serious delays or loss of federal funding. The Orange Line BRT, which will bring fast, frequent and reliable all-day bus transit along the Interstate 35W corridor, would include multi-level transit stations and a rework of the Lake Street and I-35W interchange. If funding is not in place for the project this year, costs could significantly increase and the opportunity to coordinate construction phasing with scheduled I-35W work will be lost.

The resolution also notes that the **Blue Line LRT Extension**, connecting Target Field Station to the northwest suburbs, is currently in the process of receiving municipal consent and must soon demonstrate matching funding to receive a competitive federal funding commitment.

"A complete, wide-reaching transportation system benefits everyone who lives, works and visits not only downtown Minneapolis but the surrounding Twin Cities area," said John Wheaton, MDC 2025 Plan Transportation Committee Chair and Faegre Baker Daniels partner. "We have an opportunity now to lay the foundation for the success of future generations. Our investments in an enhanced transit system will have a major, positive impact for decades to come."

By adopting this resolution, the MDC's Executive Committee goes on record in supporting a comprehensive, long-term transportation funding plan to meet statewide needs, which it hopes will be approved during the 2016 legislative session. The resolution supports the adoption of a new, stable, reliable funding source in order to complete the development of the region's transit network, while supplying sufficient funding for superior operation of the transit system.

The 2025 Plan identifies the main objectives for creating a robust transit system with various options, ranging from light rail connections and commuter rails to bus rapid transit and biking systems. Objectives of the 2025 Plan's transportation goals include:

- Maintaining and improving high capacity for auto and transit commuters
- Increasing the daily transit share from 40 percent to 60 percent
- Increasing circulation to, from and within downtown
- Leveraging Target Field Station as the metro area's primary transit hub
- Securing stable, reliable transit funding

Of the 2025 Plan's six committees—development, downtown experience, greening and public realm, transportation, ending street homeless and festival of ideas—perhaps none is more critical to the success of downtown than investing in enhanced transit options, which will help to attract and retain workers, residents and visitors, and increase the City's competitiveness on a national and global scale.

For more information on the Minneapolis Downtown Council or the 2025 Plan, visit [www.downtownmpls.com](http://www.downtownmpls.com) or follow the Minneapolis Downtown Council (@MplsDowntown) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by using the hashtag #DowntownMpls.

To view the full MDC Executive Committee resolution, visit [DowntownMpls.com/Media](http://DowntownMpls.com/Media).

#### **About the Minneapolis Downtown Council:**

Founded in 1955, and one of the oldest central business associations in the nation, the Minneapolis Downtown Council (MDC) is a membership-based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The MDC's collaborative developments of *Intersections: The Downtown 2025 Plan* was designed to help downtown businesses, community leaders and citizens build on downtown assets and implement future goals. For more information, please visit [DowntownMpls.com](http://DowntownMpls.com).

#### **About the 2025 Plan:**

The Downtown 2025 Plan is a vehicle to help leaders and citizens build on Downtown's assets and guide its development in ways that reflect the community's aspirations for a Downtown Minneapolis that is thriving, livable, green, connected and welcoming in the decades ahead. This includes initiatives to double downtown's residential population, transform Nicollet Mall into a must-see destination, implement a Gateway area and other green elements throughout downtown, create a compelling and walkable environment around the clock, lead the nation in transportation options, end street homelessness, forge connections with the University of Minnesota and more. The 2025 Plan is a Minneapolis Downtown Council initiative adopted in 2010.

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