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Transit legislation & future transportation options headline Tuesday's 2025 Plan Quarterly Forum

MINNEAPOLIS (May 8, 2017) – The future of transportation in and around downtown Minneapolis continues to be an area of focus through current legislation efforts, the growing momentum of driverless cars and more.

What does the future hold? Join us for a discussion on how our commuter landscape could change in the next decade as the mpls downtown council's *Intersections: The Downtown 2025 Plan* hosts its latest Quarterly Forum. The event begins at 4:30 pm at Be The Match (500 N. 5th Street, Board Room 310). Registration begins at 4:15 pm.

Tuesday's Quarterly Forum includes the following speaker lineup:

- **Steve Cramer** (president & ceo, mpls downtown council & mpls downtown improvement district) Welcome & 2025 Plan Update
- **John Wheaton** (Partner, Faegre Baker Daniels & Transportation Committee Chair)
- **Adam Duinick** (Chair, Metropolitan Council)
- **Charlie Zelle** (Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation)
- **Leili Fatehi & Laura Monn Ginsburg** (Apparatus & Drive Together Mpls)

"Continuing to be active supporters of building our region's multi-modal transit system is important to our downtown's vitality, inclusivity and overall growth and development," said Steve Cramer, president & ceo of the mpls downtown council and mpls downtown improvement district. "Our 2025 Plan committee continues to be engaged in conversations that will help secure funding for these efforts and lobby for a strong, comprehensive statewide transportation plan including multimodal regional transit."

Tuesday's conversation will include updates on where our current transit funding sits in terms of local and federal legislation, as well as continued updates to our roadways and infrastructure leading into downtown, and the importance of planning for driverless vehicle technology so our city and region is not behind when—not if—this new wave of transportation becomes mainstream in the coming years.

"Having a strong transit system is a key ingredient in being a successful and attractive metropolitan area," said John Wheaton, 2025 Plan Transportation Committee Chair and partner at Faegre Baker Daniels, LLP. "The conversations our committee is having and what we'll discuss at The 2025 Plan Quarterly Forum are important in ensuring Minneapolis remains competitive in attracting young employees while offering a healthy variety of ways for everyone to enjoy our downtown."

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Cramer will also provide updates on The 2025 Plan's remaining five committees, which include Development, Greening & Public Realm, Downtown Experience, Ending Street Homelessness and Minneapolis Idea eXchange.

For more information on *The 2025 Plan's* initiatives or overall development downtown, follow **@mplsdowntown** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the hashtags #mplsdowntown and #2025plan.

About the mpls downtown council:

Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic central business associations in the nation, the mpls 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 mplsdowntown.com.

About *The 2025 Plan*:

Intersections: The Downtown 2025 Plan is a vehicle to help leaders and citizens build on downtown's assets and guide downtown Minneapolis' development. This includes initiatives to double downtown's residential population, transform Nicollet Mall into a must-see destination, 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. For more information on the 2025 Plan and its initiatives, visit 2025plan.com, beinbusinessdowntownmpls.com and minneapolisideaexchange.com. The 2025 Plan is a mpls downtown council initiative introduced in 2011.

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