



City of Hopkins

Office of the Mayor

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May 10, 2018

To Surface Transportation Board
Chair Ann Begeman
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

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I am writing to urge the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to conduct an efficient and expeditious review of the letters and comments received relating to STB document #36178 from the Metropolitan Council and #36177 from Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.

Hopkins is a suburb west of Minneapolis that exemplifies Minnesota's active and healthy lifestyle. Hopkins includes the trailheads for four regional parks and many local parks, nature areas and open space for recreation activities. Our dedication to improving infrastructure and properly managing natural resources makes the community and surrounding areas safe and enjoyable places to live, work, and play.

Our community has invested much time, energy, and resources over the past several years in anticipation of Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project. Officially, our staff has been involved in planning activities for years, and we have voted twice to approve municipal consent. We have planned for the future with SWLRT in mind, from infrastructure and housing, to public works and mobility.

This project will have a huge positive impact on our city's economic prosperity. Already, developers are investing in our community, in anticipation of SWLRT. Whether a business or housing complex, developers know that SWLRT will connect people with jobs, education, and more.

Given the importance of this project to our community, as well as the region, we ask that you make a timely ruling. We have confidence the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority are proceeding thoughtful and carefully with this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly Cummings, Mayor