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July 8, 2014

Mayors Office and  
City Council Members  
City of Saint Paul, MN

The East Side Area Business Association supports the City Council approving the Citywide Streetcar Feasibility Study Findings, approving the long-term network of feasible streetcar routes and the authorization of further analysis of bus and streetcar options for East 7<sup>th</sup> Street to West 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

We believe further study of adding streetcars as an additional mode of public transit is vital to the success of our city as a place for people to live, work, and visit.

Many argue that we do not need to spend more tax dollars and things are just fine as they are or we need to invest more in fixing roads. We believe the Cities Transit Improvement Board and East Metro Strong as well as our state and federal funding programs are going to spend this money on transit investment improvements regardless and we believe it needs to be spent in Saint Paul alongside or instead of other communities.

We believe the entire region can benefit from a network of Streetcars and is a notionally proven investment to accelerate business and economic development, attract and retain major employers to sites like Beacon Bluff and the Hamms Brewery Site, attract more restaurants and small businesses to fill Port Authority owned vacant land and empty storefronts along East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

We believe Downtown and West 7<sup>th</sup> businesses would greatly benefit from Xcel Energy Center, Rivercentre, and Visit Saint Paul's ability to attract national conventions to the city by competing with dozens of other cities who are already years ahead of Saint Paul with major multi-modal transit upgrades.

We believe the study data from other similar U.S. cities show modern streetcars can also reduce the need for so many parking spaces along our main street small businesses.

We believe these kinds of transit improvements and investments will create long-term live-able wage jobs for our community and we seek your support to further study streetcars for Saint Paul.

Sincerely

Tim Herman



Executive Director

