[letterhead]

June 1, 2018

Mr. John Levin

Director of Strategic Initiatives

Metro Transit

560 6th Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55411

Dear John,

I am writing to express my support for proposed research on improving access and management of transit ITS data.

Data collected by automated vehicle location, passenger counter, and fare collection systems is extremely valuable to transit agencies. It can be used to improve service design and operations, and it can be used by cities and others to better understand travel patterns and roadway operations. But this data is difficult to access and to use effectively.

The research proposed here, developing common approaches to accessing and managing transit data, will be of immediate and direct benefit to our organization and to the transit industry as a whole. It will increase our ability to use data and improving collaboration among transit agencies and between transit agencies and researchers, consultants and vendors.

This work requires collaboration among agencies, something that is often difficult in the industry. The proposed research will foster this collaboration and ensure that the solutions that are developed are broadly applicable across transit operations and technology systems.

Thank you for advancing this research proposal. We look forward to working with the research team on the project and to implementing and leveraging the results of the project.

Sincerely,