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April 12, 2018

Council Member Gary Cunningham &
Michael Mechtenberg
Metro Transit Service Development
560 Sixth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Dear Council Member Cunningham & Mr. Mechtenberg,

The Victory Neighborhood Association has reviewed the Metropolitan Council's proposed changes to Route 19's branch service. After carefully examining the proposed service options, the ridership data, and feedback collected from our residents, the Victory Neighborhood Association has determined that none of the proposed options adequately meet the transportation needs of current and future residents. Therefore, the Victory Neighborhood Association does not support any change to Route 19's branch service.

Further, the association believes that a strong infrastructure of publicly-supported, mass transit is crucial to our community's vitality now and in the future. For this reason, the Victory Neighborhood Association advocates for the expansion, rather than the reduction, of Route 19's branch service.

The Victory Neighborhood Association supports the extension of Route 19 branch service to directly connect North Minneapolis to downtown Robbinsdale. The cities can mutually benefit from new shoppers supporting the communities' respective businesses, thereby improving economic opportunity on both ends of the line. Additionally, establishing connection now between North Minneapolis and downtown Robbinsdale will help to grow committed transit ridership once the Blue Line Extension is complete. Northern connection between the C Line and the Blue Line will bring considerable benefit to North Minneapolis residents and workers.

Finally, the Victory Neighborhood Association wishes to express its disappointment with the community engagement process related to the proposed branch changes. The association worked closely with Metro Transit for many years to keep Victory neighbors connected to the C Line project and engaged in its planning process. After years of collaboration, the association is frustrated that it was provided with detailed information on proposed branch service changes just one month before C Line construction was to begin. One month is not enough time to adequately engage residents on changes that may significantly limit their transportation options. The association is open to conversation on how this situation may be avoided in the future.

Sincerely,

Diane Spector, Chair
Victory Neighborhood Association

Victory Neighborhood Association

2200 44th Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412