

# BOOST COMMUTER BENEFITS for WORKERS



Minnesota lawmakers must boost sustainable commutes to reduce climate pollution and lower the cost of commuting for workers.

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUTES BENEFIT EVERYONE

In cities across Minnesota, public transit networks are expanding and connecting people with affordable, convenient commutes to their workplaces. Commuter benefit policies, which require certain employers to offer pre-tax benefits or subsidies for sustainable commutes, are **a proven method** to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, incentivize a mode shift toward public transit, and save workers money.

**Boosting the use of public transit and other sustainable modes of transportation benefits everyone.** Vehicle transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota and encouraging Minnesotans to choose transit, walking, biking, rolling, or carpooling for their commutes is necessary to achieve the vehicle miles travelled reduction goals we've set to protect our health and climate. In states like Illinois and New Jersey, commuter benefit policies are already improving air quality and reducing traffic congestion.

While transportation is the second-largest household expense for many Minnesota families and gas prices continue to rise, **a pre-tax transit pass benefit alone would save the average Minnesotan hundreds of dollars on their commute every year.** Companies that already offer commuter benefits report increased job satisfaction and retention rates. A commuter benefit policy will financially advantage both workers and businesses and support economic development in our metro areas.

## REQUIRE TRANSIT BENEFITS WHERE IT MAKES SENSE

To protect our air and climate and help workers skip traffic and save money on their commutes, Minnesota lawmakers should require certain employers to offer sustainable commuter benefits to employees who work on average 35 hours or more a week. Commuter benefits must include the option for employees to use pre-tax dollars to purchase a transit pass, and may include other benefits like reimbursements for walking, rolling, biking, or carpooling to work.

### The commuter benefits policy will apply to businesses that:

- » employ 50 or more workers
- » are located in Minnesota's large cities with formal "first class" status based on population (Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Rochester, and Duluth)
- » and are within one mile of regular route transit service

Learn more at [movemn.org](http://movemn.org)! Contact MJ Carpio at [mjc@movemn.org](mailto:mjc@movemn.org) and Nas Nourkadi at [nasn@movemn.org](mailto:nasn@movemn.org)

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