



move

MINNESOTA

THE POWER OF PERSISTENCE

2023-2024 Annual Report

TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Like a puzzle with many pieces, making change isn't always quick or simple. To realize our vision, we need many components: strategic advocacy, authentic community engagement, and close attention to how everything fits together. That work is most effective with many hands and energetic commitment. For years, Move Minnesota has been growing and leading the movement for an equitable and sustainable transportation system that puts people first. And these past two years have been a testament to the power of persistent advocacy and organizing.



We know Minnesotans want a transportation system that helps families thrive, keeps neighborhoods healthy, sustains our air and climate, and connects us to work, school, and the people we love. In 2023 and 2024, we secured transformative wins that will change the lives of every Minnesotan now and long into the future.

We brought together transit riders, advocates, coalition partners, and elected champions to make Minnesota a national leader on transit funding and climate action. Community members came together through our volunteer groups to identify, launch, and lead key campaigns that will impact once-in-a-generation infrastructure projects. Educators worked with us to give thousands of students new perspectives on their mobility options and our affiliate organization, Move Minnesota Action, informed and mobilized voters to elect transit-champion majorities to both the Minneapolis and Saint Paul City Councils.

None of this is possible without supporters like you. It is because of the sustained commitment of volunteers, advocates, donors, and partners that we can do this work, year in and year out, in ways that add up to big shifts in our transportation system. We're excited to share some of our 2023 and 2024 highlights in the following pages—and look forward to continuing to grow and advance our movement together.

The team at Move Minnesota



State Advocacy: Leading the Nation on Climate and Transit

We know Minnesotans want a transportation system that works for everyone—whether we walk or roll, bike or take the bus. At the start of 2023, we released the results of a compelling statewide poll that showed 1 in 5 drivers would prefer to travel by another mode and one-third of Minnesotans would be more likely to use public transit if there were greater access to transit where they lived. But shifting from car-based infrastructure to people-first mobility requires significant changes to how our communities develop, the types of roads we build, and where we direct our public resources.

That's why Move Minnesota—and Move Minnesota Action—have spent more than a decade building relationships, cultivating legislative champions, and working in coalition at the State Capitol. **And this biennium, that persistence paid off in a big way. Thanks to advocates and supporters like you, we passed—and protected—a nation-leading transportation bill** with historic policy changes and dedicated investment that will fundamentally change how we get around and safeguard our climate for generations to come.



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Thanks to the scores of volunteers who repeatedly showed up at the capitol, and the hundreds of residents who made their voices heard, state lawmakers came through in a big way. This transportation bill will transform transit for Minnesota families and secure a more just and climate-resilient future for all of us.

Sam Rockwell, former Move Minnesota Executive Director



Our Historic State Policy Wins

- ✓ Long-term, dedicated transit funding to create fast & frequent metro service, electric buses, and more
- ✓ Cutting-edge policies to curb climate pollution from new transportation projects and land use
- ✓ Transit ambassadors to create a safe, welcoming system for all
- ✓ Decriminalized fare enforcement to end astronomical fines and unjust criminal penalties
- ✓ Free fare pilot on two Metro Transit lines
- ✓ Funding for Northern Lights Express passenger rail
- ✓ Investments in Greater Minnesota transit

Dedicated Funding to Transform Public Transit

For generations, lawmakers have funneled our tax dollars to car-based transportation, while starving public transit. Year after year, we've fought for funding that gives Minnesotans mobility options that put people first. **In 2023, we made historic progress at the State Capitol, securing longterm dedicated funding for public transit through a 0.75¢ sales tax in the Twin Cities region.**

Like many systems nationwide, Metro Transit faced a massive annual operating shortfall in 2023. Now, poised to receive upwards of \$450 million annually in new, dedicated funding, **Metro Transit's secure financial footing is bucking the national trend and setting a new precedent for cities across the country.** Exciting improvements--like buses and trains that come every 5-10 minutes, a complete bus rapid transit network, an electric bus fleet, better suburban service, reduced fares, and more—are finally possible. Another \$60 million annually will fund new connections for biking, walking, and rolling

Winning these transformative investments in public transit means we can start to build a system that serves people like it should: with fast, frequent, and convenient bus service throughout the metro and important new connections statewide. It means we can have cleaner air, more affordable cities, and easier commutes. It means better access to jobs, schools, grocery stores, healthcare, and visits with friends and family. It means a better future for Minnesotans of all ages, races, incomes, and abilities.

In 2024, we fought back attempts to restrict or redirect the critical funds necessary to ensure transit riders get the high-quality system we all need and deserve. And moving forward, we'll continue to protect these essential dollars and work to ensure they're well-spent in ways that improve people's daily lives and fulfill the potential for incredible transit in the Twin Cities.



Decades of underinvestment in our transit system has given me and my family no real choices. Now we have the financial resources to change that.

Grace Bassekle



With this bill we're putting into place a climate smart system for planning and evolving our transportation infrastructure.

Representative Larry Kraft

Driving Down Climate

Vehicle transportation is the largest source of climate pollution. But changing that isn't simply about individual choices—it's about shifting the systems that make us dependent on cars. For generations, highways and car-centric urban planning have fueled the climate crisis and created deep racial inequities in our communities. **Thanks to years of advocacy, Move Minnesota Action played a central role in drafting, advancing, and securing the votes for the cutting-edge policy that will help set Minnesota on a new path.**

In 2023, Minnesota passed a groundbreaking law that will put Minnesota's established climate goals into action on major transportation projects. The law requires the Minnesota Department of Transportation assess the impacts of any new highway expansion project—and if the project fails to reduce climate pollution and individual driving in line with state goals, the agency must cancel the project or find ways to reduce or offset that pollution with projects that give our communities more and better options to bike, walk, roll, and use public transit.

After setting this ground-breaking baseline in 2023, we broadened our climate pollution policy in the 2024 legislative session to include not just highway expansion projects, but every major highway project statewide. Moving forward, we'll continue to advocate for crucial funding flexibility so dollars dedicated to highways can be used by state and local jurisdictions to invest in the more sustainable transportation system we need to strengthen our communities and protect our climate.

Local Campaigns: Communities Advancing Change

If we want to build a transportation system that puts people first, we know our advocacy has to do the same. From regional priorities to specific projects, the vision and voices of transit riders and community members is essential to making change we can see and feel in our daily lives. In 2023 and 2024, our movement energized and mobilized thousands of residents for better transit, biking, walking and rolling.

Livable Lyndale

In 2022, we launched our Minneapolis and Saint Paul Volunteer Teams so community members could set the agenda and identify campaign and policy priorities in the cities they care about. That's how the Livable Lyndale campaign was born—from the hearts and minds of people who have a personal connection to the Minneapolis corridor and want it to be safe and welcoming for everyone.

Because of the way the street is designed, speeding traffic, narrow sidewalks, and hectic crossings make it difficult and even dangerous for people to walk, bike, roll, and ride transit on Lyndale Avenue South. But, Hennepin County is rebuilding the entire road from scratch, presenting a once-in-a-generation opportunity to redesign this section of Lyndale in a way that better reflects the community's priorities.

From tabling events to neighborhood canvasses, from pedestrian rallies to bike rides, the Livable Lyndale campaign has mobilized thousands of community members around a street redesign that plans for people, not the past. With the release of Hennepin County's initial design concepts for the reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue, we know our voices are being heard. Moving forward, we'll continue to push for a project that includes dedicated space for both bus and bike lanes—and creates a safe and inviting street for everyone!



Boost the Bus

All of us in the Twin Cities deserve public transit that is quick and convenient and there when we need it. In 2023, Move Minnesota accelerated the momentum around our Boost the Bus campaign, collecting and delivering thousands of petition signatures to Metro Transit, calling for faster and more reliable service on the region's most-used routes. **We made gains through a state working group in 2023 and secured critical policy changes during the 2024 legislative session that will prioritize bus lanes and signal priority on future bus rapid transit projects.** Building on this strong momentum, our Saint Paul Volunteer Team is organizing specifically to Boost the Bus in our capital city in the year ahead, advocating with the local community and local decision-makers for transit signal priority and other ways to speed up service across the city.



Purple Line for People

From Saint Paul and Maplewood, to Vadnais Heights and White Bear Lake, we need fast, frequent transit that serves our communities in the East Metro. That's why Move Minnesota has played a key role in the Purple People coalition—calling on decision-makers to put the new METRO Purple Line route and the station locations where they will do the most good! In 2023 and 2024, we **deepened our organizational relationships on Saint Paul's East Side, canvassing key neighborhoods and co-hosting community events to educate residents about the coming project and advocate for the route to run down White Bear Avenue.** Our work isn't done yet and we're excited to continue to build Purple People power in 2024 and beyond!



Photo courtesy of Paris Dunning, East Side Area Business Association

Community Engagement: Informing & Inspiring New Riders

From teaching students about transit to connecting communities through group bike rides, Move Minnesota elevates the benefits and encourages more people to bike, walk, roll, and ride public transit through fun events and targeted engagements. In 2023 and 2024, we continued to educate and inspire people of all ages, races, and incomes across the region to consider more affordable and sustainable ways of getting around.

Changing the School Commute

No matter where we live, middle school and high school are periods of tremendous change for the kids in our communities. As students transition from childhood to their teenage years, they develop worldviews and habits that can last a lifetime. That's why Move Minnesota started our Changing the School Commute initiative: to help more students feel comfortable and inspired to use public transit.

Based on our listening sessions with students in 2022, we developed four different training modules specifically for use with students that include interactive content, on-the-go learning, and some friendly trivia competition. In 2023, we used them all in the classroom and out in the community, and the feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. For instance, in one engagement in Saint Paul, **80% of students said they felt comfortable navigating public transit on their own in the future.**

Over the past two years, we've connected with more than 1,000 students, from one-to-one conversations, to single classroom sessions, to extended engagements over multiple weeks. We are so grateful for all the schools and students we have gotten to work with, and we are excited to see how students continue their journey on public transit!



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“Riding transit to school has given me skills for adulthood I don't know where else I'd learn.”

Saint Paul High School Student



Car-Free MSP

As part of the Car-Free MSP initiative, Move Minnesota teamed up with partners across Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and our broader metro region to promote events and resources that empower and encourage community members to replace at least one car trip in September with biking, walking, rolling or public transportation. We had a blast at all the creative events—including co-hosting group bike rides—and we helped the initiative get **more than 1,000 metro residents to take the Car-Free Pledge**. We're excited about continuing that partnership in 2024 and connect more people to sustainable ways of getting around the Twin Cities.



Bike Saint Paul

In 2024, Saint Paul passed an exciting update to its bike plan that will add more than 100 miles of protected bike infrastructure over the next 15 years. Move Minnesota was happy to help mobilize local support for the plan update to improve safety, encourage more biking throughout the city, and make biking more comfortable and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. With recent investments, Saint Paul already has many great places to ride. In 2023, we kicked off a new summer series exploring new and existing bicycling routes in Saint Paul, **engaging more than 150 people over the past two summers**, including some special guests, like Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter!



Bike Month

National Bike Month is a chance to create and showcase opportunities for everyone to ride—no matter our age, race, gender, or income. In 2024, Move Minnesota hosted a series of fun and inclusive group rides to celebrate the joy of bicycling in our Twin Cities community, including rides specifically for Black, Indigenous, and people of color riders, as well as femme, trans, and women riders. **Over 200 people joined a Bike Month ride and 50 incredible volunteers shared their time, talents, and love of biking**. Many supportive community partners and local businesses also welcomed riders and helped us make these rides possible!

Move Minnesota Action: Mobilizing for Municipal Champions

When we come together to elect pro-transit candidates, we can create a Minnesota where everyone can get around and all of us can thrive. Launched in 2021, our affiliate Move Minnesota Action is growing our movement through effective organizing, issue education, and electoral advocacy in Minnesota.

Without the transit champions elected to the state legislature in 2022, we might not have passed the nation's most progressive transportation bill in 2023.

But decisions impacting public transit aren't just made at the State Capitol. City council members also play a critical role in making sure our streets are designed for people and our buses and trains are fast, frequent, and convenient for everyone. In 2023, Move Minnesota Action endorsed its first slate of municipal candidates in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Bloomington, Saint Louis Park, and Duluth—and made key connections with voters throughout the election season.

The work paid off: In November, voters elected pro-transit majorities to both the Minneapolis and Saint Paul City Councils.

ACTION



Graphic for Saint Paul City Council election results. It features a grid of seven candidate portraits, each with their name and ward number below. The text below the portraits reads: "PRO-TRANSIT MAJORITY ELECTED to Saint Paul City Council".

 Ward 2: Rebecca Noecker	 Ward 3: Saura Jost	 Ward 4: Milra Jalali
 Ward 5: Hwa Jeong Kim	 Ward 6: Nelsie Yang	 Ward 7: Cheniqua Johnson

**PRO-TRANSIT
MAJORITY ELECTED
to Saint Paul City Council**



Graphic for Minneapolis City Council election results. It features a grid of seven candidate portraits, each with their name and ward number below. The text below the portraits reads: "PRO-TRANSIT MAJORITY ELECTED to Minneapolis City Council".

 WARD 1: ELLIOTT PAYNE	 WARD 2: ROBIN WONSLEY	 WARD 5: JEREMIAH ELLISON	 WARD 7: KATIE CASHMAN
 WARD 9: JASON CHAVEZ	 WARD 10: AISHA CHUGHTAI	 WARD 12: AURIN CHOWDHURY	

**PRO-TRANSIT
MAJORITY ELECTED
to Minneapolis City Council**



Aisha Chughtai
@aishaforward10

Fast, reliable, affordable public transit is essential to a community. While we've made great improvements and investments in public transit, there is so much more we can do to become a city completely navigable by transit. I'm proud to have earned the support of @MoveMNAction!

2:10 PM · 9/20/23 ·



Mitra Jalali میترا
@mitrajunjalali

I'm thrilled to be endorsed by @MoveMNAction. In Saint Paul we've built nearly 28 new miles of safer bike infrastructure, helped launch Evie community carshare network, fully eliminated parking minimums & so much more to champion transportation equity.

11:21 AM · 9/27/23 ·



**Lona Dallessandro for
Bloomington City Council**
@voteforlona

Thank you @MoveMNAction for your support. I believe strongly that public transit is a keystone of a growing, vibrant community. I am proud to be endorsed by the group and am committed to continuing to expand transit options for Bloomington residents!

10:13 AM · 10/12/23 ·



Our Mission

We lead the movement for an equitable and sustainable transportation system in Minnesota that puts people first.

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CREATING A JUST, JOYFUL AND RESILIENT FUTURE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

At Move Minnesota, we are passionate about connecting communities, ending the climate crisis, expanding access to jobs and resources, and improving daily life for Minnesotans of all ages, races, incomes, and abilities.

With your support, we connect people to transit where the system works well, and fight hard to ensure it works for everyone.

We are transit advocates, grassroots organizers, coalition builders, and policy experts. We are neighbors and bus riders and bicyclists.

Our work starts with a belief that a better future is possible. That no one should be left out. That our families, our communities, and our climate are worth fighting for.

We are proud to unite over 10,000 supporters like you who share our vision for putting people first and transforming transportation.

Thank you to the many individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations whose generosity powers our work at Move Minnesota! Together we are creating a transportation system that works for everyone.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT | January 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024

Thanks to our institutional supporters for investing in Move Minnesota through grants, contracts, sponsorships, employer matches, and in-kind contributions.

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