

## Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council (Council) is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services for the Twin Cities metropolitan region and will play a significant role in the success of this project. The Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous region and priorities include creating a financially sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system, promote housing opportunities for all, and invest in infrastructure that supports economic development.



The Metropolitan Council is also the region's primary transit operator, providing 95% of the transit trips in the Twin Cities. As the transit operator, they are currently building two transitways that directly interact with I-494. The Orange Line Highway BRT, a federal small starts project, will open in late 2021. The D Line arterial BRT, also federally funded, is currently under construction. Both of these transitways will directly benefit from the I-494 project and the connections to jobs within the I-494 corridor.

As the region's MPO, the Council has identified this corridor in its Transportation Policy Plan as a critical area for transportation investment and is teaming with MnDOT to plan and implement the I-494 project to connect people to places and opportunity. By partnering on this grant, MnDOT and the Metropolitan Council will be able to leverage local investments and opportunities to maximize the value of the federal investment in the region.