

Exhibit A



Duluth Transit Authority

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August 18, 2015

Mr. Wayne Parson
City of Duluth Auditor
Room 107 City Hall
Duluth MN 55802-1190

Dear Mr. Parson:

This letter is to address the DTA's requested tax levy for CY 2016. In the following correspondence I will outline the DTA's needs for fiscal year 2016 and the various sources and uses of these funds. Because the DTA 2016 budget is not yet finalized and anticipated contracts with the Minnesota Department of Transportation have not been enacted, the budget request for the DTA's subsidy needs for next year are conservative.

The DTA's transit levy amount for fiscal year 2016 is calculated as follows. Under Tax Code Section 458A.31, the DTA's levy percentage is set at .0007253. By multiplying this percentage by the City of Duluth's Market Value the DTA potential levy amount is in excess of \$3.7 million.

There are no Bond payments for 2016. The DTA Board after reviewing needs for 2016 has opted not to request the full levy available. Instead the DTA will be asking for \$1,491,900, an increase of \$100,000 over the past two years and only a \$175,000 over the levy request of 2004. The DTA Board of Directors approved this request at a Special Board meeting held today.

The DTA's 2016 draft operating budget for regular route and STRIDE operations plus capital needs estimates a total local contribution that will be equal to or more than the past levy. This is conservative as MN/DOT has yet to finalize the 2016 contracts based on a reduced level of State General Fund support. The new Federal bill also allocates in a different fashion so that capital allocations are more based on formula than need.

The DTA has an ongoing need for capital projects, especially the need for periodic replacement of rolling stock and associated equipment. Any balance remaining from a tax levy must be committed to the continued capital maintenance of DTA facilities and rolling stock.

This request fully includes the operations at the Multimodal Facility operation as well as minor service adjustments.

A full budget package reviewing the DTA's funding for 2016 is currently being prepared for City Council review.

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In summary, please certify the DTA's levy in the amount of \$1,491,900. Please review this letter and do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Heilig".

Jim Heilig
DTA Director of Administration and Planning

cc The Honorable Mayor Don Ness
 David Montgomery, Chief Administrative Officer
 Brian Hansen, City Treasurer
 Dennis E. Jensen, DTA General Manager