



## The League of Women Voters of Dane County, Inc.

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Statement of Support for the Dane County RTA Draft Phase I Plan for Transit  
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The League of Women Voters of Dane County first stated support for a public transportation plan early in the 1970s with words that are now familiar: “an integrated, multi-modal system to benefit people of all ages and abilities, providing access to schools, jobs, housing, services, education, and other destinations.”

We supported the establishment of the Regional Transit Authority in 2009. We are here now to support the plan for Phase I, the proposed April 5 referendum, and the statutorily authorized level of funding, up to a half-cent addition to the present sales tax. We believe the RTA Board has been wise to propose a fairly basic system that in the next three years will attract more riders by expanding the bus system and enhancing it with more park and ride lots, shared-ride taxi services and other services for the elderly and the frail.

The document itself is persuasive, describing particular improvements and the likely cost for each. It also contains a benefit list similar to the League’s own list including the improvements to air quality by reducing the number of private vehicles on the roads.

We believe it will be most efficient to enact the .5% increase in the sales tax now. We expect the RTA panel to authorize only the level of sales tax funding that it can use effectively for the first several years. We believe it should have the flexibility to increase its funding when services are expanded. It may be that some voters will favor the .25% rate but we judge that opponents of the RTA will not approve any public transit program no matter how low the cost.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to hear the views of the public.

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