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**Statement to Dane County Board Supervisors
June 21, 2007**

The League of Women Voters of Dane County favors Resolution 57 that would support a regional transportation authority and further requests that the state pass enabling legislation. The establishment of an RTA to run such a rail link in an integrated transit system will make possible a valid application for federal funds for that link.

As we in Dane County face continuing population growth and rising energy costs, we must move to meet the obvious challenges. A rail link in an integrated, multi-modal transit system would play a valuable role, reducing energy consumption, saving transportation costs for travelers, even stimulating land-use planning generally. The presence of another transportation alternative that can offer a degree of comfort and convenience not presently available would be appreciated by commuters.

Furthermore, in running the proposed rail operation, elected officials and professional staff from the various municipalities of the county would work together, aiding coordination of planning efforts generally.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County believes establishing this component of the transportation system to be a wise and necessary decision, and we urge you to pass Resolution 57 with its request that the state pass enabling legislation.

Thank you for your critical attention.

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