

Occasionally there are these moments in time when forces come together to break through a logjam. This is one of those days.

The vision and energy of this cabinet impresses me every day:

El Tinklenberg
Ted Mondale
Michael O'Keefe
Christine Jax
Kit Hadley
Dean Barkley

These people are good alone, but they are excellent together. And together, working real hard, we will not fail.

We will not fail to deliver on a transit and transportation plan that INCLUDES smart growth land use strategies.

We will not fail to consider – every day – that every dollar spent belongs to the public and therefore must be invested for the public good.

Local communities and counties MUST come together under one plan that makes sense – so train tracks don't end up 12' apart.

Everything is connected – housing, roads, jobs, education. That's why we have resurrected the idea of a Metropolitan Council that WORKS, and a cabinet of commissioners who work together across silos to get results.

We need RESULTS – not plans. We dare not lose this activated citizenry by bogging down in politics as usual.

We will not fail to make these next investments – HUGE investments – work for the young people who will inherit them.

We will not fail to make these metro region investments work for the entire state.

What difference does it make to a logger from Bemidji if there are good roads, but they cannot move through the metro area due to congestion?

What difference does it make to someone from Willmar who wants to shop if they can't get past Hwy 12 and the 394 jams to our downtowns to see a play or a game?



What about the commuter from St. Cloud who spends two hours in a car sitting on Hwy 94 rather than spend time with their family?

My trust is in these leaders to pull in leaders across the region in a cooperative, NEW DAY.

I EXPECT local officials to step up and serve their people by looking across the boundary of their voting district and see something much bigger that needs to get done for:

KIDS

FOR FAMILIES

FOR WORKERS

FOR “SEASONED CITIZENS”

FOR ALL OF US

It’s time. And I’m very happy to be here to celebrate Day One.