

NEWS RELEASE: “Candidate-Journalist” and Lobbyist for “We the People” releases youtube video to “help Minnesota’s ‘Media Establishment’ understand and report on the Legislature’s cut and ‘re-purposing’ of \$30 million in Southwest LRT funding”



Note: A .pdf version of this News Release is attached.

Disclosure: bobagain is a registered Lobbyist, representing “*We the People*”, an informal association, and has announced a campaign to win a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting, covering the unfolding “SWLRT disaster”.

Bobagain is (informally) reserving “**Tree #1**” for the upcoming Special Session (see photo)

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Minneapolis, 6/10/15 – “Candidate-Journalist”, Transit activist and registered lobbyist for “*We the People*” (an informal association) Bob “Again” Carney Jr. (bobagain) uploaded a [youtube video](#) today, designed to “help Minnesota’s ‘Media Establishment’ understand and report on the Legislature’s cut and ‘re-purposing’ of \$30 million in Southwest LRT funding”. The video, titled “[30 million cut to Southwest LRT State funding 6 15 2015](#)” is on the youtube “bobagain channel”.



Although bobagain has been reporting on this issue in depth on his web site, www.bobagain.com, and has analyzed what it portends for the Metro Council’s current Southwest Light Rail plan, he admits to being “frankly baffled” as to why the entire Minnesota “Media Establishment” has not reported even the most basic, hard news fact: that about \$30 million of a 2013 Legislative appropriation for Southwest Light Rail has been canceled. “I encourage the Minnesota ‘Media Establishment’ to simply watch the video, especially the beginning clips showing how the legislation was presented to both Houses by Transportation Chairs Sen. Scott Dibble and Rep. Tim Kelly,” bobagain said, adding “feel free to call or e-mail me me with questions”.

A FACT SHEET regarding the video’s content follows the end of this news release.

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FACT SHEET for video: [“30 million cut to Southwest LRT State funding 6-15-2015”](#)

Video sources — (for clips, enter “bobagain channel” in the youtube search box.

Senate Debate and Discussion of “Lights On” Transportation bill; \$29.7 million SWLRT canceled

http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/media/media_list.php?ls=89&ver=new&archive_year=2015&category=floor&type=video#header

Scroll down to the video for part 2; go to 1:50:12 on the time line, continue to 1:51:52.

House Debate and Discussion of “Lights On” Transportation bill; \$29.7 million SWLRT canceled

http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/archivesHFS.asp?ls_year=89

Scroll down to the video for part 2, go to 3:43:30 on the time line, continue to 3:44:17; go to 3:50:28, continue to 3:51:40

Note: Session Law sources are also provided below—

2015 “Lights On” Transportation Bill; \$29.7 of an earlier \$37 million Southwest Light Rail appropriation was canceled.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/current/>

Scroll down to SF 1647, presented to the Governor 5/20/2015, and not vetoed. Click on Chapter 75.

Scroll to Article 1, Section 4, for the re-purposed money to the Metro Council, \$27.3 million of this is available through FY 18, \$2 million is for the “opt-outs”, \$200,000 is for grants to Transportation Management Organizations.

Scroll to Article 1, Section 6, for the canceled appropriation of \$29.7 million that had previously been appropriated to the Metro Council for Southwest Light Rail.

Note that the total biennium appropriation is: \$81,626,000 + \$101,126,000 = \$182,752,000.

2013 Appropriation of \$37 million for Southwest Light Rail, of which \$29.7 was canceled.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=117&year=2013&type=0>

Scroll to Article 1, Section 4

Note that the base appropriation for 2016 and 2017 was \$76,686,000 each year. This totals to \$153,372,000 for the biennium. The current biennium appropriation of \$182,752,000 (see above) is \$29,380,000 higher – this appears to be possible because the \$29.7 million Southwest Light Rail appropriation was canceled and “re-purposed” to Metro Transit operating – where else could the additional \$29,380,000 in current biennium appropriated money have come from?