

## **HOURCAR announces McKnight Foundation to provide support for new model**

*HOURCAR has begun planning to convert their entire fleet from fuel-based vehicles to a 100% electric fleet and a one-way trip model by 2020 thanks to a matching grant provided by the McKnight Foundation.*

SAINT PAUL, MN, May 9, 2018 – HOURCAR announced today that it has received a grant from the McKnight Foundation to match the funds already provided by Xcel Energy to finish its ambitious planning process to launch a new carsharing service line in the Twin Cities. This new service is envisioned as **all-electric, hub-based, and one-way**. When this new service is in place, drivers will be able to end their reservation at any available hub instead of returning to the hub where the reservation originated. HOURCAR's current goal is to introduce this new service line by mid-2020.

HOURCAR has set a goal to convert its entire fleet to zero-emission electric vehicles (ZEVs) by the end of 2020. "This grant represents an investment in our present and future and aligns with the mission of the McKnight Foundation," said Kate Wolford, President of the Foundation. "Embracing a future of renewable electric vehicles will have a profound impact on the Twin Cities and we are proud to help this vision come to life."

HOURCAR is committed to delivering affordable, accessible and sustainable shared mobility options throughout the cities. In announcing the plan, HOURCAR CEO Paul Schroeder also pointed to disparities in transportation infrastructure. "We are especially interested in maximizing the impact of these changes in low-income communities, which are disproportionately affected by NOx emissions and airborne particulates. Children who grow up in these neighborhoods have higher rates of asthma and other breathing disorders," Schroeder said. "We aim to create access to electric vehicle carsharing in these areas, lowering emissions while also increasing access to flexible and affordable transportation choices, a double win for these communities."

"This transition and investment by both the McKnight Foundation and Xcel Energy will help us forge the right plan to address transportation disparities and reduce emissions and congestion," said Schroeder. "We are excited that there are so many businesses and organizations who are as interested in the future of the Twin Cities as we are, and we look forward to partnering with many more."

HOURCAR has been part of a cutting-edge movement in shared mobility since the organization's founding in 2005. As the original car sharing organization in the Twin Cities, HOURCAR is well-suited to help launch Twin Cities car sharing into the future. The organization continues to strive toward a new era of multi-modal transportation that is smart, earth-friendly, and socially responsible, and seeks partners, sponsors and other stakeholders to join in this effort.

**About HOURCAR:** HOURCAR delivers affordable, accessible, and sustainable shared mobility choices. HOURCAR is the Twin Cities' original nonprofit carsharing company, and has been serving the area since 2005. Originally a program of the Neighborhood Energy Connection, HOURCAR became an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in June of 2017. To learn more about HOURCAR, please visit [www.hourcar.org](http://www.hourcar.org) or follow on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**About The McKnight Foundation:** The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Program interests include regional economic and community development, Minnesota's arts and artists, education equity, youth engagement, Midwest climate and energy, Mississippi River water quality, neuroscience research, international crop research, and rural livelihoods. Founded in 1953 and independently endowed by William and Maude McKnight, the Foundation has assets of approximately \$2.3 billion and grants about \$90 million a year.

###