



December 27, 2017

Dear Forty Under 40 Selection Team,

With wisdom beyond his years and an amazing drive to improve the lives of others, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Cory Sharp for the 2018 *Des Moines Business Record's* Forty Under 40 class. I've had the privilege to get to know Cory during my time as an executive at The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART), and can attest he's a passionate advocate for our region and stands out as someone who is a natural and respected leader.

While Cory is involved in many organizations, I know him best as an advocate for transportation after he served on the DART Forward 2035 Advisory Committee. He quickly earned the respect of all with his preparation for meetings, creativity and ability to ask critically important questions while advocating for the next generation. No doubt this approach is what others also saw in him when he was elected President of the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Young Professionals Connection.

One of the many things I admire about Cory is that he doesn't go part way with anything – throwing himself into causes and initiatives with both his time and talent. For public transit, that has ranged from being a regular DART rider, to writing an editorial of support for expanding transportation services, to being part of public discussions around multi-modal initiatives

In fact, his insights have proven to be so valuable, that DART and The Partnership invited him to be one of a select group of leaders for a series of workshops in 2017 to discuss options for funding regional transit. He was a highly effective and respected member who shared the mindset of millennials and what is needed to continue to be a community where young professionals will want to live and work.

In conclusion, I hope you agree Cory's professional success and personal commitment to our community makes him a most worthy Forty Under 40 candidate!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Wanke".

Amanda Wanke
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