



# Minnesota Inter-County Association

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Sent Via Email

April 6, 2021

Representative Frank Hornstein, Chair  
House Transportation Finance and Policy  
545 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hornstein and committee members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF1684, as proposed to be amended as the House's omnibus transportation budget bill.

MICA represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties that together are home to over 35 percent of the state's residents, including four suburban and eleven greater Minnesota counties. The roads and bridges our counties maintain are critical to a well-functioning statewide transportation network that supports passenger vehicles, freight traffic, and arterial transit in both the metropolitan areas and across Minnesota.

MICA supports the steps proposed in by HF1684 to permanently increase funding for the statewide transportation system, including indexing the gas tax, adjusting motor vehicle registration fee schedules, and continuing to direct revenue from the sales tax on the sale of automobile parts and equipment to transportation.

We are appreciative that HF1684 maintains current law distribution for leased motor vehicle sales tax revenues (LMVST) and does not include the guideway funding policy change proposed by the Governor, language that would override local control of locally generated resources.

MICA has long supported a comprehensive transportation funding package that significantly increases dedicated new revenue for a safer, resilient, and more efficient statewide transportation network. The sales tax increase proposed in HF1684 for metropolitan transit should be considered as part of an overall funding package that includes full funding for roads and bridges, as well as Greater Minnesota transit, and ensures counties have a role in the decision-making for how the new revenues are used.

MICA greatly appreciates the awareness reflected in HF1684 that increased funding is needed to meet the transportation infrastructure challenges of our state and communities. Doing so is vital to our economic recovery, and to our future economic competitiveness, resiliency, and equal access to jobs and opportunities.

Again, thank you for the opportunity provide written testimony on HF1684.

Sincerely,

**Matt Massman**, Executive Director  
Minnesota Inter-County Association