

February 14, 2023

Representative Fue Lee, Chair
House Capital Investment
485 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Lee and Capital Investment Committee Members,

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and eleven Greater Minnesota counties.

We appreciate the Committee's introduction and consideration of DEA23-0021 and DEA23-0022. Minnesota's state and local public infrastructure is in critical need of investment, and we support early adoption of a significant bonding bill to move forward infrastructure projects yet this construction season.

County governments operate a considerable portfolio of public infrastructure that Minnesotans rely on each day. From roads and bridges, regional transit, waste recovery facilities, water infrastructure, parks and trails, and more, consistent and adequate capital investment is needed to maintain state and local infrastructure.

We particularly appreciate the meaningful level of local road and bridge funding proposed, as well funding for Greater Minnesota transit capital, rail crossings, safe routes to school, and local road wetland replacement funding. We also recognize that the readily identified need is greater than the proposed funding levels. For example, our Association has called for \$250 million for local road improvements and \$200 for local bridge projects.

We encourage adoption of this legislation as soon as practicable to move additional projects forward this construction season with additional funding being considered later in session.

Thank you for your consideration,



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association