

Diverse Groups Support Dedication of Road Funds for Roads & Bridges

Minnesotans depend upon a safe, efficient, and reliable transportation network to support the movement of people and commerce, the work of our first responders, and the continued growth and vibrancy of our state and local communities.

In 2017, the Legislature and Governor passed the largest investment in our state's transportation infrastructure in roughly a decade. The 2017 bill will generate an additional \$2 Billion in funding for the state's transportation system over the next 10 years. It does this by broadening transportation's base of financial support to include roughly 50% (\$145 million) of the annual revenue generated from the statewide sales tax on auto parts.

The importance of the 2017 funding bill can't be overstated. The Legislature and Governor marked an important milestone in the ongoing effort to fund our state's important transportation infrastructure needs. They provided new, significant, and desperately needed funding for our system. But the work isn't done.

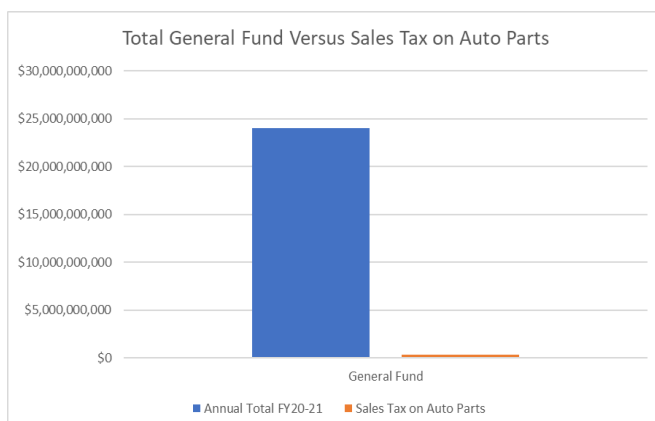
Because the 2017 bill capped the use of the auto parts sales tax revenues at \$145 million per year, this important funding source won't grow over time to help offset ever-increasing construction costs. Additionally, it means roughly \$150 million a year in transportation related sales tax revenues can't be accessed to help fund the completion of critical projects across the state each year.

In 2018, we have an opportunity to build on the accomplishments of 2017 Session. The 2018 Legislature should give Minnesotans the chance to ensure that highway dollars are used for highway purposes by constitutionally dedicating all of the sales tax on auto parts to Minnesota's roads and bridges. Doing so will mean another \$150 million per year for our roads and bridges.

Dedicating these funds would make it far more likely that we can help Greater Minnesota by building a network of ten-ton roads that connect with the trunk highway system, adequately fund the Corridors of Commerce program, and fix deficient bridges.

By capturing the "full take," the Legislature would prioritize a mere 0.6% of the state's budget for transportation infrastructure, a move supported by a strong majority of voters. Recent polling shows that fully 76% of Minnesotans, including over 80% of Republicans, and over 70% of Democrats and Independents, would vote for the amendment to dedicate these funds – constitutionally – to roads and bridges.

Our organizations agree. We stand ready to support the Legislature in taking the logical next steps toward securing the safe, efficient, and reliable transportation network that supports the entire state by asking Minnesotans to constitutionally dedicate these funds to transportation infrastructure. And we will encourage Minnesotans to follow through by voting YES in November.



Our Supporters

Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce
 Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
 Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
 Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce
 Brainerd Lakes Chamber
 Burnsville Chamber of Commerce
 Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce
 Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
 East Grand Forks/Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
 Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce
 Elk River Area Chamber of Commerce
 Fairmont Chamber of Commerce
 Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
 Fergus Falls Chamber of Commerce
 Grand Rapids Area Chamber
 Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau
 Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce
 International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
 Lakeville Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB
 Laurentian Chamber of Commerce

Litchfield Chamber of Commerce
 Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
 New Ulm Area Chamber of Commerce
 North Hennepin Area Chamber of Commerce
 Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce
 Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism
 Pipestone Area Chamber of Commerce
 River Heights Chamber of Commerce
 Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce
 Saint Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce
 Shakopee Area Chamber
 Southwest Metro Chamber of Commerce
 Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce
 TwinWest Chamber of Commerce
 Waconia Chamber of Commerce
 Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce
 White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce
 Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
 Winona Area Chamber of Commerce
 Woodbury Area Chamber of Commerce
 Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce

