



April 10, 2025

Representative Jon Koznick, Co-Chair
House Transportation Finance and Policy
Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Erin Koegel, Co-Chair
House Transportation Finance and Policy
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Dakota County support for HF2438 DE1 Amendment

Chairs Koznick and Koegel, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners, thank you for funding Interstate 35 and County Road 50 Bridge Improvements in the committee’s omnibus bill. We deeply appreciate your commitment to addressing critical safety and mobility concerns in this heavily traveled freeway corridor. The bill’s \$40.8 million in Trunk Highway bonds will help support construction of new interstate bridges and ramps and prepare the interstate for future expansion.

Interstate 35 sees nearly 110,000 vehicles daily passing through Burnsville and Lakeville, including heavy trucks and express buses. Commuter and freight traffic is expected to grow to 137,000 vehicles daily by 2046.

Capacity on I-35 is limited by the existing northbound and southbound bridges over County Road 50 in Lakeville, one of the state’s fastest-growing cities. This leads to back-ups onto the interstate, congestion and rear-end crashes. Between 2012 and 2021, there were 484 crashes here — nearly four times the critical crash rate.

The inadequate interchange also creates safety problems for vehicles, first responders, pedestrians and bicyclists on County Road 50. The road doesn’t have enough lanes for current and future traffic. However, fixing those problems first requires replacing the I-35 interchange bridges.

We know construction of this scope requires substantial financial commitment from local partners, and you have it in this project. Dakota County and the City of Lakeville have already invested more than \$20 million for right-of-way acquisition near the interchange. Additionally, the county will match a separate \$10.8 million state General Obligation bond request (HF1349). Those funds would be used to expand County Road 50 beneath the interstate bridges and improve safety.

Thank you for your recognition of this project’s ability to enhance safety and improve mobility. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions about our plans for this interchange and corridor.

Sincerely,

Mike Slavik, Chair

Dakota County Board of Commissioners

