



May 7, 2025

Dear Chair Dibble, Chair Koegel, Chair Koznick, and Members of the Conference Committee:

Metro Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HF 2438. Metro Cities supports several provisions included in the House and Senate bills.

Metro Cities supports:

- Funding for the corridors of commerce program in both bills, the additional \$2 million for project readiness funding in the Senate bill, and the Senate provision that reallocates efficiency savings generated by the department back into the corridors of commerce program.
- Increases to electric vehicle registration surcharges contained in both bills, and language in the Senate bill that establishes a new hybrid EV fee and indexes the EV and hybrid surcharges.
- Language in both bills that reimburses deputy registrars and driver's license agents for no-fee transactions.
- \$3.838 million in the House bill for the local road improvement program and \$3.838 million for the local bridge replacement program.
- \$20 million in the House bill for the local government road wetland replacement program.
- \$30 million in the House bill for the transportation economic development program.
- \$100 million in Trunk Highway Bonds in the Senate bill.
- Appropriations in the Senate bill for the State Patrol to purchase and equip a helicopter and a replacement single-engine airplane.

Metro Cities supports a mix of state and regional funding sources to support the regional transit system. As such, Metro Cities opposes cuts contained in both bills to general fund appropriations for transit systems operations in the metropolitan region.

Metro Cities supports giving cities greater flexibility within state design guidelines for local streets to safely accommodate all modes of travel, lower traveling speeds on local streets, address infrastructure needs and ensure livability within a context appropriate for the city's needs. Increasing options available to cities and improving the variance request process for state aid road plans help cities design their local system in a context-sensitive manner. Metro Cities appreciates the ongoing work with local government stakeholders in this area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lund'.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities