



Minnesota County Engineers Association



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AFFILIATED WITH

 Association of
Minnesota Counties

March 16, 2021

Chair Hornstein and Members of the House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee:

On behalf of the 87 counties in the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), we appreciate the opportunity to comment on HF1620, which changes the allocation of the motor vehicle rental tax.

MCEA has long advocated for the statewide need for increased transportation funding for roads, bridges, and transit. We also recognize that some cities do not have direct access to the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund (HUTDF) transportation funding and therefore support sustained funding, separate from the County State Aid Highway Fund (CSAH) be made accessible to small cities and townships.

HF1620 as amended would remove a significant amount of funding that is expected to go to the HUTDF in the next biennium. The proposed reallocation in the bill would reduce the CSAH fund by \$20 million. While we understand the need for funding at all levels of the system, we believe the proposal in HF1620 to reallocate the motor vehicle rental tax revenue should only be considered as part of a larger transportation funding package that results in increased funding for all beneficiaries of the HUTDF.

At a time when additional funding is so desperately needed, MCEA remains committed to finding a solution that addresses the funding needs of the entire state transportation system and will continue working together with all transportation stakeholders on a comprehensive transportation funding bill.

Sincerely,

Brian Giese, Pope County Engineer
President, Minnesota County Engineers Association