



April 30, 2021

Dear Members of the Transportation Conference Committee (HF1684/SF1159),

Metro Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on the omnibus Transportation Finance bills being considered by this conference committee. Metro Cities supports several key provisions:

Municipal State Aid Street Funding – MSAS provides an important revenue source that assists eligible cities with street infrastructure needs. Metro Cities is pleased to see that both the House and Senate language includes funding above base levels for MSAS.

Funding for Small Cities – Cities under 5,000 in population do not directly receive any non-property tax funds for collector and arterial streets. Metro Cities supports sustainable and reliable state funding sources for non-MSAS city streets and recognizes the attempts in both bills to address this issue.

Fuel Tax Indexing – Metro Cities supports the use of dedicated taxes and fees to fund transportation infrastructure. HF 1684 includes a provision that would index the gas tax to the National Construction Cost Index, which will ensure that current revenues keep pace with the cost of building and improving roads.

Transit – The metropolitan area needs a comprehensive transportation system and Metro Cities recognizes the important role transit plays in ensuring that the goals of the broader transportation system are met and supports stable state and regional sources to fund expenses for regional transit providers and Metro Mobility. Metro Cities is opposed to the transit funding reductions in SF 1159.

Local Roads and Bridges – Metro Cities is pleased to see that SF 1159 includes \$60 million for local bridges and over \$18 million for local roads. These appropriations will help municipalities provide local matches for trunk highway projects or be used to fund important improvement and maintenance efforts at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Transportation Finance bills. Metro Cities is available to answer any questions as the conference committee completes its work.

Regards,

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