

100%

100% Campaign
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April 3, 2023

Chair Gomez and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Rep. Frank Hornstein's House File 2887, as amended, the House Transportation omnibus bill.

We support it because it provides new, dedicated, and at-scale revenue for a comprehensive transportation package that centers both Metropolitan and Greater Minnesota transit and active transportation investments.

Our transportation system is how we stay connected. It's how we get to school, work, and shopping. It's how we go on vacation or get to 'away' games with the people we love. **Minnesotans need more and cleaner options for staying connected.** This means electrified vehicles for driving, the ability to walk, bike, or roll safely, and the option to take accessible, affordable, and welcoming transit, in every part of the state.

To get to this vision: a better connected and cleaner Minnesota, where everyone has safe, affordable, and efficient options, **we need new, dedicated, and at-scale revenue** that centers both Metropolitan Area and Greater Minnesota transit and active transportation investments.

In particular, **we support House File 2887's balanced approach** to funding sources and investments. No single revenue source by itself will meet the state's full needs. The bill's mix of revenue options works as a whole, asking everyone to pitch in for a system that we all use every day. We support this comprehensive approach. Within it, **we want to express our strong support for the 0.625% Metro Area Sales and Use Tax** dedicated to transit and the increased dedication of the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) to Greater Minnesota Transit. The transit system we need requires ongoing, scaled, and dedicated sources of revenue. This is an essential component of the bill's comprehensive approach.

In our view, the revenue package, as a whole, needs to meet three criteria.

We need at-scale revenue. According to the estimates the Minnesota Department of Transportation has shared with the legislature this year, we have a \$19 billion to \$27 billion gap between the agency's revenue and the state's needs. To help close this gap, we need at least \$1 billion per year to fix what we have and meet our state's existing transportation goals. The cost of the system we need, one with readily available, cleaner transit, safe streets, and maintained roads, is at least \$1.5 billion per year.

We need new, dedicated revenue. The state's historic surplus should play a role in closing this gap. However, our transportation needs are ongoing and structural. Insufficient dedicated funding limits long term investments; it also limits long-term planning capacity, which leaves Minnesota less

ready to take advantage of limited-time funding opportunities when they arise. In particular, transit operations, active transportation, and system maintenance require more (and dedicated) sources. These will need to include new and strengthened sources where we all pitch in to pay for the transportation system we all use.

We need to off-set the revenue with progressive investments. We urge the committee to get creative about how to off-set the more broad-based revenue sources with investments that will lower transportation costs for everyday Minnesotans. This must start with making transit and active transportation options more available, and more affordable, for people in every part of the state. Second, the committee should look for opportunities to adjust existing revenue sources to make them more progressive. Third, the overall solution ought to include investments that put new technologies, like electric vehicles, e-bikes, etc., within the reach of every family who wants to use them. Finally, the legislature should balance these revenue sources with family-supporting, non-transportation-related investments like the Working Family Credit, the Renters Credit, the Climate Action Tax Credit, etc.

A comprehensive approach to a cleaner, more affordable, more equitable transportation system is long overdue. Please do not miss the opportunity to act this year to invest in this system that we all use and we all need.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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