

Minnesota House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,
We appreciate the opportunity to voice our views before the committee.

In 2023, the legislature passed a law that requires the Department of Transportation to adhere to both greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction targets. This important "Climate Impact of Highways" Law went into effect this past February. But now the House Transportation bill HF2438 reportedly includes a three and a half year delay (Feb 1, 2025 to Aug 1, 2028) in implementation.

Several organizations will speak to the negative impact this delay will have on reducing carbon dioxide emissions and minimizing the harm our warming planet is already having on people. Yes, the impacts of our emissions are real and it is critical that Minnesota does our part to address them now.

Equally important are the many benefits Minnesota will see right here by maintaining the VMT reduction targets and expanding transportation choices.

[Analysis from the Rocky Mountain Institute](#) shows that within 10 years we will see:

- **Reduced household operations costs:** Each household can expect to save about \$500 per year on vehicle operating costs
- **Reduced crash injuries, fatalities, and related costs:** Minnesota's expansion of transportation choices would prevent 65 deaths and 1,000 injuries per year
- **Community Health benefits from active transportation:** Shifting trips to biking and walking would improve health outcomes and prevent up to 500 deaths per year
- **Community Health benefits from improved air quality:** Fatalities from poor air-quality would also be reduced

Altogether, the RMI report shows that if Minnesota were to achieve its VMT reduction targets of 20 percent per capita within 30 years we would save \$91 billion in these areas. What are we waiting for? Implement the VMT reduction targets as scheduled and let's build the future our children deserve now.

Andy Willette, St. Louis Park

Sharon Michelson, Minneapolis

Terry Quain, Minneapolis

About us: we are concerned citizens advocating for a livable planet and livable communities

<https://rmi.org/analysis-minnesotans-would-save-up-to-91-billion-from-climate-smart-transportation/>