

100%

100% Campaign
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March 24, 2022

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to share our support for Rep. Connie Bernardy's House File 2994. The bill would appropriate \$50 million in 2023 to our states' Active Transportation Program.

Our transportation system is how we stay connected. From Red Wing to Red Lake, we all need affordable, safe, and clean options for getting around. Our Active Transportation Program helps provide more options for Minnesotans to walk, bike, or roll to work, school, or retail shopping.

By providing funds for education, planning, engineering, and building, **the Active Transportation Program plays a vital role in making these improvements feasible** for communities across Minnesota.

These investments are in demand. The needs for these investments were included in the recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council in both 2020 and 2021. In 2020, supporting local efforts to improve options for walking and biking was advanced as a recommendation to reduce vehicle miles traveled by improving transportation options. In 2021, **active transportation investments were viewed as a key strategy to advance equity and environmental justice** in areas that are historically underserved.

Likewise, investing in active transportation was included as an Action Plan in our state's 2020-2024 Strategic Highway Safety Plan, where **they were considered a key safety priority** for pedestrians and cyclists.

Please support House File 2994 and make this overdue investment in safer, cleaner, and better connected communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Chris Conry
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