



Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 13, 2021

The Honorable Frank Hornstein
Chair, House Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy
449 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hornstein:

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, thank you for the opportunity to provide some context and perspective on the House's transportation omnibus bill (H.F. 1684). We understand that this session has presented several challenges and appreciate the effort that it is has taken to assemble the transportation omnibus bill. We appreciate the recognition of the need for additional revenue dedicated to transportation and applaud the House Transportation Committee for their approach to providing this revenue.

We also appreciate the inclusion of all the Governor's policy proposals, including those related to condemnation commissioners, land management, over-dimensional loads, and turn backs as well as funding to help the agency fulfill the following items from the Governor's budget request:

- Small contracts to advance equity
- Salt reduction, sustainability and public health
- Cyber security and risk management
- Rail safety and development
- Increased funding for state road construction
- Budget adjustments for operating pressures
- Adjusting the administrative cap for transit assistance
- Drones
- Animal-drawn vehicles

We welcome the provisions related to extending the cap on the number of construction manager/general contractor projects and implementing an employment preference for projects on or near Indian reservations.

We appreciate the inclusion of funding for passenger rail which can boost local economies and help connect Minnesotans to recreation and other opportunities across the state and beyond.

Finally, we are pleased to see sustainability initiatives in the bill, including a goal for a 20% reduction in vehicle miles traveled by 2050, which aligns a recommendation from the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council, and funding for electric vehicle infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Margaret Anderson Kelliher'.

Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation

cc: Representative Rena Moran, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee