

May 11, 2025

Dear Transportation Conferees,

Thank you for considering public testimony on the Transportation Omnibus Bill 2438.

Please invest \$50 million in the Resilient Pavement Program (\$25 million per year as recommended by the House). I am certain this will encourage MnDOT to more effectively deliver long-term solutions rather than continuing to put band-aids on our trunk highways.

I am also asking that you restore the word “annual” to our state statute 174.03 (lines 75.20 and 75.27 of the House bill). As you recall, MnDOT managed to undermine current law last year by burying several policy changes in the “Technical Correction Bill.” Fortunately, Representative Koegel and Senator Morrison succeeded in reducing the damage, however MnDOT did manage to avoid accountability by deleting “annual.”

Please consider that the American Society of Civil Engineers published the Minnesota Infrastructure Report Card in 2022. That report card rated Minnesota’s roads a D+ and specially recommended “annual” performance targets on page 71. It was expected then that MnDOT would choose to make progress by now, but that does not seem likely as we begin to prepare the 2026 report card. Please restore greater accountability at MnDOT so that our trunk highways may improve by 2030. The word “annual” needs to be restored in statute 174.03 (lines 75.20 and 75.27 of the House bill). Thank you very much.

Finally, if you can invest 12 minutes watching a great YouTube video by an enthusiastic young pavement engineer, please click on this link to a meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Ceren is amazing! She cares about Minnesota’s roads as much as your constituents and she knows how to build long lasting roads. Please help her do it.

Cost of Ignoring Pavement Foundation Layers, Ceren Aydin, March 5, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYhy1P8sKp4>

Thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Siekmeier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "S".

John Siekmeier, P.E. M. ASCE. MnDOT retired