



June 21, 2021

Members of the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities and our 835 member cities, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on First Special Session HF 10, the Omnibus Transportation Finance and Policy bill. The League is supportive of the following provisions in the bill:

- **Funding for the Small Cities Assistance Account**  
The League appreciates the inclusion of \$18 million in FY 2022 for the Small Cities Assistance Account. The League is disappointed the bill does not provide a permanent funding source for the Small Cities Assistance Account and is hopeful you will consider funding this account on an ongoing basis in the future.
- **Funding for the Local Bridge Account and Local Road Improvement Program**  
The League supports the \$14 million the bill provides for local bridge improvements and \$5.5 million for the Local Road Improvement Program. These programs have helped deliver hundreds of important projects at the local level throughout Minnesota.
- **Funding for Safe Routes to School**  
The bill provides \$5 million for the Safe Routes to School Program. Many communities have utilized this program to improve safety and expand transportation options, and more will benefit from this appropriation.
- **Major Local Bridges Program Clarification**  
The League supports the provision that would clarify Minn. Stat. § 174.50, subdivision 6d, so that the \$7 million expenditure cap applies to the amount that can be appropriated from the Local Bridge Account, not the total cost of the project.

Cities throughout Minnesota would have liked to see a more robust transportation funding package in 2021 and the League will continue to advocate for significant transportation revenue increases. I welcome the opportunity to work with you on initiatives that would accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Finn".

Anne Finn  
Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Director