



League of Minnesota Cities Building
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December 13, 2022

Dennis Olson
Minnesota Office of Higher Education
1450 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul, MN 55108

Dear Commissioner Olson,

On behalf of our stakeholders, the City Engineer's Association of Minnesota (CEAM) is pleased to support the Office of Higher Education's Dual Training Grant recommendation to include Transportation as an eligible industry along with a proportionate increase in the total program appropriation.

CEAM collaborates with public-sector, private-sector, and academic partners to shape transportation systems that are sustainable, serve the needs of all users, support a strong economy, and improve our collective quality of life.

Transportation is a complex, multi-sector industry facing many challenges, including attracting, training, developing, and retaining a skilled workforce to meet ever-evolving needs. CEAM members work closely with industry partners to address workforce challenges with innovative solutions. Including Transportation in the Dual Training Grant program will have a profound impact on our industry with countless direct and indirect benefits to Minnesota transportation systems. Some notable impacts:

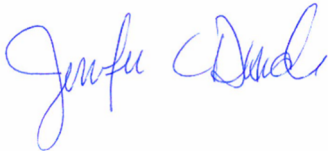
- Assisting employers with development of their own employees for career advancement into positions that can currently remain open for months or years.
- Alleviating budget constraints for local transportation agencies, easing the burden on the communities they serve.
- Helping small employers located at general aviation airports to stay competitive and provide services such as airplane maintenance to their customers.
- Ensuring local transportation agencies continue to provide their communities with high quality and reliable services, safe infrastructure, as well as preparing them for capital improvement projects.

We understand specific transportation occupations will be identified and competency models developed. Our stakeholders would initially pursue the following occupations and associated education/training/credentialing programs through DTG:

- **Civil Engineering Technician** – Degree programs are available through Minnesota State and Dunwoody College of Technology. Companion training is available through the Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program.
- **Maintenance Technician or Highway Maintenance Operator** – Specific needs for Commercial Drivers License (CDL) and equipment operator training, including: snowplow, motor grader, backhoe/excavator). Training providers include Minnesota State, labor unions, and Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program.
- **Aircraft Mechanic** - Degree programs available through Minnesota State.
- **Construction Inspectors** – MnDOT provides technical certifications.

Thank you for inviting us to share our support for this proposal. This program has had proven success and now is the time to expand the program to include Transportation and continue building a robust and skilled Minnesota workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jen Desrude". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jen" and last name "Desrude" clearly legible.

Jen Desrude, PE
CEAM President