



**DATE:** March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**TO:** House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee

**FROM:** Andrea Lovoll, Legislative Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

**RE:** H2887 DE1 (Hornstein) House Transportation Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill

Chair Hornstein and Members of the Committee:

H2887 DE1 (Hornstein) contains significant investments and transformative projects through legislative changes. It rises to this moment by advancing climate action, electric vehicle infrastructure, reductions in car miles traveled, and public and alternative transit. H2887 DE1 (Hornstein) does a good job of making targeted investments of \$1,075,000,000 over the biennium.

*We fully support the following provisions:*

**Active Transit** (lines 4.7–4.23): Alternative transportation is crucial to reducing carbon emissions and creating healthier communities. This provision increases opportunities for carpooling, bicycle commuting, telework, and transit.

**Electric Vehicle Infrastructure** (lines 15.10–15.15; 83.13–84.8): As we electrify the economy it's important to build out the infrastructure necessary to support it.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Discretionary Match** (lines 37.22–39.4): We are eager for Minnesota to fully realize the potential from historic federal funding in infrastructure and are glad that your bill includes significant matching funds.

**Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Assessment** (lines 64.26–68.8): This would evaluate embodied carbon emissions and vehicle miles traveled reduction goals.

*We encourage you advocate for the following provisions in conference committee:*

**Northern Lights Express** (lines 4.31–5.26): This rail line would conveniently connect Minneapolis and Duluth for travel and business while reducing emissions. We laud your allocation of \$194,300,000 and hope the Senate and Governor will match your budget.

**Transit Fare Elimination Pilot Program** (lines 106.1–107.5): This program will significantly benefit low-income Minnesotans, and we encourage you to advocate for its inclusion in the final Transportation omnibus bill.

*We recommend the inclusion of this provision:*

**Blue Line Extension LRT:** The Senate Transportation Omnibus bill includes The Blue Line Extension, which will connect some of our region's most diverse communities to jobs, education, and opportunities. We urge you to include this important measure in the final bill.

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