

100%

100% Campaign
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May 1, 2023

Senator Dibble and Representative Hornstein,

We are writing to share our priorities for House File 2887, the Transportation conference committee bill.

According to the estimates the Minnesota Department of Transportation has shared with the legislature this year, we have a \$19 billion to \$27 billion gap between the agency's revenue and the state's needs. To help close this gap, we need at least \$1 billion per year to fix what we have and meet our state's existing transportation goals. The cost of the system we need, one with readily available, cleaner transit, safe streets, and maintained roads, is at least \$1.5 billion per year. To close this ongoing gap, we have the following five recommendations.

First, we support ongoing, scaled, and dedicated sources of revenue for transportation. This will require a comprehensive mix of revenue options that work as a whole, asking everyone to pitch in for a system that we all use every day. **We strongly recommend including a 0.75% Metro Area Sales and Use Tax with at least .625% dedicated to metropolitan area transit.** We support dedicating 5% of this revenue to active transportation. We also support the increased dedication of the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) to Greater Minnesota Transit. This comprehensive mix should also include a **\$0.75 retail delivery fee** as well as new or rededicated revenues from the motor vehicle registration tax, motor vehicle sales tax, and the sales of automotive repair services and replacement parts.

Second, we support policies that improve the transit rider experience. Please include and fully fund these improvements:

- Transit Service Intervention Project from HF 2405 (Tabke) / SF 2506 (Dibble)
- Transit Rider Investment Program at \$2m in FY 24 (GF) from HF 1322 (Tabke) / SF 1049 (Dibble)
- Transit Signal Priority System Planning from HF 2604 (Jordan) / SF 3054 (McEwen)
- Transit Fare Elimination Pilot Programs from HF 2604 (Jordan) / SF 3054 (McEwen)
- Extension of Blue Line LRT at \$50m in FY 24 (GF) from HF 1577 (Freiberg) / SF 1707 (Rest)
- Northern Lights Express: \$194.3m in FY 24 (GF) from HF 409 (Koegel) / SF 202 (McEwen)
- Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Rail Corridor: \$5.315m in FY 24-25; \$9.752m in FY 26-27 (GF)

Third, we support robust and dedicated investments in Active Transportation. Please include funding and policy improvements such as:

- 5% dedication of the Metropolitan Region Sales and Use Tax to active transportation
- Active Transportation Program at \$50m in FY 24-25 & \$5.599m in FY 26-27 (GF)
- Safe Routes to Schools at \$20m increase in FY 24-25; \$845k / yr base in FY 26-27 (GF)
- Active Transportation Advisory Committee

- Active Transportation Safety Training from HF 678 (Elkins) / SF 911 (Morrison)
- Electric Assisted Bicycle Tax Credit at \$2m in FY 25 & FY 26 from HF 2360 (Rehm) / SF 2653 (Fateh)

Fourth, we strongly support the Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Assessment and the addition of Climate Action planning to metropolitan area comprehensive planning. With the transportation sector eclipsing the electric sector as the largest source of GHG emissions in Minnesota, the state urgently needs to understand the impacts of our decades-long investments. Likewise, we need insights like these to inform long-term, economy-wide local planning.

Fifth, we strongly support federal matching funds for transportation. These include:

- Federal Funds Matching Grants at \$116.4m in FY 24 (GF)
- Federal Funds Matching Grants for Local Govt at \$100m in FY 24 (GF)
- Multimodal IJIA Match for Transit at \$68m in FY 24 (GF)
- Multimodal IJIA Match for MNDOT Agency Services at \$5m in FY 24, 25, 26, & 27 (TH)
- IJIA Match for Bus Electrification at \$29.2m in FY 24 (GF) (From Walz-Flanagan)

We strongly urge the creation of a Federal Funds Coordinator position at MN Management & Budget and NEVI Program Staff at the MN Department of Transportation.

- NEVI Program Staffing at MNDOT at \$261k in FY 24, 25, 26, & 27 (GF)
- Federal Funds Coordinator at MB at \$570k in FY 24, 25, 26, & 27 (GF) from HF 2406 (Koegel) / SF 2649 (Carlson)

And thank you for your shared investment in these federal matching funds:

- Federal Match - Electric vehicle infrastructure at \$13.6m in FY 24 (GF)
- Maximize Federal Climate Funding at \$2m in FY 24, 25, 26, & 27 (GF)
- Federal Funds Technical Assistance Grants at \$2m in FY 24 (GF)

Finally, thank you for including language to ease the siting of High Voltage Transmission Lines along public highways and to invest in Highways for Habitat and Living Snow Fences.

A comprehensive approach to a cleaner, more affordable, more equitable transportation system is long overdue. Please do not miss the opportunity to act this year to invest in this system that we all use and we all need.

Thank you for all your work creating a better Minnesota,

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