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April 11, 2025

Co-Chairs Koegel and Koznick and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), we appreciate the opportunity to share comments on the DE1 Amendment to House File 2438, the House Transportation Budget Bill.

On behalf of all of Minnesota's 87 counties, we are grateful for the one-time General Fund investments included in the DE1 for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP), and the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWP) as well as the base funding for the wetland replacement program in FY2028-29. Predictable and adequate funding for this program is necessary to ensure its long-term viability.

We also want to share our support for the increase in the current electric vehicle (EV) fee in order to align it more fairly with the fuel tax paid by drivers of other fuel-powered vehicles and capture revenue from all highway users. With the fee increase from \$75 to \$200, we support the majority of this revenue continuing to go to the Highway User Tax Distribution (HUTD) Fund and also believe having a portion of it go to the Transportation Impact Assessment and Mitigation Account in the special revenue fund is an appropriate source of funding for that account. With regard to the Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Assessment, counties are supportive of the language included in Article 2 Section 7 of the DE1 that would delay the date to implement impact assessments by one year, which will help provide more time for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to continue its work and for effective evaluation tools to be developed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on the House Transportation Budget Bill. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our perspective and look forward to continued conversation.

Sincerely,

Emily Murray, Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

Ryan Thilges, Blue Earth County Engineer
Vice President, Minnesota County Engineers Association