



April 8, 2024

Chair Hornstein and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance including local governments, the transportation industry, labor, transit systems and businesses, we appreciate this opportunity to comment on HF4988, making changes to the requirements governing assessment of trunk highway projects for impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled.

Alliance members would like to thank Rep. Kraft for introducing legislation that incorporates many of the recommendations of the Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Mitigation Working Group.

We appreciate the shift to a portfolio of projects approach when the models and assessments tools become available for that approach. We also support allowing the Commissioner to have input on which projects constitute capacity expansion as well as additional offset actions. Our members agree that a technical advisory committee made up of people with relevant expertise is important and would like to see local government representation on the committee.

Alliance members are very concerned about the growing demands being placed on the trunk highway fund the level of unmet need for maintaining existing trunk highways and state bridges. We have concerns about expanding the use of trunk highway funds and appreciate the removal of language eliminating some of the current restrictions on the use of trunk highway funds.

Thank you for taking into consideration the work of the Working Group and making important improvements to the provisions that were enacted last year. Our members look forward to continuing to work with you to improve Minnesota's transportation system for all users.

Sincerely,

Margaret Donahoe
Executive Director