

Chair Hornstein

Members of the House Transportation Committee

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

The City of Minneapolis would like to thank Chair Hornstein for a robust and balanced transportation funding bill. Investments in transportation infrastructure are critical to our City and to the State. The City supports new and sustainable funding for multi-modal transportation, transit, rail, roads, and bridges, and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transportation systems. Keeping our infrastructure maintained and able to meet the needs of our residents is a high priority for our City.

The City supports the funding for the regional transit system included in this bill and would like to thank Chair Hornstein for its inclusion. Maintaining and expanding our transit system is vital to the region and the State. Reliable funding sources for transit is critical to improving service and building out an efficient transit system. In Minneapolis, 16.5% of residents live in a household without access to an automobile. Further, 29% of BIPOC residents and 36% of black residents live in a household without an automobile. Transit infrastructure is critical to our residents who are transit dependent or have limited access to other modes. Minneapolis also supports the provisions in this bill that aim to address the safety and rider experience issues our transit system is facing. We also support the Transit Fare Elimination Pilot Program included in this bill.

The federal matching funds and provisions that will allow the state and local governments to be more competitive for IRA and IIJA funding will be critical in making sure that Minnesota will receive needed federal transportation funding.

The City of Minneapolis appreciates the funding included for the Northern Lights Express rail project. This investment in creating new transportation opportunities that connect our State are crucial to the economic vitality of our communities.

We support the inclusion of new funding for city streets included in this bill, and would also support creating and funding a large cities assistance account, so that large cities can better address the growing needs of our entire street systems.

Thank you again Chair and Committee for your work so far this session,



Margaret Anderson Kelliher  
Director of Public Works  
City of Minneapolis