



April 10, 2025

Dear Chair Koznick, Chair Koegel, and Members of the Transportation Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HF 2438 (Koznick), as amended by the DE1 amendment.

Metro Cities supports several provisions in the DE amendment including:

- Appropriation increases for state road construction needs.
- Increased funding for the Corridors of Commerce program.
- \$15 million each year of the biennium of the Transportation Economic Development Program.
- Funding for the Local Road Improvement Program.
- \$10 million in FY2026 for the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program.
- Compensating deputy registrars and driver's license agents for no-fee transactions.

Cities over 5,000 in population rely on Municipal State Aid Streets (MSAS) and property taxes for the maintenance and improvement of their local systems. Metro Cities appreciates that the DE1 amendment contains a slight increase in base funding for MSAS. Cities of all sizes support the maintenance of Transportation Advancement Account (TAA), and the assistance accounts they fund.

Metro Cities supports a mix of state and regional funding sources to support our regional transit system. The DE1 amendment cuts \$40 million in general fund appropriations for metropolitan transit systems operations in the FY2026-2027 biennium. Metro Cities supports maintaining existing state funding levels for transit systems operations in the metropolitan region.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Lund'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities