



April 5, 2022

Dear Chair Hornstein and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 1683 – Hornstein, as amended by the DE1 amendment. Metro Cities supports several key provisions:

**Municipal State-Aid Streets** – Metro Cities supports the \$9.7 million appropriated in Article 1 for the MSAS system. Metro Cities appreciates the acknowledgement of match requirements for dollars appropriated under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the needs of which will continue over the five-year lifespan of the federal law.

**Small Cities Assistance** – Cities under 5,000 in population do not directly receive non-property tax funds for collector and arterial streets. Metro Cities appreciates the \$30 million over three years for the Small Cities Assistance Account included in the bill, to assist small cities in addressing address road improvements.

**Federal Funds Local Assistance Program** – Metro Cities supports the creation of the Federal Funds Local Assistance Program with a \$36.8 million appropriation and appreciates the Federal Grants Technical Assistance provision included in the DE1. These provisions will ensure local governments are as competitive as possible in applying for the many federal discretionary grant programs authorized in the IIJA.

**Transit** – Metro Cities' policies recognize a comprehensive regional transit system as an invaluable component in meeting the multimodal transportation needs of the region. Transit service connects residents to jobs, schools, health care, and activity centers. Metro Cities supports the more than \$31 million included in the DE1 for the Metropolitan Council that will help the region compete for grants as a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Metro Cities also supports the \$1.3 million for replacement service providers to expand and improve microtransit service.

**Independent Expert Review Provisions** – Metro Cities supports changes to transaction fee levels that are set by state law to ensure that local deputy registrars can sufficiently function and meet continually evolving service needs. Metro Cities supports the provisions in Article 4 of the DE1 that increase the filing fee for drivers' license transactions and allocates a portion of filing fee revenue to to deputy registrars.

**Road Usage Task Force** – Metro Cities' policies encourage the state to study the impact of electric and automated vehicles on transportation funding. If included in the eventual omnibus transportation bill, we look forward to reviewing the report on the potential implementation of a road usage charge in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We look forward to working with you as a transportation funding package advances this session. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Lund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Lund" clearly visible.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities