



www.mncounties.org

www.minnesotacountyengineers.org

May 4, 2022

Chair Bakk and Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), we write in support of SF4066, a bill providing \$200 million in bonds for both the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP) and the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP).

One of AMC's top priorities this session is support for a robust bonding bill that includes funding for transportation-related programs including LBRP and LRIP. The 2020 bonding bill provided a significant amount of funding for these two programs, and we are hopeful for a continued investment in this year's bonding bill.

Counties and cities have passed resolutions and prioritized 772 bridges on the local system that need replacing in the next five years and the average cost to replace a bridge is approximately \$700,000. In 2020, local agencies replaced or rehabilitated 136 bridges statewide, totaling \$67.3 million in construction costs, and a portion of this funding came from state transportation bonds. The most recent solicitation for LRIP received 425 applications totaling \$344 million in requests – this amount far exceeding the \$75 million available in the 2020 bonding bill. With that \$75 million investment in LRIP, 75 projects were funded. As you can see, funding for both programs goes a long way to fulfill many road and bridge projects statewide.

We want to thank Senator Jasinski, Chair Bakk, and members of the committee for recognizing the importance of these two programs. Thank you for your consideration and support of SF4066.

Sincerely,

Todd Patzer, Lac qui Parle County Commissioner
President, Association of Minnesota Counties

Joe Triplett, Chisago County Engineer
President, Minnesota County Engineers Association