

The logo features a stylized purple dome with columns, representing a government building.

Association of Minnesota Counties

March 15, 2022

Chair Newman and Members of the Senate Transportation Finance & Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), we appreciate the opportunity to comment on SF3990 (Pratt) that would require counties to fund specified aspects of current and future guideways.

As a statewide organization, AMC has long advocated for the need for increased transportation funding. Each year as our membership considers our legislative priorities, we focus on action items that advance our three core principles, including support for state budget solutions that avoid adding or shifting a disproportionate burden to counties through cost shifts, cost shares, and unfunded mandates. One of our top priorities over the past several years is support for a comprehensive transportation funding bill that includes new, dedicated revenue for roads, bridges, and transit.

In its present form, SF3990 creates a cost shift to counties for the funding of current and future guideways. At a time when additional funding for the transportation system is needed, counties shouldn't be required to shoulder these costs on their own.

Last session, a similar proposal was advanced in the Senate Omnibus Transportation Bill, and we shared the same concerns at that time. Since then, a large federal infrastructure package has passed that includes significant funding to maintain our roads, bridges, and transit system. Leveraging federal resources and new transportation funding is what is needed to maintain and improve our state's transportation assets, instead of shifting those costs to our counties.

Thank you for considering our concerns with SF3990 and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "emilymurray".

Emily Murray
Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties