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March 28, 2023

Chair Pappas 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 SF1021, a bill providing \$200 million in bonds for the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP) and \$150 million in bonds for the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP).

AMC and MCEA have long advocated for the statewide need for increased transportation dollars. One of our top priorities this year and for the past several years is support for a comprehensive transportation funding bill that includes new, dedicated revenue for roads, bridges, and transit as well as a bonding bill that includes investment in transportation-related programs.

Over the next five years, cities and counties have identified 634 priority bridge replacement projects by city council or county board resolution, requesting approximately \$290 million in state bridge funds. These projects are expected to leverage an additional \$400 million in federal, state aid, local, and other funds. The most recent solicitation for LRIP received over 400 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 Dibble, Chair Pappas, and members of the committee for recognizing the importance of these two programs. Thank you for your consideration and support of SF1021.

Sincerely,

Emily Murray, Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

Brian Pogodzinski, Houston County Engineer
President, Minnesota County Engineers Association