



March 27, 2023

Senator Sandy Pappas
Chair, Senate Capital Investment Committee
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support of Senate File 1021 (Dibble) Local roads and bridges bond issue and appropriation

Dear Senator Pappas and Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) represents Minnesota's 1,777 townships. On behalf of our members and over 9,000 locally elected officials, we are pleased to support Senate File 1021, chief authored by Senator Dibble and co-authored by Senators Jasinski, Pappas, and Housley. The bill provides \$150 million in state funding for local road improvements and \$200 million for local bridges.

Townships maintain approximately 41% of Minnesota's roads (over 55,518 miles) as well as about 6,000 bridges, of which over 400 are on the deficiency list. Road and bridge expenditures are the largest expense for townships.

Township roads are vital to agriculture and local commerce, emergency vehicles, and school bus transportation. Without good, well-maintained town roads, produce doesn't make it to market on time, emergency vehicles can't get to people in danger as urgently as possible, and families can't get students to and from schools safely and on time.

Townships have not received an increase in dedicated, ongoing state funding for roads in many years. In fact, road funding for townships is projected to decrease by 28% in 2023 (as last year townships received \$12 million in one-time dollars that was not renewed). Current spending is insufficient to meet the increasing demand placed on township infrastructure.

Thank you for your service to Minnesota and consideration of Senate File 1021.

Sincerely,

Jeff Krueger
Executive Director
Minnesota Association of Townships

Gary Burdorf
President, Board of Directors
Minnesota Association of Townships