

March 28, 2023

Senator Sandra Pappas, Chair
Senate Capital Investment Committee
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Pappas and Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and eleven Greater Minnesota counties.

As regional centers for employment, entertainment, and commerce across the state, the county road and bridge infrastructure operated by these counties often carries disproportionately large volumes of traffic.

Overall, Minnesota counties have jurisdiction of nearly 45,000 of our State's 142,000 road miles and local governments oversee 80% of all bridges in the state. **We strongly support SF1021 sponsored by Chair Scott Dibble, proposing to make significant capital investment in local bridges (\$200 million) and local road improvements (\$250 million).** While those funding levels would represent a historic level of investment in local transportation infrastructure, the identified need already exceeds these amounts.

County roads and bridges move millions of people, goods, and services in Minnesota. Improving this infrastructure is critical for addressing public safety, attracting and sustaining economic investment, reaching regional, national, and international markets, and accessing education, health care, and recreation. As the Capital Investment Committee, and Transportation Finance Committee, work to allocate one-time funds identified by budget targets, we strongly encourage support for SF1021 to improve the condition of Minnesota's core public infrastructure.

Thank you, Chair Pappas for hearing this legislation, and thank you Chair Dibble for authoring a significant increased investment in critical public infrastructure.



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association