



April 14, 2023

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on several provisions contained in SF 3157 (Dibble).

Provisions in SF 3157 supported by Metro Cities include:

- Funding for the Corridors of Commerce program to help increase capacity, advance economic growth, and provide the efficient transportation of goods.
- The full dedication of auto parts sales tax revenue, which will benefit MSAS-eligible cities along with other recipients of Highway User Tax Distribution Fund (HUTDF) dollars.
- The establishment and funding of a Larger Cities Assistance Account.
- Funding for cities under 5,000 in population via the tab fee renewal surcharge and phased dedication of auto parts sales tax revenue.
- The Small Community Partnerships Program.
- Matching funds for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- The establishment of a Federal Transportation Grants Technical Assistance Program.
- Funding for the State Patrol to purchase a new helicopter and hire additional pilots.
- Stable and predictable revenue to fund operating and capital expenses for transit in the region.
- The Advisory Council on Traffic Safety, Safe Road Zones, and the Speed Safety Cameras report.

Metro Cities has concerns with provisions in SF 3157 that would statutorily prescribe highly specific climate action content for local comprehensive plans for metropolitan cities, creating a one-size-fits-all mandate that impedes longstanding regional and local collaborative processes for determining plan requirements. Finally, Metro Cities acknowledges language to create a Metropolitan Council Charter Commission. Metro Cities' policies on regional governance include longstanding support for staggered terms for members, and increased opportunities for local official input into the selection process for members, as metropolitan cities are responsible for implementing the majority of regional policies.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist