



April 25, 2023

Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of our collective organizations, we want to thank Chair Dibble and members of the Senate Transportation Committee for their work on a comprehensive transportation funding package this session. However, **there is serious concern with the language in SF3157 Article 8 Section 18 regarding a Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Assessment.**

The proposed language requires an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions for all grade separated interchange projects and capacity improvement projects on the trunk highway system. It would apply to capacity improvement projects with a cost of \$15M or more in the metro area and \$5M or more in Greater Minnesota. Additional greenhouse gas emissions developed as a result of the project will need to be mitigated by implementing transit related capital or operational improvements from a defined list as noted in the legislation.

We are concerned about the potential for cost increases, delays, and litigation risks for important safety improvements. Thanks to lane additions, new grade separations, and spot safety improvements in specific key corridors, fatalities and injuries have dropped dramatically on Highway 14 in southern Minnesota, Highway 212 in Carver County, Highway 12 in Hennepin County, and Highway 8 in Chisago County. The lives saved and improved mobility for people and products has made a real difference for Minnesotans.

We would like to work with legislators to improve this assessment process with the following suggestions:

- Include language that takes safety issues into account as part of the assessment process;
- With an implementation date of February, 2025, establish a working group to develop the methodology for conducting assessments and evaluating the feasibility and adequacy of mitigation options that includes county and city engineers, MnDOT and Met Council staff, Greater Minnesota Area Planning Organizations, and representatives of organized labor;
- Include general fund dollars to cover the cost of mitigation measures necessary to offset greenhouse gas emissions;
- Follow the approach of other states with a programmatic approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions rather than focusing on specific projects that add additional capacity; and
- Exempt projects eligible for funding through the Corridors of Commerce program from this assessment.

As we put more emphasis and effort into developing new policies, practices, and measures to reduce climate impacts, we must work together to ensure that they don't hinder progress on transportation projects that improve safety, mobility and environmental justice, create economic opportunity, and reduce congestion on our highway system. We must also be conscious of the different needs and mitigation opportunities that exist throughout the state.

The attached list of projects submitted for funding in 2022 for Corridors of Commerce dollars demonstrates the need for important safety improvements in key corridors around the state. We want to work with legislators to ensure that these projects can move forward without adding additional costs or delay. Transportation needs don't go away. The crashes continue to happen, the costs continue to add up, and the problems become more expensive.

Sincerely,

Association of Minnesota Counties

League of Minnesota Cities

Minnesota Inter-County Association

Minnesota Rural Counties

Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

Minnesota Transportation Alliance

Minnesota County Engineers Association

City Engineers Association of Minnesota

Associated General Contractors of Minnesota

Concrete Paving Association of Minnesota

Iron Workers Local 512

IUOE Local 49

Minnesota Asphalt Paving Association

Minnesota State Building & Construction Trades Council

Projects Submitted for Funding in 2022 for Corridors of Commerce Dollars

District	Highway	General location	Project type	Submitter	Corridors of Commerce funding requested
1	I-535	Duluth, MN - Superior, WI (I-535 Bridge)	Preservation for Freight	Duluth - Superior MPO (Metropolitan Interstate Council or MIC)	\$1,584,000,000
Metro	494	I-494 between 35W and TH 77	E-ZPass Expansion	I-494 Corridor Commission	\$131,000,000
3	I-94	Albertville to Monticello	Lane Additions - Both Directions	City of Otsego	\$100,300,000
Metro	13	TH 13 Corridor from Quentin Avenue in Savage to Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville	Grade Separation	Scott County	\$100,000,000
3	10 & 169	TH 10/169 in southeast Elk River between TH 101 and Anoka County	Grade Separation	City of Elk River	\$89,000,000
Metro	I-35	Interstate 35 between CSAH 46 and CSAH 70 and CSAH 50 between 172nd Street and I35 south ramps in Lakeville Mn	Interchange Expansion	Dakota County	\$77,485,640

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District	Highway	General location	Project type	Submitter	Corridors of Commerce funding requested
3	I-94	I-94 between Albertville and Monticello	4 to 6 Lane Expansion	Wright County	\$66,800,000
Metro	65	TH 65 between 103rd Avenue NE and 117th Avenue NE in the City of Blaine.	Grade Separation	City of Blaine	\$59,930,000
Metro	494	I-494 and 35W in Bloomington and Richfield, Minnesota	E-ZPass Implementation	City of Bloomington Minnesota	\$57,000,000
3	I-94	Albertville to Monticello - Westbound	Lane Addition - Westbound Only	City of Albertville	\$50,300,000
3	i-94	Monticello to Albertville - Eastbound	Lane Addition - Eastbound Only	City of Monticello	\$50,300,000
3	10	US Highway 10 and Minnesota Trunk Highway 25	Grade Separation	City of Becker	\$45,403,000
Metro	77	In the City of Apple Valley on TH 77 (Cedar Ave.), from 138th St. north to 35E	Lane Expansion	City of Apple Valley	\$43,773,000
Metro	55	Trunk Highway 55 from Arrowhead Drive to County Road 19	2 to 4 Lane Expansion	Highway 55 Corridor Coalition	\$43,000,000

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District	Highway	General location	Project type	Submitter	Corridors of Commerce funding requested
Metro	36 & 120	The junction of TH 36 and TH 120 (Century Avenue).	Grade Separation	Washington County Public Works	\$43,000,000
6	14	Intersection of Trunk Highway 14 and County State Aid Highway 44 in Olmsted County	Grade Separation	Olmsted County	\$41,200,000
Metro	5	Trunk Highway 5 from 80th St. in the City of Victoria to Century Boulevard in the City of Chanhassen, excluding the segment from Rolling Acres Road (CSAH 13) to Minnewashta Parkway	2-4 Lane Expansion	Carver County	\$40,060,000
3	169	US 169/CSAH 4 Rural Safety and Mobility Interchange Project, Zimmerman, MN	Grade Separation	City of Zimmerman	\$37,400,000
3	15 & 23	MN-23 concurrent with MN-15 in St. Cloud	Grade Separation	Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization	\$36,500,000
3	210 & 371	Junction of Trunk Highway 210 and Trunk Highway 371 in Baxter, Crow Wing County, MN	Grade Separation	Crow Wing County	\$33,000,000

Projects Submitted for Funding in 2022 for Corridors of Commerce Dollars

District	Highway	General location	Project type	Submitter	Corridors of Commerce funding requested
3	10	TH 10 and CSAH 11 Interchange near Big Lake/Becker	Grade Separation	Sherburne County	\$30,600,000
Metro	8	TH 8 from I-35 to Karmel Avenue	2 to 4 Lanes Expansion	Chisago County Public Works	\$30,000,000
Metro	610	TH 610 and East River Road	Interchange Expansion	City of Coon Rapids	\$28,372,700
Metro	10	On US Hwy 10 from CSAH 78 (Hanson Blvd) to CSAH 9 (Round Lake Blvd) in the City of Coon Rapids	4 to 6 Lane Expansion	City of Andover	\$28,100,000
8	23	Intersection of TH23 and TH9 at New London, MN.	Grade Separation	Kandiyohi County	\$26,000,000
1	53	US 53 in the Cities of Eveleth and Virginia	Rock Ridge Area Schools Transportation improvements	St. Louis County	\$22,200,000
Metro	62	Highway 62 between Portland Ave. and Highway 77 (Cedar Ave.)	Auxiliary Lane	City of Richfield	\$19,913,000

Projects Submitted for Funding in 2022 for Corridors of Commerce Dollars

District	Highway	General location	Project type	Submitter	Corridors of Commerce funding requested
Metro	47	The proposed project is a package of improvements on a 1.4 mile segment of Trunk Highway 47 (TH 47) in the City of St Francis between Cree Street NW and Ambassador Boulevard NW	Roundabout	City of St. Francis, MN	\$18,000,000
Metro	I-94	Fish Lake Interchange: WB I-94/NB I-494 Merge Added Lane & WB I-94 Auxiliary Lane	Auxiliary Lane	I-94 West Corridor Coalition	\$13,400,000
8	23	TH 23 in Willmar Township, Kandiyohi County	2-4 Lane Expansion	Highway 23 Coalition (Acting Chair)	\$8,000,000
Metro	I-35E	I-35E at County Road J Interchange	Interchange Expansion	Ramsey County	\$7,500,000
Metro	212	US Highway 212 and County State Aid Highway 51 Intersection in Benton Township, Carver County	Grade Separation	Southwest Corridor Transportation Coalition	\$6,000,000
6	I-90	On I-90, 1.5 miles west of the intersection of I-90 and CSAH 22 (Bridge Avenue, Exit 157).	New Interchange	Freeborn County	\$5,500,000