



March 17, 2023

Chair Dibble
Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

Re: SF 1562 – federal grants technical assistance and non-federal matching funds for discretionary Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act grant opportunities

Dear Chair Dibble and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

On behalf of 838 member cities, the League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of SF 1562 (Dibble). SF 1562 authorizes funding for technical assistance grants for local units of government and other eligible applicants to assist with applications for transportation-related federal discretionary grants as well as allocation of funds to cover non-federal matching requirements for discretionary grants authorized by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The IIJA provided once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure and included funding for numerous new and existing transportation and transit-related grant opportunities through both formula and discretionary grants. To maximize these historic investments, it is critical that the state supports local units of government in their efforts to secure funding and ensures that all cities regardless of size and resources have an equitable shot at securing funding to support locally identified transportation and transit infrastructure needs.

While cities are eager to take advantage of the numerous funding opportunities, identifying the correct funding opportunity for a particular project can often be daunting and applications for federal funds can often include costly preapplication requirements and non-federal matching requirements, which frequently prevents cities that may have eligible projects for funding from applying for funds. SF 1562 is an important step in the right direction to support city applicants with the matching resources and technical assistance needed to be competitive when it comes to accessing federal discretionary grants for transportation and transit-related infrastructure.

The League appreciates Senator Dibble's leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Finn'.

Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director