



March 17, 2023

Dear Chair Dibble and Members, Transportation Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 1562 (Dibble) that will be heard in the Transportation Committee on Friday. Metro Cities supports this bill.

The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) offered an unprecedented opportunity for Minnesota and its local governments to compete for federal transportation funds. Metro Cities supports the state doing everything in its power to enhance the competitiveness of cities applying for discretionary grant awards. This includes matching funds for local governments and technical assistance for cities interested in applying for discretionary grant opportunities. SF 1562 appropriates general fund dollars for non-federal matching funds that will result in important improvements on Minnesota's transportation and transit systems. The technical assistance included in SF 1562 is especially important for small cities, who often do not have the staff or expertise to navigate the federal grant process.

Metro Cities appreciates the steps Chair Dibble has taken to ensure that Minnesota's cities can best compete for federal funds via the IIJA and its various grant programs.

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
Metro Cities