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March 21, 2023

Regarding: Work Zone Safety Pilot Program SF2321 (Carlson)

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

The Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association (MAPA) is a trade association representing asphalt pavement contractors who do work from driveways to freeways. Workzone safety is a number one priority of our association and members. **Roadways are our workspace**, and keeping our workers, as well as those who drive through those work zones safe is tantamount to anything else we do.

We urge your full support of SF 2321 (Carlson) which includes language that would establish a pilot program to make work zones safer. Work zones in the right-of-way challenge both traffic and workplace safety. Working in the roadway is normally challenging but it has become even more challenging in recent years as the number of vehicles speeding through work zones has increased. The excessive speeds lead to more crashes and more times when a passing vehicle strays into the work zone. **Across the country, a work zone crash happens every 5 ½ minutes, with 70 injuries a day and 12 fatalities a week. Imagine working under these conditions.**

We know the process and plan required by SF 2321(Carlson) will lead to safer working conditions in work zones and improve traffic safety for each of us passing through a work zone.

Thank you for considering this legislation and for working to protect the women and men who work in the roadway, and many thanks to Senator Carlson for his advocacy on this issue.

Sincerely,

Abigail C. Bryduck
Executive Director