



DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

April 12, 2023

Senator Ann Rest
Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Senate File 3157 – Omnibus Transportation Bill

Senator Rest and members of the Senate Taxes Committee:

On behalf of the more than 100 member cities of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC), I write to thank Senator Dibble and the Senate Transportation Committee for advancing an omnibus transportation bill that includes the revenues necessary to invest in our state's infrastructure. The CGMC is particularly pleased to highlight the investments this bill makes in key areas, such as the small cities assistance program, municipal state aid, the creation of a street assistance account for larger cities, and significant investments in the Corridors of Commerce program.

When state transportation revenues fall behind, city street funding also suffers, and a higher burden falls on local property taxpayers. One category of cities—those with populations less than 5,000—receive no state support for their city streets. This bill would finally end this inequity by providing those cities with ongoing, dedicated funding. If the small city funding in this bill is signed into law, it would be a historic accomplishment and one of the most impactful things the state can do to support the more than 700 smaller cities across the state.

The CGMC recognizes that even at a time when the state's general fund coffers are swelling, much of the current surplus is "one-time" money, and the state's existing dedicated transportation revenues have not kept pace with projections. The CGMC has long supported transportation funding packages that include new, dedicated revenues for transportation, and we recognize that this year presents a significant opportunity. The revenues raised in this bill not only keep our state's infrastructure from falling farther behind but would set us on a path to invest in and advance our transportation systems.

Again, we thank Chair Dibble, Lead Jasinski, and the entire Senate Transportation Committee for their thoughtful work this session and hope to see the investments in this bill advance. With any questions as this bill proceeds, please feel free to contact me at SAZahrt@flaherty-hood.com or (651) 295-1123.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shane Zahrt
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities