

April 2, 2024

Senator Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
3107 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Dibble and Members of the Senate Tax Committee,

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and eleven Greater Minnesota counties.

MICA supports SF 3605, authored by Chair Dibble, to appropriate \$200 million from bond proceeds in the state transportation account for local roads with statewide and regional significance, and \$200 million for matching federal money to replace and rehabilitate local deficient bridges.

Many counties face the same funding pressure as the state related to capacity expansion, congestion reduction, interchanges, inflation, and required matches for federal funding. We particularly appreciate the meaningful level of local road and bridge funding called for in SF 3605 as the readily identified need is regularly more than the funding levels available from LRIP and the Local Bridge Repair and Replacement program.

The projects funded by these programs and appropriations benefit communities all across the state, and consistent funding in each bonding bill supports regular planning and budgeting for these critical infrastructure investments. We encourage adoption of significant road and bridge funding again in 2024 to move additional projects forward this construction season.

Thank you, Chair Dibble and the Committee members, for hearing SF3605 and considering increased funding for local roads and bridges.

Sincerely,



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association