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April 3, 2024

Chair Dibble and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), we write in support of SF3605 (Dibble), a bill providing \$200 million in bonds for both the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP) and the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP).

One of AMC and MCEA's top priorities this session is support for a bonding bill that includes funding for transportation-related programs, including the Local Road Improvement Program, the Local Bridge Replacement Program, the Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program, and the Busway Capital Improvement Program.

Counties are grateful for the significant investment in these programs in the 2023 bonding bill and in the Omnibus Transportation Finance and Policy bill last session, but there is still a considerable need for additional funding for these programs statewide. Over the next five years, local agencies have identified 948 priority bridge replacement projects, requesting approximately \$282 million in state bridge funds, with approximately \$740 million in total construction costs. During the 2023 LRIP competitive solicitation process, MnDOT State Aid received 378 applications requesting \$417.1 million in LRIP funding for the \$103 million appropriated last session. State funds make up approximately 45% of the construction cost with 55% coming from local, state aid, or federal funding sources. In total, the LRIP Advisory Committee approved 86 projects for grant funding to counties, state aid cities, non-state aid cities, townships, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning projects.

We want to thank Chair Dibble, Sen. Jasinski, and members of the committee for recognizing the importance of these two programs. Thank you for your consideration and support of SF3605.

Sincerely,

Emily Murray, Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Analyst  
Association of Minnesota Counties

Mel Odens, Kandiyohi County Engineer  
President, Minnesota County Engineers Association