



April 12, 2024

SF 2026 (Mohamed) Speed safety camera enforcement pilot program establishment

Dear Chair Latz, Ranking Minority Member Limmer, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

Associated General Contractors of Minnesota (AGC of MN) and its 400+ members have worked hard over the years with the legislature, regulators, and our construction industry partners to provide increased protections for road construction workers and the traveling public. AGC of MN appreciates your consideration and asks for your support to establish a pilot program included in SF 2026 to make construction work zones safer.

Every year, hundreds of people die in highway work zone crashes, including men and women our members employ. 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. During a recent Interstate 94 project, 65% of the over one million vehicles traveling through the work zone within a two-week timeframe exceeded the speed limit by 10+ mph. Tens of thousands of drivers traveled over 80 mph, with many traveling over 100 mph. Excessive speeds lead to more crashes and more instances of a vehicle passing the orange barricades.

The bottom line is that the most effective way to improve work zone safety is to get motorists to slow down and pay attention. Everyone is responsible for work zone safety. Drivers must be attentive and held accountable for their actions.

We believe the process required by SF 2026 as amended will lead to safer working conditions in work zones for construction workers and the traveling public. We greatly appreciate Senator Mohamed for championing this effort, to the committee for considering this legislation, and MNDOT and DPS for their ongoing collaboration. This pilot program will protect the people who work in the roadways and those that travel through them every day.

Sincerely,

Laura Ziegler
Director of Highway/Heavy and Government Affairs