



May 8, 2025

Chair Pappas and Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a voluntary association representing all of Minnesota's 87 counties, we appreciate the opportunity to share our comments on the proposed bonding spreadsheet and Senate recommendations for a 2025 Capital Investment Bill. **One of our top priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session is to advocate for a bonding bill that includes funding for transportation-related programs**, including the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP), the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP), and the Busway Capital Improvement Program.

We are grateful for the inclusion of funding for the **Local Road Improvement Program and the Local Bridge Replacement Program**. Significant investments in these two programs were included in the 2023 bill, but the need is still great. During the 2023 LRIP competitive solicitation process, MnDOT State Aid received 378 applications from road agencies requesting \$417 million in LRIP funds. Of the \$103 million available, 86 projects were funded. Additionally, Over the next five years, local agencies have identified 948 priority bridge replacement projects with an estimated total replacement cost of \$847 million.

While we appreciate the investment in the **Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program**, the program is in dire need of funding and the need is much greater than the amount included in the governor's recommendations. As a state mandated program, in recent years it has only received funding in the bonding bill, which has resulted in years of unpredictable and inadequate funding. Local agencies are working with Senators Hawj, Johnson Stewart, and Lang on SF1535 which includes both \$15 million in GO bonds and \$11.5 million in one-time General Fund cash to sustain the program and address immediate needs, in addition to base budget funding for BWSR going forward. Looking to the future, annual funding is necessary to maintain and support the program

AMC would also like to share our thoughts on the following programs and projects contained in the spreadsheet. We appreciate the inclusion of several solid waste infrastructure projects through the **MPCA's Solid Waste Capital Assistance Program**. Minnesota needs to address aging facilities and build out its infrastructure to meet waste management regulations and increase waste diversion efforts.

Finally, AMC appreciates the inclusion of funds for urgently needed additional capacity at **Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC)**. An additional 50-bed facility on the campus of AMRTC is the first priority of the recent Review Panel on Priority Admissions to State-Operated Treatment Programs and is the key to a unified report that was released in February. We ask the committee to consider the full need of \$75 million for this facility in future discussions.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on the proposed bonding spreadsheet and want to thank Chair Pappas, Sen. Housley, and the committee for making bonding a priority this year.

Sincerely,

Emily Murray
Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties