



March 17, 2025

RE: SF1903

Chair Tou Xiong and Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

On behalf of the member organizations of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, I am writing to urge your support for SF1903 which would require work zone safety and work zone safety driving rules to be taught as driver education and driver's examination subjects.

Highway work zones can be inherently dangerous places for workers as traffic is routed around and through the zone. When workers are placed next to traffic, the risk of injury or death increases. Changes to the roadway environment, driver behavior, and high levels of traffic volumes and/or speeds each contribute to the dangers faced by road workers.

In the last five years (2018-2022), preliminary data indicates 44 deaths and over 3,682 injuries in work zone traffic crashes in Minnesota. The biggest contributing factor is driver error and negligence, including speeding, distracted driving, and disregarding traffic control devices. Better driver education and awareness of the importance of paying attention and slowing down in work zones is clearly needed.

The inclusion of important information on work zone speed limits, markings, and the dangers of distracted driving in the driver's manual can make a difference in raising awareness and educating future drivers before they encounter a work zone.

A number of different strategies are needed to improve driver behavior and reduce the number of crashes in work zones. We strongly urge you to support the education of future drivers as required in SF1903 as one of the important ways we can make Minnesota's highway work zones safer for both the workers and the drivers navigating these areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret Donahoe  
Executive Director

**Since 1893**

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