



February 5, 2025

Dear Chair Dibble and Members of the Transportation Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SF 285 (Jasinski), which is being heard in the Transportation Committee on Wednesday.

Metro Cities supports state funding to assist cities over-burdened by cost participation responsibilities from improvement projects on trunk highways. Metro Cities' policy supports flexibility in cost participation, especially for those cities with a disproportionate number of trunk highways in and around their municipal boundaries. MnDOT's cost participation policy has been of interest to cities for some time, and the last major revision to the policy came in 2016.

Federal legislation such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has resulted in an influx of transportation dollars to our region. This funding is desperately needed, but one consequence of additional transportation dollars coming to Minnesota is that project timelines have accelerated, and local budgets cannot as easily accommodate unanticipated or ahead of schedule requests for their local portion of a trunk highway project's cost.

This conversation is well timed as the department is in the process of updating their cost participation policy. Metro Cities looks forward to working with MnDOT, legislators, and other local government stakeholders to ensure that investments can continue to be made on our state's transportation system without placing undue burden on cities as they invest their own resources in their local systems.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lund'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities