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AFFILIATED WITH



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Sen. Scott Dibble, Chair

Senate Transportation Committee

Chair Dibble and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), we appreciate the opportunity to share comments on Senate File 1102 (Jasinski) which establishes a speed limit on Steele County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 in the City of Medford.

The safety of all roadway users is central to the mission of Minnesota's county engineers. MCEA has a long-standing platform position supporting the exclusive role of the Commissioner of Transportation in establishing speed zones on all roadways. We support the process established by Minnesota Statutes 169.14, Subd. 5 which ensures an **objective and uniform** determination of speed limits by centralizing such authority with the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation. MCEA opposes any statutory changes that result in a lack of consistency in how speed limits are determined across the State of Minnesota, including legislation providing exemptions or establishing speed limits for specific counties or specific county roadways.

MnDOT recently completed a speed study on this segment of CSAH 12 in response to a speed study request from Steele County. The study determined that a lower or reduced speed limit was not warranted by roadway conditions. The segment of CSAH 12 in question is designed as a rural roadway, with full shoulders and generous sight lines, and can safely accommodate vehicles traveling at the speed limit of 55 miles per hour. Steele County has made recent improvements to this section of roadway by adding dedicated left turn lanes at the two school entrances. The speed study cited that these improvements to the roadway enhance the safety of the facility and are a positive measure, and the Steele County Board retains the authority under existing statutes to implement a School Zone speed limit if deemed appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on SF1102 and we look forward to continued conversations going forward.

Sincerely,

Lyndon Robjent, President
Minnesota County Engineers Association