



395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Sent Via Email Only

August 12, 2022

The Honorable Scott Newman
Chair
Senate Transportation Finance & Policy Committee

The Honorable Frank Hornstein
Chair
House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee

The Honorable Scott Dibble
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation Finance & Policy Committee

The Honorable John Petersburg
Ranking Minority Member
House Transportation Finance & Policy Committee

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to provide an update for you on a study of post-COVID transit in the metropolitan area, as directed under [Section 143 of 2021 Laws of Minnesota, 1st Special Session, Chapter 5, Article 4](#). This law directs MnDOT to use research dollars to conduct the study. As communicated to you in a previous letter and as Commissioner Anderson Kelliher mentioned during a meeting of the Dedicated Funds Expenditures Task Force, the funds identified in the law cited above are trunk highway dollars even though only a small portion of the study could be considered as meeting a trunk highway purpose. Senator Newman responded to the previous letter saying the task force should examine this issue, but it was not resolved by the task force.

During the 2022 legislative session, the Senate omnibus transportation bill proposed shifting responsibility for funding the study to the Metropolitan Council. The bill also adjusted the due date of the report. However, without a new appropriation being enacted during the 2022 legislative session, MnDOT and our partners at the Metropolitan Council and the Center for Transportation Studies are unable to complete the study. In addition, the study deadline cannot be met as there is not an appropriate source of funding identified to complete it, nor is there enough time at this point to complete the study as it has been defined in legislation.

To ensure completion of the study, we request an extension of the deadline to a point in the future after a new source of funding has been appropriated by the legislature. We look forward to working with you on this issue during the 2023 legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Charlie Zelle, Chair, Metropolitan Council
Kyle Shelton, Director, Center for Transportation Studies, University of Minnesota
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