



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Transportation

The legislature prioritized transportation funding this biennium:

- passed a small bipartisan transportation bill into law in 2015
- defeated a potential gas tax increase
- passed a bipartisan bonding/transportation bill in 2016, with nearly \$700 million in road and bridge funding

After the House passed the bill, the Senate added an amendment to fund the SouthWest Light Rail project, causing the bill to fail to pass both bodies with identical language. We now wait to see if Governor Dayton will call a special session to pass the bonding/transportation bill.



Highway 52/County Road 42

I chief authored legislation to provide \$2 million in bonding funding to make much-needed repairs the Highway 52 County Road 42 interchange in Rosemount. Even though the bill received hearings in the Transportation and Capitol Investment Committees, the bill failed to make it into our final bonding/transportation bill. I will continue to fight for this funding in the future.

Contact:

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Sign up for email updates at www.house.mn/57B

Dear Neighbor,

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the communities of Apple Valley, Rosemount, and Coates in St. Paul. I'm excited to share with you a few of the bipartisan accomplishments from the 2015- 2016 sessions.

Please contact me any time with questions or comments.

Sincerely, *Anna Wills*






STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ANNA WILLS

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Respecting Taxpayers

The legislature worked hard to ensure that government spending did not grow faster than family budgets. The bipartisan budget passed in 2015 limited spending and left more than \$800 million for the 2016 session to address transportation, tax relief, and to serve as a safety net in case of an economic downturn.

Unfortunately, Governor Dayton vetoed our bipartisan tax relief bill this year that would have provided tax relief for families, farmers, veterans, and college students.



The Minnesota Zoo is one of the largest employers and biggest attractions in our community, with an estimated economic impact of more than \$146 million per year.

The legislature prioritized the Minnesota Zoo in 2015, fully funding the Zoo's request to help support their operating budget. And as the chief author of the bonding bill for the Minnesota Zoo, I worked with legislators on both sides of the aisle to ensure bonding funding for the Zoo was included in our bonding/transportation bill this year.

Unfortunately, the bonding/transportation bill failed to pass due to a controversial amendment that was added in the Senate.

My Bills

This biennium I worked on a variety of bills to provide tax relief to families, streamline paperwork for special education teachers, and to boost funding for services for homeless youth. To read the full list of bills I worked on, please visit <http://www.house.mn/57B> and click on "Bills Chief Authored".

Improving Minnesota Schools

The 2015-2016 bipartisan K-12 Education bills included great provisions to help move us toward our goal of giving every child in the state—regardless of ZIP code—a world-class education.

- \$525 million more than we were projected to spend (\$1.4 billion more than the 2014-2015 budget) for a total of about \$17.2 billion in education spending. This includes a 2% increase each year on the per pupil funding formula.
- Historic investments in early childhood learning scholarships and school readiness programs.
- Facilities funding to help schools maintain and upgrade existing school buildings.
- \$50 million of additional spending in the 2016 session for proven K-12 programs.



- My bills to reduce special education paperwork, increase Reading Corps funding, give schools flexibility in using compensatory funding, and clarify testing requirements

Working for Our Veterans

This session we prioritized our service men and women by making all veterans retirement benefits tax-exempt. This measure will positively impact the over 18,000 retired military men and women who currently live in our state, and will encourage more of our best and brightest to live in Minnesota once they leave the service.

Supplemental Budget Provisions

Our supplemental budget proposal passed with bipartisan support and was signed into law this year. It included the three following provisions that I authored:

- Requiring the Minnesota Department of Education to post criteria on their website for non-profits applying for a food and nutrition program, clarifying the process.
- \$69,000 in funding for hearing-impaired preschool students to attend the Metro Deaf School.
- Changes to the Manufactured Home Trust Fund, increasing the maximum and minimum amounts that can be reimbursed to a homeowner to cover the moving costs if they are forced to relocate from a manufactured home park. This Fund does not use any tax dollars.

DCTC Funding

One of my top priorities was to secure bonding funds for the Dakota County Technical College. \$7.73 million was included in the bonding bill passed during the special session in 2015 to complete this important project, which was one of the top MNSCU Capital Investment priorities. It will help attract more students to DCTC and create temporary construction jobs in our community."