

City of Janesville

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January 26, 2021

Representative Frank Hornstein
Chair, Transportation Finance and Policy
Minnesota House of Representatives
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative John Petersburg
Republican Lead, Transportation Finance and Policy
Minnesota House of Representatives
217 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for the Small Cities Assistance Program

Chair Hornstein, Representative Petersburg, and members:

Earlier today, I received an e-mail from Committee Member Representative John Petersburg seeking comment on the current level of funding and the future needs for funding small city streets and road infrastructure. I am honored to share my thoughts with your Committee.

The City of Janesville lies within Legislative District 23B. The population of Janesville is just over 2,300 and, as such, has very limited budgets for infrastructure maintenance and care. A few years ago, the State provided the Small Cities Assistance Program for cities in Minnesota. The City of Janesville received about \$18,000 a year and used this funding on basic street repair such as overlays, crack filling, and patch work. In 2019, the funding stopped on this program. Even though the funding was a small portion of city revenue, it certainly helped in our efforts. Our residents could see the direct impact this funding did for them. By providing a dedicated, sustainable funding program, small cities can address these needs.

The City of Janesville is a member of the Coalition of Greater MN Cities (CGMC) and I have served as Co-Chair for its Transportation Committee for 10 years. As I visit with elected and appointed officials during our seminars, Board of Directors meetings, and conferences, I am constantly reminded of the importance of this funding for infrastructure throughout Minnesota. In fact, one of the legislative initiatives and top priorities of the CGMC this year is to seek funding and to support the return of the Small Cities Assistance Program. In Minnesota, cities under 5,000 in population do not receive Municipal State Aid directly to them. In other words, over 700 cities in our State do not receive this important assistance.

I ask that the Transportation Committee consider funding the provide the Small Cities Assistance Program again. It would be a great way for smaller cities in Minnesota to improve their infrastructure. If you have any questions or would like additional comment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you and your Committee members for your service to our great State!

Sincerely,


Clinton M. Rogers
City Administrator
City of Janesville