

Minnesota Association of Townships



Executive Director:
Jeff Krueger

General Counsel:
Steve Fenske

Staff Attorney:
Karl-Christian Johannessen

April 5, 2021

Dear Chair Hornstein,

Thank you for including a sustainable increase in funding for Township roads in House File 1684. While this funding increase is helpful, it is less than the increase townships need just to maintain town roads in their current condition. Townships need a \$20 million per year increase in the base level of funding just to maintain township roads in their current condition. This figure is based on the estimates produced by the Transportation Finance Advisory Committee (TFAC) report produced in 2012, that provided a 20-year outlook on Minnesota's transportation funding needs. Townships have been struck with two main challenges in maintaining roads. The first is a relatively small allocation of state transportation funding going to townships, and the second is a steady increase in the weights being placed on town roads that were never built to carry such weights.

We encourage the Committee to allocate all new township transportation funding into the Town Road Account. After consultation with MNDOT, both MAT and MNDOT are of the opinion that the Town Bridge Account is adequately funded at this time.

As the Committee has heard in earlier meetings this year, there are a variety of funding options available to provide transportation funding to townships. MAT is eager to see any of those options used individually or in combination to reach the need of \$20 million per year in township transportation funding.

We thank the Chair and Committee for their attention to township roads this session and we ask your support to resolve this issue for townships this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Fenske".

Steve Fenske