



February 14th, 2023

To the Members of the Transportation Committee,

The Minnesota Association of Small Cities represents the 700+ cities in Minnesota with populations under 5,000. Our cities are in every corner of the state including more than 50 that are located in the metro region. 650,000 Minnesotans call a small city home and use their local streets on a daily basis.

The state provides ongoing and dedicated funding for state, county, township, and city streets but ONLY in cities with populations over 5,000. Small cities are the ONLY local government entity that receives ZERO ongoing state support for our local roads. Since 2016 the legislature has funded the Small Cities Assistance formula sporadically; averaging \$6 million per year, but not in consistent allocations. Our local small city leaders cannot rely on or plan for state dollars to provide basic maintenance on our streets, much less larger projects needed for expansion and economic development.

There are over 12,000 miles of roads within small cities' boundaries. Without state assistance these roads continue to degrade. With each passing year we continue to fall further and further behind. Our local businesses are suffering, our residents are dealing with failing roads and our local leaders are left with very few options.

MN Small Cities need ongoing and dedicated funding to help maintain our roadways. A revenue source that provides at least \$35 million per year - with a growth factor - will give our cities the funding that can help them properly plan for a reliable road maintenance schedule.

Cap O'Rourke
Minnesota Small Cities
Executive Director