



# Minnesota Inter-County Association

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Sent Via Email

April 13, 2021

Representative Fue Lee, Chair  
House Capital Investment Committee  
485 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Lee and Committee members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the 'A21 -0158' amendment to HF337, the 2021 House Bonding Bill.

MICA represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and eleven greater Minnesota counties.

We want to again express our appreciation to policymakers for the 2020 Bonding Bill that supported critical investments in roads and bridges, transit infrastructure, wetland mitigation, parks and trails, water and solid waste management, housing infrastructure, and more. HF337 'A21-0158' 's recognizes the important need to continue making investments to restore Minnesota's declining public infrastructure.

MICA particularly supports the \$30 million proposed for the Local Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program, and \$10 million for Local Road Improvement Program grants. The Department of Transportation's list of local bridge projects awaiting funding, along with the high response to its recent local road improvement grant solicitation, demonstrates that an even higher level of funding could be justified. Importantly, these and other county projects means local jobs delivered by local contractors that enhance public safety and strengthen our economic recovery.

Finally, we also appreciate adjustments made to the list of county officials that the Commissioner of Corrections must consult with when completing the proposed Jail Capital Improvement Project Evaluation report. County jail infrastructure investments are complex local decisions that are also integral to the state's overall approach to criminal justice, and we welcome opportunities to continue working with the Committee on the proposed study language as we gather more input from member counties.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HF337 'A21 -0158', and for the inclusion of increased funding for critical county infrastructure.

**Matt Massman**, *Executive Director*  
*Minnesota Inter-County Association*