



March 22, 2017

Representative Paul Torkelson
Chair, House Transportation Finance Committee
381 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Municipal Legislative Commission (MLC) Transportation Principles

Dear Representative Torkelson,

The Municipal Legislative Commission (MLC) is an association of 18 suburban communities, collectively home to over 800,000 residents and the workplace for more than half a million employees. Our association was founded on the principal of sound fiscal policy and we have spent over thirty years advocating for legislative initiatives which further that goal.

The MLC supports a comprehensive, regionally balanced transportation plan and we appreciate the strides that HF 861 makes to provide additional funding for roads and bridges throughout Minnesota. In particular, MLC strongly supports the \$200 million you have included for Corridors of Commerce. This program has a proven record of fostering economic growth in MLC cities and across the State.

MLC also supports the increased funding for turnbacks in HF 861. Turnbacks allow for proper alignment of roads with the right level of government and they increase efficiencies for the State of Minnesota. Roads that are a low priority for the state may be a higher priority for a local entity. Turnback funding is also an important tool for road improvements at the local level.

MLC supports additional funding for the Transportation Economic Development Program, a collaboration between DEED and MnDOT that funds highway capacity and safety improvements which will result in significant economic development. The House bill includes \$10 million for this important program that spurs development in communities across Minnesota.

One concern we have about HF 861 is the lack of meaningful transit funding for the metro area. MLC supports a long-term comprehensive transportation bill, including additional funding for transit. Transit investments are key to economic development and congestion relief in the metro area and we hope that you will consider boosting funding in this area.

We appreciate the difficult job you have of assembling a bill that benefits all corners of the state. MLC looks forward to working with you as your bill moves through the process to ensure that suburban communities and their needs are not overlooked.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Hovland', with a horizontal line underneath.

James Hovland
Chair, MLC Board of Directors
Mayor of Edina