Overview

This bill contains several provisions relating to transportation:

- Prohibits spending trunk highway funds on new or substantially expanded trunk highways (the bill contemplates that spending for these purposes would come from the general fund)
- Sets annual spending goals for highways and transit
- Requires appropriations for the state patrol to come from the general fund rather than the trunk highway fund
- Establishes a task force of legislators and governor appointees to study methods of accelerating highway program delivery

1 **Highway defined.** Amends the definition of "highway" in highway law to include any corridor used primarily for the transportation of persons or goods.

2 **Highway purpose.** Defines "highway purpose" as a purpose substantially related to the establishment, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or administration of a highway.

3 **Trunk highway fund expenditures.** (a) Requires that at least 60 percent of total expenditures from the trunk highway fund in any fiscal year be for the construction and reconstruction of trunk highways, including engineering and right-of-way acquisition.
   (b) Prohibits money in the trunk highway fund from being spent for (1) acquiring new trunk highway corridors, (2) substantially expanding existing corridors by adding lanes, or (3) substantially expanding capacity on existing corridors except for safety reasons.

4 **Transportation spending goals.** Sets transportation spending goals:
   (1) trunk highway fund for construction and reconstruction of trunk highways, not less than $400 million per year by fiscal 2002
   (2) total state spending on public transit, not less than $125 million per year by fiscal 2002
   (3) state spending from the general fund for the purposes listed in section 4, paragraph (b), not less than $100 million per year by fiscal 2002.
5 **Budget recommendations.** Requires the commissioner of transportation to include in each biennial budget a plan developed by the area transportation partnerships of recommended expenditures from the general fund for trunk highway and transit purposes.

6 **State patrol.** Requires all appropriations to the state patrol, other than commercial motor vehicle inspection and enforcement, to be from the general fund. Presently these appropriations are from the trunk highway fund.

7 **Patrol fines.** Provides that the state share of money from fines resulting from tickets written by the state patrol be deposited in the general fund. Presently this money is deposited in the trunk highway fund.

8 **Project delivery task force.** Establishes an 11-member project delivery task force consisting of the commissioner of transportation, three members each of the house and senate, and representatives of the business and highway construction appointed by the governor. Requires the task force to attempt to accelerate delivery of MnDOT projects by examining environmental regulations, design and construction, materials, and the impact of utilities. Requires a report to the governor and legislature by January 15, 2000.