

HENNEPIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 1, 2025

Co-Chair Erin Koegel
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Rep. Jon Koznick
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF2234 (Anderson) modifying state and regional funding to metropolitan counties

On behalf of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, I write to express our concerns with HF 2234.

The 2023 Omnibus Transportation Bill made generational investments in Minnesota's transportation system, including increased revenue to preserve our roads and bridges, new funding to support active transportation to improve safety, as well as dedicated transit funding to build and operate a more efficient transit system. Specifically, the new resources dedicated to metro counties reflect the need to rehabilitate and reconstruct aging roads and bridges with safe, multi-modal facilities. Reconstruction projects present the opportunity to preserve aging infrastructure while also introducing critical safety and multimodal improvements.

According to Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) "Non-motorized Transportation Safety Trend Analysis" pedestrian and bicycle safety has declined over the last decade. After reaching a low in 2009, pedestrian deaths have steadily risen to a level not seen since 1990 and fatalities for people bicycling have reached levels we have not seen since the turn of the century. In Minnesota, about one in every six roadway deaths involving people walking or bicycling.

MnDOT's Non-Motorized Transportation Safety Trend Analysis found that more people are walking and biking over the last two decades, but the fact that our roadways have been designed primarily for motorized users is contributing to the rising trend in crashes and deaths for people walking and bicycling. For this reason, Hennepin worked with our metro county partners in 2023 to dedicate resources for active transportation to make our roadway system safer for all users, especially the most vulnerable. This bill would result in a significant decrease the metro area to make those improvements.

The 2023 transportation legislation included critical investments in transportation alternatives for Minnesotans, including more reliable and efficient transit systems and significant new resources to make our roadways safer for all users. We continue to support that investment and stand by the work we did with all metro counties

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando, Chair
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
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