

May 5, 2015



The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Tom Bakk
Majority Leader
Minnesota Senate
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Paul Thissen
Minority Leader
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable David Hann
Minority Leader
Minnesota Senate
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt, Senator Bakk, Senator Hann, and Representative Thissen:

A strong and sustainable transportation system is critical to the success of business in Minnesota, and one of the most important factors in continuing our state's economic expansion. Businesses need infrastructure, not only to move goods and services, but also to attract and retain a quality workforce. This is an issue that affects Minnesota's quality of life regardless of how old you are or where you live – Minnesota needs investments in transportation if it is going to continue to prosper.

We support a long-term solution, providing predictable and sustainable funding that allows for planning, expanding and repairing Minnesota's transportation system. This solution must include investments in improving current road and bridge networks, expanding those networks as required, and investing in options such as transit to reflect the diverse needs of students, commuters and seniors.

To be clear -- maintaining our current system is not enough. We must make strategic investments in projects that will help regional economies grow throughout the state, including key expansions of busy highways and transit networks in regional hubs.

Investment in transportation is critical to Minnesota's competitiveness, so we also support an increase in revenue that allows us to properly plan and build a transportation system that will ensure regional competitiveness, vitality and economic growth in our state.

We encourage you to act this year to address this critical issue. Our inability to support an adequate transportation system will be a barrier to future job creation if we don't act now.

Sincerely,

Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Matt Kramer, President

Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
David Ross, President

Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
Todd Klingel, President

Greater Mankato Growth
Jonathan Zierdt, President

Minneapolis Downtown Council
Steve Cramer, President

Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce
Cal Brink, Executive Director

