

February 28, 2025

House Transportation Committee Chair Jon Koznick Members of the House Transportation Committee

Dear Chair Koznick and Members of the Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, including counties, cities and townships, I would like to submit these comments related to HF192, setting limits on local cost participation for trunk highway projects.

Improvements to trunk highways provide valuable investments for local communities but for some local governments, the cost can be an undue or unexpected burden. Concerns regarding local costs associated with trunk highway projects has been an issue for some time. In response to issues on certain projects, the legislature created the Trunk Highway Corridor Projects account within the Local Road Improvement Program to provide funding to local governments and tribes to assist with their local cost responsibilities. This fund provides a way for trunk highway projects to move forward while recognizing that in some situations, local governments need assistance to cover the local cost requirement. The Local Road Improvement Program has been funded in the past as part of the capital bonding bill.

MnDOT is currently in the process of updating its 'Cost Participation and Maintenance Responsibilities with Local Units of Government Manual', and as part of this update has convened a steering committee and local agency workgroup. Our members support this effort to explore ways to improve local cost sharing policies.

We appreciate the discussion of the local cost participation policy and the work done on HF192.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our comments on this issue.

Sincerely,

Margaret Donahoe Executive Director