

April 20, 2022

SAMPLE LETTER

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Jeremy Miller
Senate Majority Leader
3113 Senate Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Kurt Daudt
House Minority Leader
267 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Melissa Lopez Franzen
Senate Minority Leader
2221 Senate Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Legislators:

Investments in Minnesota's transportation system are vitally important. These improvements create jobs and boost economic development. They allow people to live in their own homes and access critical medical services; get to their jobs, obtain an education, and get food and supplies. Transportation improvements also support manufacturing, agriculture, mining, tourism, and other industries. In short, the doesn't run without transportation.

However, Minnesota's transportation infrastructure is wearing out. Minnesota has thousands of deficient bridges, hole-ridden roads, and aging infrastructure throughout the state. Too many Minnesotans can't access convenient and affordable bus service to get to work, to needed services and to remain independent. High fuel and material prices make it challenging for local governments to take care of their roads, bridges, and bus systems. Additional state and federal funding for transportation will make a big difference in assisting counties, cities and townships in providing safe mobility for their residents.

The federal government passed a major infrastructure investment bill, but without any action by the state legislature Minnesota can't access or spend all of the dollars that will be coming our way. With a \$9.3 billion surplus, it's inexcusable for the legislature to go home without taking any action to ensure that investments are made in our transportation system. There is something Minnesota can do this year to ensure our roads, bridges and transit systems are maintained with money that is already accessible.

Minnesota law currently allocates only half of the revenue generated from the sales tax on auto repair parts to transportation through the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund. We believe the state legislature should dedicate the full amount of the sales tax revenue generated towards transportation. How is it that if someone buys a new vehicle, current law dedicates the sales tax revenue generated to transportation, but not if that person repairs their current one?

Dedicating 100% of the sales tax Minnesota already collected on automotive repair parts to fix our transportation system only makes sense. This funding can be used to access federal infrastructure dollars, to assist local governments in meeting maintenance needs and to provide Minnesotans with expanded transit service. The significant increase in federal infrastructure funding can only be maximized with state matching funds.

This is the year for the legislature to fully dedicate this needed funding stream to transportation, and improve our roads, bridges and transit systems to keep them safe, maintained, and running for years to come. Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely,

cc: Governor Tim Walz
Senator Scott Newman
Representative Frank Hornstein