



DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

**To: Chair Dibble and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee**

**Re: Support for S.F. 4899 and S.F. 3605**

**Date: April 1, 2024**

Chair Dibble and Members:

The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities is an organization representing over 100 member cities both small and large, outside of the seven-county metro area. We want to offer our strong support for both S.F. 4899 (Jasinski), which would appropriate \$25 million to the Small Cities Assistance Program, and S.F. 3605 (Dibble), which would appropriate \$200 million to the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) and Local Bridge Replacement Program (LBRP) respectively. These bills combined address some of the CGMC's highest transportation priorities for this legislative session and we urge the committee to act favorably on them.

As you know, until last year, small cities (defined as under 5,000 population) were the only cities that received no ongoing dedicated funding for city streets. Creating a dedicated, reliable funding source for small city streets has long been a goal of the CGMC, and we want to thank the committee for accomplishing that last year with the creation of the Transportation Advancement Account. S.F. 4899 builds on this achievement by providing small cities with urgently needed funding this year, filling a gap while the dedication of the auto parts sales tax to the TAA increases over time. Thank you to Sen. Jasinski for authoring this bill and to Chair Dibble and the committee for hearing it today.

The local road and bridge system currently has a funding gap of approximately \$1 billion per year. S.F. 3605 (Dibble) helps alleviate that gap by including funding for two very important programs for Greater Minnesota. The Local Road Improvement Program helps our member cities by providing important state assistance for local road construction projects. This program funds projects that would otherwise not be funded or only partially funded from other sources. Likewise, the Local Bridge Replacement Program provides cities with critical funding for the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and removal of bridges on their local road systems.

Thank you again to Chair Dibble, Sen. Jasinski, and committee members.

Sincerely,

Darrin Lee

Government Relations, Flaherty & Hood. P.A.

On behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities