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REPORT CONCERNING
CERTAIN EXPENDITURES
FROM THE
TRUNK HIGHWAY FUND
IN THE FY2004-2005
BIENNIAL BUDGET SUBMISSION

PREPARED BY
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AND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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INTRODUCTION

This document reports certain expenditures from the Trunk Highway fund that are included in the biennial budget for FY2004-2005 submitted to the Minnesota Legislature by Governor Pawlenty. This report is required by Minnesota Laws 2000, Chapter 479, Article 2, Section 1 (as amended by Minnesota Laws 2000, Chapter 499, Section 41 and Minnesota Laws 2001, 1st Special Session, Chapter 5, Article 20, Section 20), which provides as follows:

Section 1. [PROHIBITION AGAINST APPROPRIATIONS FROM TRUNK HIGHWAY FUND.] To ensure compliance with the Minnesota Constitution, article XIV, sections 2, 5, and 6, the commissioner of finance, agency directors, and legislative commission personnel may not include in the biennial budget for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, or in any budget thereafter, expenditures from the trunk highway fund for a nonhighway purpose as jointly determined by the commissioner of finance and the attorney general. For purposes of this section, an expenditure for a nonhighway purpose is any expenditure not for construction, improvement, or maintenance of highways, but does not include expenditures for payment of taxes imposed under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 297A. At the time of submission of the biennial budget proposal to the legislature, the commissioner of finance and the attorney general shall report to the senate and house of representatives transportation committees concerning any expenditure that is proposed to be appropriated from the trunk highway fund, if that expenditure is similar to those reduced or eliminated in sections 5 to 20. The report must explain the highway purpose of, and recommend a fund to be charged for, the proposed expenditure. [EFFECTIVE DATE.] This section is effective the day following final enactment.

The expenditures reduced or eliminated in Sections 5 to 20 of Minnesota Laws 2000, Chapter 479, Article 2 relate to:

- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Laboratory
- Office of Tourism Travel Information Centers (TICs)
- Minnesota Safety Council
- Tort claims
- CFL-Driver education programs
- Emergency Medical Services Board, and
- The Mississippi River Parkway Commission.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Finance and Office of the Attorney General prepared a report on this topic that was presented to the Legislature on January 23, 2001. That report presented the rationale for Trunk Highway funding that was recommended in the Governor's budget for Tort Claims and for a portion of the BCA Laboratory costs. Since the State Patrol is responsible for 21% of DWI arrests, the 2001 report described that rationale that 21% of the DWI-related laboratory costs be funded from the Trunk Highway Fund.

For FY2002 and FY2003, the Legislature appropriated funds during the 2001 session for both purposes. An appropriation of \$600,000 each year was made from the Trunk Highway Fund to the Department of Finance for Tort Claims (Minnesota Laws 2001, 1st Special Session, Chapter 8, Article 1, Section 6). Appropriations of \$354,000 for FY2002 and \$361,000 for FY2003 were made from the Trunk Highway Fund to the Department of Public Safety for laboratory analysis related to driving while impaired cases (Minnesota Laws 2001, 1st Special Session, Chapter 8, Article 4, Section 10, Subdivision 3).

FINDINGS

The biennial budget for FY2004 and FY2005 includes expenditures that are similar to those reduced or eliminated in sections 5 to 20 of Laws 2000, Chapter 479, Article 2, as follows:

- Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, DWI Lab Analysis: \$361,000 each year from Trunk Highway fund
- Department of Finance, Tort Claims: \$600,000 per year from Trunk Highway fund

The highway purposes of the proposed expenditures for FY2004 and FY2005 are as described in the 2001 report to the Legislature and the rationales are described in that document.