



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

October 25, 2016

The Honorable Tim Kelly  
Minnesota State Representative  
559 State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Kelly:

I understand that you are objecting to the Minnesota Department of Transportation's recent Legislative Advisory Commission request to authorize expenditure of \$105 million in additional federal transportation funding received from the FAST Act. I find your rationale for such an objection to be lacking in substance and merit.

As Chair of the House Transportation Committee for the past two years, you have had ample opportunity to work with your colleagues in the Senate and send to my desk a significant transportation funding package that not only utilizes these federal dollars, but provides a long-term approach to fix our crumbling highway road and bridge infrastructure for the next generation. Unfortunately for Minnesota, you have wasted your opportunity as Chair to act in that regard.

You are now compounding that failure with the misconceived notion that this LAC request is somehow precedent setting. The LAC process was put into law so that federal funds made available to Minnesota can be utilized expeditiously, without waiting for the next legislative session and without jeopardizing the potential for the federal dollars to flow elsewhere. And while it is true that all LAC requests could potentially wait until the next Legislative Session, delaying this authorization has very negative consequences.

MnDOT was clearly within its prerogative according to law to request the use of these funds. In fact, they have already designated projects that will now undoubtedly be delayed based on your objection. What you are really doing is, once again, telling communities throughout Minnesota that their local roads, bridges and safety improvements can wait. Rather than start work next spring, MnDOT projects located in Forest Lake, Bagley, New Ulm, Winona, Pine River, Hallock, Fairmont, Worthington, Foley, New Richland, Farmington, Savage and Shakopee, just to name a few, will now be subject to further delay.

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In order for the residents of these communities to enjoy the benefits of improved transportation infrastructure, I call on you to be responsible, withdraw your objection to this LAC request, and allow these projects to proceed on schedule. Do not end your legislative career acting as an obstructionist to needed progress on highways, roads and bridges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Members of the Legislature