



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 21, 2017

Chair Scott Newman
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Paul Torkelson
381 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Newman and Chair Torkelson:

As you are aware, \$105 million in federal FAST Act road and bridge funds were provided to the state of Minnesota last year and due to inaction at the state legislature, these funds were never appropriated to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. I warned in a letter last fall that refusing to authorize the use of these funds could delay needed road and bridge infrastructure projects around the state.

A month ago Commissioner Zelle informed you that the attached list of projects will be delayed if these funds are not authorized by March 31st. MnDOT reports that contractors are anxious to get to work and are concerned about the lack of funding in time for the current spring letting schedule. I see that the House and the Senate transportation proposals include this authorization in the omnibus transportation finance bills, however, adding this simple authorization into the Transportation Finance bill will delay projects and could put federal funds in jeopardy.

I urge swift action and ask that you pass the \$105 million authorization outside of the overall transportation finance discussion with no politically motivated amendments, earmarks or poison pill policy provisions.

These funds are literally sitting in a bank account when they could be used to put more people to work to improve our road and bridge infrastructure beginning this spring. Finish the work of your predecessors and pass a clean authorization bill to my desk by the end of March.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Representative Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House
Senator Paul E. Gazelka, Senate Majority Leader
Representative Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Scott Dibble, Minority Lead, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
Representative Frank Hornstein, Minority Lead, Transportation Finance Committee
Commissioner Charlie Zelle, MnDOT