



2522 Thomas Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(612) 235-6028
(866) 925-8459
www.tennesseanlaw.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: The I-35W Solutions Alliance Board of Directors

FROM: Robert J Tennesen

RE: April Legislative Report

DATE: April 10, 2014

Legislature

The proposal for major transportation funding increases, supported by the coalition of Move MN, is deadlier than a proverbial doornail. Despite the efforts of the authors, Sen. Dibble and Rep. Hornstein, their bills SF 2107 and HF 2395, are resting peacefully in Forest Lawn. Without explicit support from the broader business community neither the Governor nor the Speaker was willing to support the proposals.

Other minor transportation initiatives are proceeding. Yesterday the Senate passed a Supplemental Budget Bill that incorporated the provisions of the Senate Transportation Finance Bill SF2858. The most significant aspect is a one-time appropriation of \$43 million from the trunk highway fund for winter road repairs for County State Aid Highways and Municipal State Aid Streets. The comparable house bill, HF3060, was also included in the House Supplemental Budget Bill. It includes \$15 million for Corridors of Commerce, a one-time appropriation, and contains some money for County State Aid Highways for repairs related to the severe winter. It also includes \$10.1 million for arterial BRT appropriated to the Metropolitan Council and it provides \$250,000 for Suburban Opt-Out providers. Both supplemental budgets contain a variety of items not directly related to the Solutions Alliance. The differences will be worked out in a conference committee.

The House Capital Investment bill, HF 2490, contains \$18.345 million for local roads, \$21.75 million for local bridge replacement and \$1.35 million for greater Minnesota transit facilities.

The appropriation for local roads includes the rider *This appropriation includes funding for the following projects: (1) a grant to the city of Richfield for the 77th Street underpass project...*

The Senate Capital Investment committee took testimony for transportation bonding proposals at a hearing on April 8 but has not yet marked up its bill.

The legislature will adjourn on the 10th for spring break returning after Easter.

Metropolitan Council

The Central Corridor, or Green Line, will begin service June 14 from Minneapolis to Union Station St. Paul. A decision will be made soon on whether to proceed with development of the Southwest LRT, which is an extension of the Green Line to Eden Prairie.

Department Transportation

The 2014 construction season is beginning.