

Date: March 9, 2017

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

From: Rob Vanasek

Re: Legislative Report

This is the first committee deadline week for policy bills. The Transportation Committees continue to meet late into the evenings hearing a subset of over 4,000 introduced bills so far this session. Several dozen could have a significant impact on 35W and its members, but many may not have enough support at the legislature or in the governor's office as stand alone bills. The omnibus transportation bills will be assembled in the next month then a negotiation between leaders could shape a final product.

Last week the February Forecast that sets the overall budget numbers showed a slightly larger budget surplus of \$1.65 B than the November Forecast of \$1.4 B. The good news was tempered with the possibility that federal funding levels to the state may not remain static. Legislative targets are being discussed this week by the majority caucuses and may be announced publicly in the coming week. Expect targets to utilize the surplus for tax breaks and transportation. Other budget areas such as education and health care will not likely get many, if any, above base dollars as the governor has proposed.

The governor's 2018-2019 budget proposal for roads, bridges and transit as outlined in last month's Legislative Report was heard in the House Transportation Finance Committee on Tuesday. House majority members continued to express their opposition to the build out of light rail lines and revenue raising components of the proposal.

Also on Tuesday, the full Senate Finance Committee passed SF 210, which is almost identical to last year's bonding bill containing many of our priority projects, to the Senate floor. The Senate must now wait for the House to act as a bonding bill (and tax bills) must originate in the House. The House has not acted on any major capitol investment pieces of legislation.

It is possible that the House does not act on the unfinished work of last session and writes an entirely new bonding bill. However, this may be a challenge to pass off the House floor. Individual project bonding bills have been introduced, including:

- HF 263 Rosenthal, Carlson, A., Slocum, Hornstein – 35W/494 interchange \$85M
SF 217 Wicklund, Franzen – (companion)
- HF 1097 Koznick, Hornstein, Peterson – Orange Line
SF 1552 Draheim, Clausen, Hall, Pratt – (companion)
- HF 1181 Hornstein, Koznick, Dehn, R., Allen, Hausman, Peterson – 35W/Lake
ST Access Project
SF 906 Dibble, Hayden, Hall – (companion bill)

- HF 412 Masin, Christensen, Peterson, Carlson, A., Slocum, Hornstein – 35W bridge over the Minnesota River and additional interchange work
SF 786 Carlson – (companion)
- HF 2033 Peterson – 35W bridge over the Minnesota River and additional interchange work
- HF 2034 Peterson – 35W bridge over the Minnesota River
- SF 1594 Little, Pratt – 35W MnPass Lane in Lakeville

Other bills of interest to the Alliance include:

HF 1125/SF 1021 – 77th ST underpass project description modified
 HF 638/SF 990 – auto parts sales tax receipts deposited in the HUTDF
 HF 800/SF 1769 – nonstate sources required for operating costs of future LRT
 HF 1076/SF 1241 – MNDOT best practices in project selection and report
 HF 1150/SF 1865 – establishes a farebox recovery objective in the metro
 HF 1154/SF 1926 – MNDOT review and assessment
 HF 1155/SF 1925 – MNDOT develop a performance, stewardship and sustainability plan
 HF 1160/SF 1011 – audit Metro Transit and CTIB financials
 HF 1315/SF 1825 – creates tax district: capture property taxes to finance LRT and BRT
 HF 1434/SF none – project selection processes amended; legislative reporting amended
 HF 1467/SF 530 – tolling report to the legislature required
 HF 1479/SF none – resolution requesting the feds not fund SW LRT; redirect the dollars
 HF 1570/SF 1305 – suburb to suburb transit demonstration project
 HF 1630/SF none – moratorium on guideway projects
 HF 1659/SF 964 – \$150,000 annually to the 494 Commission
 HF 1679/SF 1631 – Met Council may finance additional transit capital expenditures
 HF 1745/SF 1713 – Metro Mobility Enhancement Task Force created
 HF 1750/SF 1451 – supplemental funding for metro transit covering MVEST shortfall
 HF 1899/SF 1799 – raise the gas tax by a dime
 HF 2000/SF 1822 – long range transportation planning: Met Council to MNDOT
 HF 2082/SF 1857 – governor’s transportation bill
 HF 2148/SF 1525 – Corridors of commerce project selection modifications
 HF 2149/SF 1524 – MNDOT must develop policy to evaluate, rank, select projects
 HF 2185/SF 1823 – LRT operating costs state funding prohibition
 HF 2213/SF 1712 – Corridors of commerce project selection changes

CTIB did not have a unanimous vote required by its bylaws to dissolve yesterday as Dakota County is holding out for additional dollars owed to it by CTIB.

MnDOT has provided overviews to the House Transportation Finance Committee on:

- Minnesota GO 50 year vision
- 20 year MNSHIP final report, which the Alliance previously commented on
- 20 year Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan
- 10 year Capital Highway Investment Plan
- 4 year State Transportation improvement Plan