

Date: May 14, 2015

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

From: Rob Vanasek

Re: Legislative Report

The final days of session have the Transportation Finance bill intertwined in the global agreement negotiations. These discussions are taking place between Governor Dayton, Majority Leader Bakk, Finance Chair Cohen, Speaker Daudt, Majority Leader Peppin, and Ways and Means Chair Knoblach.

News reports depict a potential trade of a tax cut bill for the House in exchange for a transportation finance bill funded by a gas tax increase for the Senate. The governor says his top spending priority is preschool funding for 4 year olds.

Conference Committee HF4 / SF 1904

The transportation conference committee continues to meet daily as Chair Kelly and Chair Dibble are not engaged in the final negotiations. Multiple same and similar provisions have been adopted, but no major debate or in depth discussion has been had on the financing mechanisms, outside of the initial side by side summary walk throughs.

Informational Hearings

A few bills have received hearings and background testimony originating from the I-35 W Solutions Alliance in support of our priority projects:

SF 296 Wicklund, Franzen / HF 313 Lenczewski, Slocum, Rosenthal, Bly, Hoppe
I-35 W and I-494 interchange improvements appropriation
(SF 367 / HF 249 are identical but are bonding instead of appropriation bills)

SF 1600 Dibble, Hayden, Dziedzic, Champion / HF 1137 Hornstein, Clark, Allen,
Carlson, Hausman
Minneapolis; Lake Street Transit Station funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated

SF 2095 Wicklund, Torres Ray / HF 2221 Slocum, Wagenius
77th Street underpass at Highway 77/Cedar Avenue