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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Robert J. Tennesen

RE: Legislative Report

DATE: May 10, 2012

The *end is near* for the 87th Legislature and for many members, some voluntarily and some not. The final week was mainly filled with negotiations on the capital bonding and stadium bills.

Omnibus Transportation Policy Bill (H.F. 2685)

The Conference Committee Report was adopted by the House and Senate on May 7:

- Establishes a bridge inspection and signing account in the special revenue fund. The account will appropriate money annually for local bridge inspection and posting of weight limits.
- Authorizes Metro Council to issue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$39,600,000 for capital expenditures as prescribed in the transit capital improvement program. Up to \$4,200,000 may be made available to fund capital projects in amounts that would have otherwise been funded using replacement transit service provider reserves that were reduced in 2012. This section only applies to the seven-county metro area.
- Changes authority for permitting shoulder use by transit buses from Commissioner of Transportation to a "road authority."
- Authorizes the commissioner to select one pilot transportation project and enter into agreements with governmental, private or nonprofit entities to finance or invest in the transportation project including repayment agreements. The agreement is subject to availability of state money or other dedicated resources and approval of the commissioner of management and budget. The project cannot result in the delay of any project programmed in the statewide transportation improvement program and does not provide new toll facility or design-build contracting authority.

Capital Bonding Bill (H.F. 1752)

The capital bonding bill authorizing \$566,858 of new projects passed and is expected to be signed by Governor Dayton. A bonding bill of \$531,000 was approved in 2011.

The bill authorizes payment of the bonds from both the general fund and user financed debt service. Authorized projects include road and bridge; renovation and maintenance of facilities at the University

of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system; asset preservation projects at various state-owned facilities; and design work for needed repairs to the State Capitol.

The transportation and transit provisions include:

- \$49.4 million for Transportation
- \$2.5 million to Metropolitan Council for Transportation Interchange Facility in Minneapolis

Transportation appropriations include:

- \$30 million for local bridge repair and rehabilitation
- \$10 million for Local Road Improvement Fund grants
- \$6.4 million for Greater Minnesota Transit

Also included:

- \$3 million for Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure Program

Not included:

- Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit (Governor recommended \$25 million)

Cedar Avenue BRT

The launch of Cedar Avenue BRT planned for November may be delayed until spring or summer of 2013. It is likely that some key elements of the project will not be finished on time. Two of the five stations, both in Apple Valley (at 140th and 147th Streets), may be delayed due to disagreements on the design of the stations.