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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Robert J. Tennesen

RE: Legislative Report

DATE: July 12, 2012

Federal Transportation Reauthorization - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)

A deal was reached on a new 27-month surface transportation authorization bill. Unlike a prior version of the bill, this one fully funds current highway and transit programs through fiscal year 2014 not fiscal year 2013. For more detail see the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Conference Committee that is 91 pages long. http://www.rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_2/PDF/HR4348crJES.pdf

This explanation of the bill is very preliminary and is based upon the Conference Committee explanation and other secondary sources. It will be necessary for both MnDOT and the Metropolitan Council to analyze the legislation to understand its application to Minnesota.

Overall, funding is set at \$109 billion or \$54.6 billion annually. Annual funding in the last reauthorization was \$50.1 billion.

- Highways/Transit funding split: Remains at 80 percent highway, 20 percent transit
- Highway funding: FY 2013 \$40.4 billion; FY 2014 \$41 billion
- Transit funding: FY 2013 \$10.5 billion; FY 2014 \$10.7 billion

Following are a few key changes from existing law:

- Requires the establishment of national goals, performance measures and accountability in planning and funding transportation investments. MAP-21 focuses the highway program on key outcomes, such as reducing fatalities, improving road and bridge conditions, reducing congestion, increasing system reliability, and improving freight movement and economic vitality. It does not provide a formal role for transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, or local government to work with state transportation departments to develop performance metrics.
- Moves away from a fix-it-first strategy.
- Changes the Transportation Enhancements, which funded projects like bike lanes, sidewalks and crosswalks, to a new program called Transportation Alternatives (TA). Several programs are

consolidated under TA including Safe Routes to School, recreational trails and other programs. Two percent of the amounts apportioned to states are set aside for the TA program. Fifty percent of the TA funds are allocated to the states and 50 percent to metropolitan planning organizations based on population.

- States are permitted to "opt-out" of funding bike and pedestrian safety projects and can transfer their allocation to other programs.
- Calls for development of a National Freight Strategic Plan and increases the federal share for projects in the freight network from 80% to 95%.
- Expands tolling authority if road capacity is increased, though there must be more free lanes than tolled lanes.

The money to pay for the transportation projects will come from the Highway Trust Fund and an infusion of general taxpayer cash. The general tax money will be fully offset by changes to tax law.

Legislature

The legislature will reconvene in January 2013. It is unlikely that any committee meetings of importance will occur before the November general election.

Once the legislature and the governor reach an agreement the governor will call the legislature into special session to deal with flood damage in Northeastern Minnesota, particularly in St. Louis County and Duluth.

Candidate Forums

Kim Larson and Nina Pribyl have been working to set up the candidate forums. A map of the I-35W Solutions Alliance catchment area after redistricting is attached. With 30 house and senate seats in the Solutions Alliance catchment area, it will be necessary to sponsor three forums this year.

Dates and locations:

Burnsville	October 3	7:00 pm	Confirmed
Bloomington	Checking on availability		
Richfield	Checking on availability		

The Transportation Finance Advisory Committee (TFAC)

The Transportation Finance Advisory Committee met on June 22, 2012.

- Arlene McCarthy from Metro Transit and Scott McBride from MnDOT gave an overview of the metro transportation system.
- Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director of Finance & Planning, Metropolitan Council, discussed transportation funding.
- Peter McLaughlin and Mary Richardson presented an overview of transit on behalf of the Counties Transit Improvement Board.

- Nick Thompson from MnDOT discussed congestion pricing, tolling as a finance tool, and the MnPASS system.
- PowerPoint presentation on value capture strategies for transportation finance by Zhirong (Jerry) Zhao, Associate Professor, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2012.

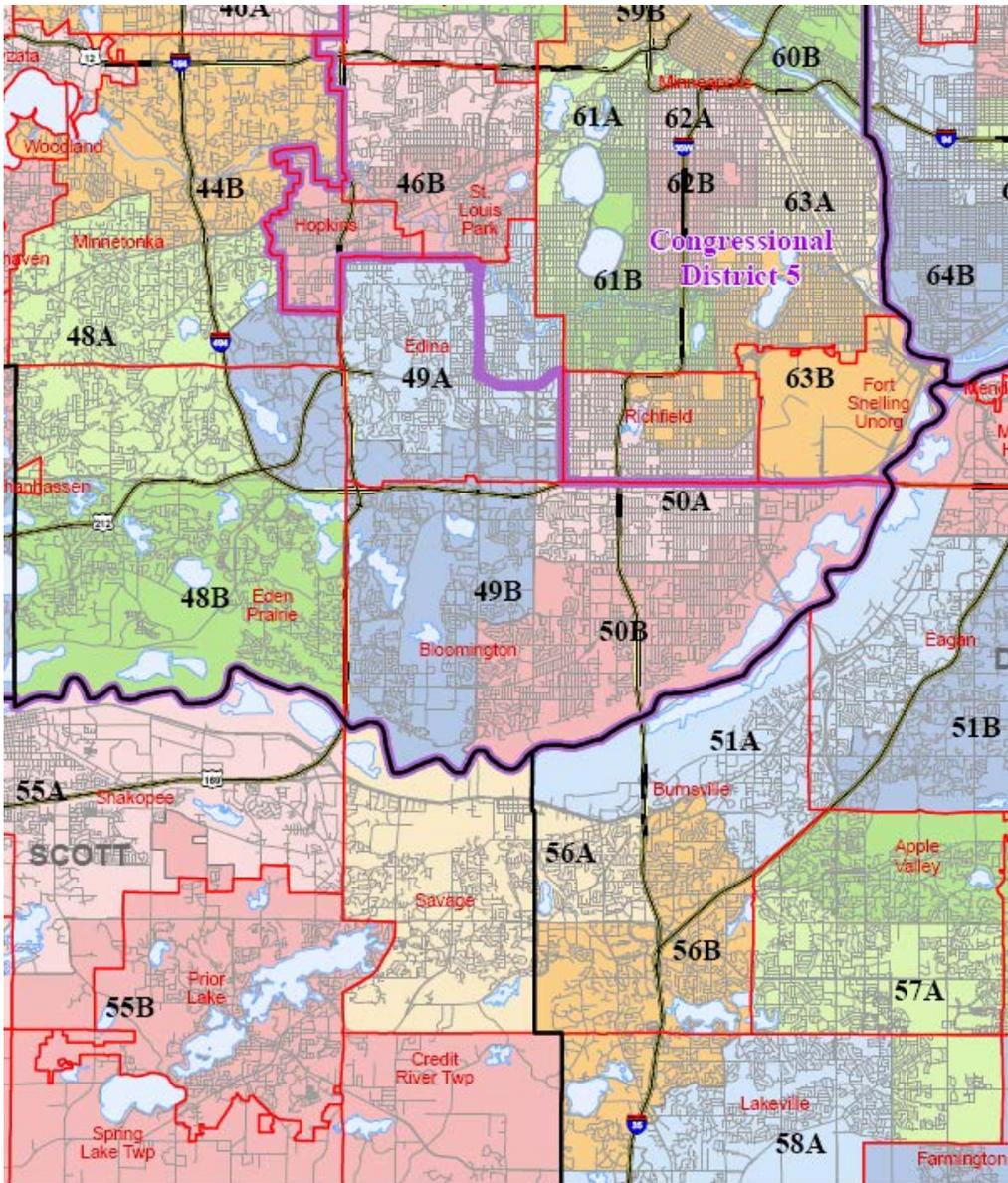
MnDOT 20-Year Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan

MnDOT released its 20-year Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan for public review and comment. Public hearings will be held July 12 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Room G15 at MnDOT, 395 John Ireland Blvd., in St. Paul. The public also may participate via videoconference at MnDOT offices statewide.

The Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan implements Minnesota GO, the recently adopted 50-year transportation vision. The plan focuses on lower-cost, high-benefit and multimodal transportation solutions. The Plan can be accessed at www.minnesotagoplan.org/docs.

Written comments will be accepted through July 31 and should be addressed to:

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Senate Districts:

- 49
- 50
- 51
- 55
- 56
- 57
- 58
- 61
- 62
- 63

House Districts:

- 49A 49B
- 50A 50B
- 51A 51B
- 55A 55B
- 56A 56B
- 57A
- 58A
- 61A 61B
- 62A 62B
- 63A 63B