



February 4, 2025

Chair Dibble, Ranking Member Jasinski and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Highway User Tax Distribution road funding gap report produced by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). We appreciate the agency staff that compiled the report required by the 2023 Legislature.

Each of our organizations represent thousands of men and women who build and maintain the state's highway, road, and bridge system. Our members take great pride in building the state's infrastructure that allows for efficient movement of goods, service delivery, and access to recreational opportunities.

The comprehensive transportation funding package passed by the Legislature in 2023 was a major step towards making our members and all Minnesotans safer, creating thousands of family-supporting construction careers, and boosting our local economies. However, MnDOT's road funding gap report presents a clear and candid assessment of future highway system funding needs. The Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan estimates the funding gap for the Trunk Highway system over the next 20 years at \$17.8 billion.

Now is not the time to cut road and bridge funding. We strongly oppose eliminating, reducing and delaying existing dedicated revenue streams for roads and bridges.

Increasing long term and dedicated funding is critical for effectively planning construction and maintenance of the system. It is equally important for our industry partners ability to prepare and plan for successful project delivery that is on-time and on-budget. For our members, those projects translate to good paying, family supporting jobs that come with affordable health care and quality pension plans.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to provide a perspective from the working people that build and maintain our state's roads and bridges.

Sincerely,

Ryan Davies, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, International Union of Operations Engineers Local 49

Barry Davies, Business Manager – Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Iron Workers Local 512

Joel Smith, President and Business Manager, LIUNA Minnesota and North Dakota

Richard Kolodziejki, Director of Government Affairs, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters