

RESOLUTION: SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

RESOLVED: That the City DFL support passage by the 2017 Minnesota Legislature of a comprehensive transportation funding package that will generate new economic development opportunities throughout the state, help retain and attract a talented workforce, create jobs, and keep Minnesota economically competitive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City DFL support funding Minnesota's transportation and transit needs with long-term, gimmick free funding – without competing with other dedicated funding streams for other state needs, such as education, health care, economic development, etc.

BACKGROUND:

WHEREAS: Our quality of life and Minnesota's economic vitality depend on a transportation system with safe road and bridges, easy access to public transit, safe bike and pedestrian paths; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's population and job growth is outpacing our current infrastructure and we must plan now for this expected growth; and

WHEREAS: Nearly half of Minnesota's roads and bridges are more than 50 years old and in dangerous condition, making it more difficult to move people and goods and services to their next destination; and

WHEREAS: MnDOT has 500 fewer designers, inspectors and maintenance workers than it did a decade ago and with a shrinking workforce, it's impossible to keep up with aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: Only ten percent of jobs in the metro area are easy to get to by transit, and bus service is very limited in Greater Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: A safe, efficient, stable transportation and transit system is necessary for workers to get to work and children to get to school; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's aging population and persons with disabilities need adequate transit service throughout the state so people can live independently; and

WHEREAS: We need transportation investment now to put people to work, expand our economy, and attract new businesses to our state.