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County Officials Call on Legislature to Pass Comprehensive Transportation Funding

ST. PAUL, MN – Today the Association of Minnesota Counties sent a [letter to all Minnesota state legislators](#) urging them to pass a long-term transportation funding solution for roads, bridges, and transit before the legislative session adjourns. The [letter](#) was signed by more than 200 county officials including 147 county commissioners, 42 county engineers/public works directors, 24 county administrators and coordinators, and 3 county auditors from 79 counties.

“Transportation is a key function of government outlined in our state’s constitution. We need the legislature to act this session on a transportation funding package for roads, bridges, and transit that is comprehensive, regionally balanced, sustainable, and dedicated,” said Roseau County Commissioner Jack Swanson, who serves as president of the Association of Minnesota Counties. “Without a new transportation funding package, we’ll have challenges meeting basic needs like keeping our roadways safe for the public, relieving congestion, and providing infrastructure that can withstand Minnesota’s harsh winters.”

“Our past history has shown that we’ve succeeded by working together across the state. That’s what we need to do again this year,” said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. “All communities in Minnesota have unique needs relating to roads, bridges, and transit. By uniting together, we can rebuild our transportation infrastructure so no community is left behind.”

“The 2012 Minnesota Transportation Finance Advisory Committee identified the need for \$7 billion of additional investment over the next 20 years just to maintain the current level of performance on county highways. It is critical that the legislature pass a comprehensive funding solution this session that can help counties meet their needs for roads, bridges, and transit,” said Mark Krebsbach, who serves as the president of the Minnesota County Engineers Association. “Every year we wait, the cost to Minnesota taxpayers to address these needs will only increase. This is simply an issue that will not go away or get less expensive to address.”

AMC is a voluntary statewide organization that assists the state’s 87 counties in providing effective county governance to the people of Minnesota. The association works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted. In addition, the Association provides educational programs, training, research and communications for county officials.

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