



Association of Minnesota Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2016

For more information contact:

Leslie Rosedahl
651-353-1818

County Commissioners Hold Regional Transportation Meeting in St. Cloud

ST. CLOUD, MN – Stearns County Commissioner Steve Notch, chairman of the Stearns County Board of Commissioners, hosted a forum sponsored by the Association of Minnesota Counties at the Stearns County Public Works Building today to discuss the transportation issues facing the greater St. Cloud community and the state. Over 20 St. Cloud-area county commissioners, mayors, and county engineers attended the meeting, along with Rep. Jeff Howe (R-Rockville) and Rep. Tama Theis (R-St. Cloud).

The forum featured a discussion of local transportation issues from Stearns County Engineer Jodi Teich. Teich noted that Stearns County faces a shortfall of \$6 million annually in basic preservation of county infrastructure. She also mentioned addressing the deterioration of County Road 183 and the need to replace the County Highway 13 Bridge in Melrose as major examples of transportation needs in the community.

“Today’s forum was important to discuss a comprehensive, balanced, sustainable, and dedicated transportation funding package with community leaders, including our legislators,” said Notch. “In order to keep our roads, bridges, and transit systems safe, we need sustainable funding.”

Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin also spoke at the meeting to highlight the importance of passing a comprehensive approach to transportation infrastructure that meets needs throughout the state.

“In the past, when we’ve succeeded, we’ve done so by working together across the state. That’s what we need to do again this year,” said McLaughlin. “We acknowledge that all communities in Minnesota have unique needs relating to roads, bridges, and transit (buses and trains). By uniting together as counties and urging the legislature to pass a sustainable package, we can rebuild our transportation infrastructure so no community is left behind.”



Others in attendance included other local county commissioners, city mayors, and city councilmembers.

###