

## Sample Letter

DATE

REPRESENTATIVE \_\_\_\_\_/SENATOR \_\_\_\_\_  
ROOM NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE OFFICE BLDG/SENATE OFFICE BLDG  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd/95 University Ave W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Rep./Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

**I am writing to urge you to work with your colleagues and the governor to pass a major capital bonding bill during a special session in June.**

**Minnesota's economy needs additional jobs now which can be created right away with significant funding for critical transportation programs and projects** including the Local Road Improvement Program, the Local Bridge Repair and Replacement program, Bus Rapid Transit and bus facilities, the Local Road Wetland Replacement program, port improvement projects and rail investments.

Publicly owned transportation infrastructure is an asset worth billions of dollars that needs to be maintained and improved. Most of the funding is used for asset preservation - repair or replacement of existing transportation infrastructure - through projects that will get people to work right away.

The Local Road Improvement Program assists all local governments - counties, cities and townships in maintaining and improving the roads under their jurisdiction. Local governments are using all of the tools at their disposal, including property taxes, wheelage taxes, local option sales taxes, and special assessments but continue to fall behind in maintaining safe, quality roadways. With assistance from state general obligation bonds, which leverage additional federal and local funds, many more projects can be completed, allowing local governments to address a backlog of road needs.

MnDOT has identified a need for \$100 million in GO bonds to assist local governments who have federal and local funds available and are waiting to complete critical local road projects.

The Local Bridge Replacement program has been funded in every capital bonding bill for decades. Preserving the structural integrity of Minnesota's bridges is a priority for counties, cities, and townships. Bridges are a critical link in the state's transportation system and benefit the state's economy by providing connections for people and markets throughout the state. State financial assistance to local units of government is necessary because of the significant number of bridges and the associated cost for replacement of this important highway asset. The replacement of major bridges is too much for local transportation budgets to bear with local funds alone.

There are 14,814 bridge structures (10 feet or greater) on the local system and approximately 1,000 of these structures are identified as deficient or obsolete. The governor has recommended \$112 million in GO bonds be included in the 2020 Capital Bonding bill to address the waiting list of bridges ready for construction and meet the need for bridges programmed for 2020 and 2021.

Bus rapid transit is a proven solution to significant challenges on local bus corridors. The funds would advance the development of three additional projects in the next two years and would aid the build-out of the BRT network. This network would link nearly 500,000 jobs and residents via transit and expand the reach of the METRO network of dedicated guideway LRT and BRT projects. Suburban transit systems also need some capital facility upgrades to continue to improve and expand service in suburban areas.

In Greater Minnesota, transit systems need bus garages to maintain their fleets out of the elements and modernize existing facilities. From urban systems in St. Cloud, Duluth and Rochester to rural systems throughout the state, capital projects are difficult to finance without state assistance.

Funding for the Local Road Wetland Replacement program (both bonds and cash) is desperately needed to keep local projects on schedule and on budget while protecting important wetlands. Some wetland banks are out of credits or will be depleted soon.

**Recovering from the current economic recession should be the top priority and progress can be made in reducing fatalities, improving efficiency and economic development and getting people back to work quickly through the funding of important transportation programs and projects in the 2020 Capital Bonding bill.** Please support the levels of funding needed and recommended for critical transportation programs and projects all across Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS

Transportation Requests for GO Bonds

Local Bridge Program	\$112,000,000
Local Road Improvement Program	\$100,000,000
Transitways - Metro	\$ 75,000,000
Transit Capital – Greater Minnesota	\$ 10,000,000
Local Road Wetland Mitigation	\$ 26,400,000
Ports and Waterways	\$ 14,000,000
Railroad grade crossings	\$ 10,000,000
MnDOT Rail	\$ 30,000,000