



## ***2022 Transportation Day Talking Points***

- Transportation infrastructure is continually underfunded, leaving a backlog of road, bridge and transit projects waiting and growing more expensive.
- Investments in safety improvements are needed now. In 2021, 497 Minnesotans were killed in traffic crashes. Improvements to our roadways along with education and enforcement are needed to reduce fatalities and injuries.
- We have a new opportunity starting in 2022 to leverage significant federal transportation dollars but the state will need to provide matching funds in order to access federal funds. The legislature needs to pass additional funding so that MnDOT, the Metropolitan Council and local governments are in a strong position to match and compete with other states for federal transportation funds.
- With a \$9.3 billion state surplus, state dollars invested in transportation will not harm other areas of the state budget while increased investments will create jobs, improve safety for everyone who uses the transportation system, and increase economic activity.
- The legislature should consider all funding options including:
  - **A statutory dedication of all of the revenue from the sales tax collected on auto repair parts to transportation.** Current law provides a flat dollar amount - \$145.6 million per year from the sales tax on auto repair parts to the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund.
  - **Additional general fund dollars** to meet ongoing transportation needs and ensure the state is able to match federal infrastructure dollars.
  - **Funding for transportation projects and programs in the capital budget bill.** Programs like the Local Road Improvement Program, Local Bridge Replacement Program and Local Road Wetland Replacement program are critical for local governments to maintain and improve important transportation infrastructure. Funding for transportation projects like transitways, rail improvements and port and waterway improvements ensure that an integrated transportation system works to deliver freight as well as move people.

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