



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Mike Beard, Chair
House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee
417 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Frank Hornstein, Ranking Minority Member
House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee
213 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Joe Gimse, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
303 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Scott Dibble, Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation Committee
115 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senators and Representatives:

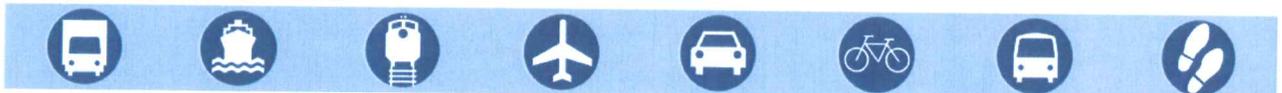
I am pleased to share with you the Report on Department of Transportation Management Changes. The report summarizes changes to the department's organizational structure and internal procedures with regard to bridge inspection and maintenance, and discusses anticipated highway construction budget forecasts through 2018.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has made substantive changes to its bridge inspection and maintenance processes since the collapse of the I-35W bridge, which resulted in the tragic loss of life and injury to over one hundred Minnesota citizens.

While the National Transportation Safety Board investigation concluded that the bridge collapse occurred as the result inadequately designed gusset plates, their investigative process, along with findings from the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor and others, identified shortcomings in Mn/DOT's bridge inspection and maintenance program as well as the design and construction processes.

Mn/DOT has responded to those findings, and the resulting changes to our bridge management program are detailed in this report. The final section of the report presents a more department-wide context with a budget analysis of the Minnesota Bridge Rehabilitation and Preservation Program, pavement investments, other infrastructure preservation, safety and mobility enhancements that are planned through 2018. The section also discusses funding challenges and risks associated with the department's current investment plan.

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We believe the changes already initiated within the department and our budgeting priorities as summarized within this report are important steps in Mn/DOT's commitment to building and maintaining a safe, efficient and sustainable transportation system

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about our progress, or you can contact Duane Hill in Mn/DOT's Bridge Office at duane.hill@state.mn.us or 651-366-4501.

Sincerely,



Thomas K. Sorel
Commissioner

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