Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

January 25, 2012

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 Legislators:

Enclosed is a response to the legislature's directive to the commissioner of transportation to report on the implementation of complete streets. This report was mandated in Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 351, Section 72.

The complete streets approach emphasizes safety and mobility. It ensures that road projects are designed to meet local needs, be sensitive to context and emphasize that all modes of transportation and all users are considered in the project development process. The approach does not mean "all modes on all roads." Rather, the goal is to develop a balanced transportation system that integrates all modes and include transportation users of all types, ages and abilities.

As one of the first states to adopt a policy requiring context sensitive design and solutions, Minnesota was already positioned to support a complete streets approach to transportation investment. In addition, MnDOT staff have been actively working on integrating ADA accommodations and bicycle/pedestrian principles within the agency. Several local agencies in Minnesota have already adopted their own resolutions for complete streets, indicating that complete streets are achievable at a local level.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this report, or you can contact Julie Skallman, Mn/DOT State Aid Division Director, at 651-366-4831.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Sorel
Commissioner