



State of Minnesota
Department of Finance

400 Centennial Building
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September 20, 2007

To: Legislative Advisory Commission Members:

Senator Larry Pogemiller	Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Senator Richard Cohen	Representative Loren Solberg
Senator Steve Murphy	Representative Bernard Lieder
Senator Michael Jungbauer	Representative Doug Magnus

From: Tom J. Hanson, Executive Secretary *TJH*

RE: Round Robin Approval of LAC Request

Please find attached a request for the Department of Transportation to increase the state road construction appropriation for FY 2008 by \$195,000,000. This increase of \$195 million reflects the amount of emergency federal funding for the I35W Bridge Collapse that has not already been included in state trunk highway appropriation authority. This is the remaining amount of money that Congress and the President authorized for this project in federal legislation.

Laws 2007, Chapter 143, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 9 authorizes the commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the governor, to transfer all or part of the unappropriated balance in the trunk highway fund to an appropriation for trunk highway design, construction, or inspection in order to take advantage of an unanticipated receipt of income to the trunk highway fund. This authority requires the written approval of at least five members of a group consisting of: (1) the members of the Legislative Advisory Commission under Minnesota Statutes, section 3.30; and (2) the ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over transportation finance.

This action is appropriate at this time to ensure that the I35W bridge replacement can continue on an expedited schedule, and to ensure that planning can continue for other important highway projects in the state in a timely manner. If this increase in budget authority is not made now, the risk exists that some other programmed projects will be delayed or deferred. It is timely and prudent to take this action now, as Congress is moving to provide the remainder of the \$250 million in emergency funds it authorized immediately after the bridge collapse.

Please review this request and provide any comments at your earliest convenience. If you approve, return the signed LAC Round Robin recommendation form by Monday, October 1, 2007, to Craig Wieber, Department of Finance, 400 Centennial Building, or call 651-201-8029

for the signed form to be picked up. Letters are attached to allow members of the LAC to signify approval of this appropriation increase.

Should you have any questions on this request, please contact Kevin Gray (651-366-4816), at the Department of Transportation.

cc: Representative Marty Siefert
Senator David Senjem
Lt. Governor/Commissioner Carol Molanu, Department of Transportation
Lisa Freese, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Transportation
Kevin Gray, Department of Transportation

Attachments

