



SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

200 4th Ave W · Shakopee, MN, 55379
952-496-7750 · www.scottcountymn.gov

June 4, 2025

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Senate Transportation Minority Lead John Jasinski

RE: Proposal to divert \$93 million in transportation funding from metro counties

Dear legislative leaders,

The Scott County Board of Commissioners is committed to working in partnership with the Legislature and the State of Minnesota to provide quality services to all of our residents in the most efficient and effective means possible. Unfortunately, that partnership is severely undermined by the Transportation Working Group's policy provision to reduce the county share of the metro area transportation sales and use tax from 17% to 8.5% and to reallocate those funds to the Met Council for Bus Rapid Transit. We are writing today to express our serious concern with and strong opposition to this \$93 million reduction.

This proposal cuts \$93 million from county transportation projects in FY 26-27 alone. It will impact county programmed transportation projects around the metro and is not necessary to balance the current budget issue. This proposal not only cuts \$3 million per year from Scott County but also entirely undoes the historic and transformational transportation funding bill negotiated in 2023—only two years ago! That legislation gave the Met Council what it needed to operate the transit system, gave counties the means to build the necessary infrastructure to improve transit and bike/ped connections at the local level, and gave residents hope for a regional transportation system that would work across all modes. Now, after collecting the sales tax for little more than a year, that plan and all of the work that went into it is being discarded. Not only that, but it is being discarded without being part of a bill, without being heard in committee, without even a minute of public dialogue, and without any vetting or discussion from impacted parties. This is alarming.



The Met Council received authority to issue bonds or other obligations for regional transit capital expenditures with the backing of the sales tax. That existing funding should be used to build out the BRT network. Jeopardizing local transportation projects that actually support transit and bike/ped systems is totally unnecessary given the current fiscal capacity granted to the Met Council. Furthermore, there is not a single Scott County BRT included in the Met Council's Imagine 2050 plan. Why the sudden rush to fund new BRTs, especially when two existing highway BRTs (the Red and Orange lines) are struggling? Moving forward with micro transit and improving trail/sidewalk connectivity will improve access and life for Scott County residents. Taking away our ability to do that will not.

An effective transportation system relies on partnership across jurisdictions, and we believe Scott County has been a strong and reliable partner. We have utilized our transportation sales tax to advance regional highway

and transit projects. We support the Met Council's ability to control transit operations, and we ask you to require them to use existing funding and authorities to do so.

We understand the need to make tough decisions, but we are asking you to slow down with this provision. It does not need to be enacted in 2025. We ask that you reconsider this provision.

Sincerely,

 Jon Ulrich Barb Weckman Brekke
 Thomas J. Wolf

The Scott County Board of Commissioners

Dave Beer, Chair – District 4

Jon Ulrich, Vice Chair – District 5

Barb Weckman Brekke – District 1

Thomas Wolf – District 2

Jody Brennan – District 3