



2522 Thomas Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(612) 235-6028
(866) 925-8459
www.tennesseanlaw.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: The I-35W Solutions Alliance Board of Directors

FROM: Robert J. Tennesen

RE: Legislative Report

DATE: April 12, 2012

The legislature is out for Easter break from Friday, April 6 until Monday, April 16. We are not certain when it will adjourn sine die but likely by the end of April.

Metropolitan Governance Reform

A bill (HF2404/SF2014) to stagger the terms of the 17 Metro Council members was passed and is headed for the governor's desk. This action was recommended in the Legislative Auditor's report on metropolitan transit governance last year, as well as by the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government. The purpose is to provide more stability and effectiveness by retaining some members between gubernatorial appointments, making the Council less dependent on staff. The measure has bipartisan support at the legislature but is opposed by the Metro Council.

Many metropolitan and transit governance reform measures were discussed this session and will likely be fleshed out next year pursuant to the Legislative Auditor's recommendations adopted by the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government.

Omnibus Transportation Policy Bill

There are differences to be worked out in the House and Senate versions of the omnibus transportation policy bill (HF1284/SF1072). Rep. Beard amended his bill to accommodate our objections with regard to use of funds generated from the MnPASS lane on I-35W, but the Senate bill has not been amended. The bills will likely go to conference committee.

Bonding Bill

Differences will also need to be worked out in the House and Senate bonding bills (HF2622/SF2577). A comparison of the portions dealing with transportation and transit are attached.

Federal Transportation Bill

On March 29, the House and Senate agreed to a three-month extension on the federal transportation bill.

SENATE BONDING BILL (SF2577) - 3/28/12	HOUSE BONDING BILL (HF 2622)– 3/22/12
<p>Sec. 17. TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 43,500,000</p>	<p>Sec. 15. TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 38,500,000</p>
<p>Subd. 2. Local Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation 20,000,000</p>	<p>Subd. 2. Local Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation 20,000,000</p>
<p>Subd. 3. Local Road Improvement Fund Grants 14,200,000</p>	<p>Subd. 3. Local Road Improvements 10,000,000</p>
	<p>Subd. 7. I-35W Storm Tunnel, Minneapolis 4,000,000</p>
<p>Subd. 5. Greater Minnesota Transit 4,000,000</p>	
<p>Sec. 18. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL</p> <p>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 12,850,000</p>	<p>Sec. 16. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL</p> <p>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 8,100,000</p>
<p>Subd. 6. Minneapolis Transportation Interchange 5,000,000</p>	
<p>Subd. 4. Transportation Economic Development Program 5,000,000</p>	<p>Subd. 4. Transportation Economic Development Program 5,000,000</p>
<p>Sec. 38. Laws 2008, chapter 179, section 17, subdivision 4, is amended to read:</p> <p>Subd. 4. Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit 4,000,000</p>	<p>Sec. 33. Laws 2006, chapter 258, section 17, subdivision 3, is amended to read:</p> <p>Subd. 3. Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) 5,000,000</p>
	<p>Sec. 35. Laws 2008, chapter 179, section 17, subdivision 4, is amended to read:</p> <p>Subd. 4. Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit 4,000,000</p>
<p>Sec. 41. Laws 2009, chapter 93, article 1, section 12, subdivision 2, is amended to read:</p> <p>Subd. 2. Transit Capital Improvement Program 21,000,000</p>	<p>Sec. 38. Laws 2009, chapter 93, article 1, section 12, subdivision 2, is amended to read:</p> <p>Subd. 2. Transit Capital Improvement Program 21,000,000</p>
<p>Sec. 47. Laws 2011, First Special Session chapter 12, section 14, subdivision 2, is amended to read:</p> <p>Subd. 2. Transit Capital Improvement Program 20,000,000</p>	<p>Sec. 44. Laws 2011, First Special Session chapter 12, section 14, subdivision 2, is amended to read:</p> <p>Subd. 2. Transit Capital Improvement Program 20,000,000</p>