



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

MEMORANDUM

TO: MNDOT COMMISSIONER SOREL
CC: DEED COMMISSIONER PHELLIPS AND MET COUNCIL CHAIR
HAIGH
FROM: GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON 
DATE: JANUARY 12, 2012
RE: TRANSPORTATION FINANCE ADVISORY GROUP

Minnesota's aging highways, roads, bridges, and multimodal systems require attention if we want to enhance the state's economic competitiveness and our citizens' quality of life. If our transportation systems deteriorate further, they will seriously constrict our future economic growth and damage our social vitality.

We know how to invest in high-quality transportation facilities. At the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, where new investments have been made continuously during the last twenty years, a virtually new airport has been constructed, and is rated one of the best-managed airports in the world. In addition, the recently completed Highway 62 Crosstown Interchange, also built while the highway remained open, has improved the flow of highway traffic and the use of the highway for public transit.

I believe that assembling a Commissioner's Advisory Group on Transportation Finance will help address these concerns. Chaired by you, the Advisory Group should be comprised of the best minds from the public and private sectors, and should develop ideas for financing the transportation improvements needed to ensure our future social and economic vitality.

I recommend that the Commissioner's Advisory Group on Transportation Finance include the DEED Commissioner Mark Phillips, Met Council Chair Sue Haigh, members of the public to represent businesses in the seven-county metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota, a representative of the investment community, a representative of unions, a representative of county government, and an economist. I also believe it is important to obtain legislative involvement in the advisory group. To that end, I will ask both the Senate and the House of Representatives to select two members from their respective bodies, one of the majority, and one of the minority.

The Advisory Group should:

- identify investment opportunities to support a thriving economy and a high quality of life for Minnesotans over the next twenty years;

- identify and analyze the potential of various revenue sources and non-traditional approaches to transportation financing, as well as opportunities for public-private partnerships to invest in transportation improvements;
- help develop a strategic marketing plan to obtain public support for the investment plan and any additional steps to obtain the funding needed; and
- prepare a written report of its recommendations, and share it with the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2012.

Thank you for your leadership in this very important initiative. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.