



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
463 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

I have vetoed and am returning House File 928, Chapter 151, the omnibus transportation policy bill.

While I support several provisions in the bill, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has raised concerns regarding provisions in this legislation. Those concerns were brought to the attention of the bill's authors, but the concerns were unfortunately ignored.

Mn/DOT is working with Wisconsin to develop passenger rail from Chicago to the Twin Cities, and we have cautioned the Legislature on many occasions about prematurely selecting specific routes, stops, or endpoints. Nonetheless, this bill does so. Those matters are being considered as part of a statewide rail study being conducted by Mn/DOT.

Mn/DOT also has concerns related to the language regarding railroad employees. Unfortunately, this provision was not fully vetted and was added on the House floor. Uncertainty exists regarding how this provision would affect future passenger rail operations in Minnesota and the cost of those operations. The complex federal laws in the bill relate to labor laws and benefits unique to rail carriers and rail employees. This provision should have been fully vetted before being inserted into the bill.

The bill also creates the Council on Transportation Access which would overlap with the existing Interagency Committee on Transit Coordination (ICTC). I established ICTC to coordinate health and human service programs with public

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transportation systems. The ICTC is already performing the same function the new committee would perform. Moreover, members of the new council would be eligible for per diem while ICTC members serve at no additional charge. I will direct Mn/DOT to expand the membership of the ICTC to address the purported need for the new council.

This bill is another example of authors ignoring the input of my Administration. The result is a veto. Such an outcome could have been easily avoided. I encourage the Legislature to address these concerns at the beginning of the 2010 legislative session, so I will be able to sign this bill into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Pawlenty', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor

cc: Senator Dave Metzen, President  
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader  
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader  
Senator Steve Murphy  
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader  
Representative Frank Hornstein  
Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)  
Mr. Albin Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State