



March 25, 2021

Joint Committee on Transportation

Re: HB 2744

Chair McLain, Chair Beyer, Co-Chairs Noble & Boquist, and Members of the Committee:

As you know, state highways change function over time, and jurisdictional transfer can better align highway design with community aspirations. However, no two transfers are the same. The needs of the community will differ, and jurisdictional transfer should not be the only means of investing in these corridors. However, where it is the right solution for the local and state governments, there needs to be a funding source to bring them up to the urban standards that match the local's system.

Projects to bring these facilities to local standards are expensive because these facilities are often undersized for their current uses, unsafe for the multi-modal purposes they now have, or unmaintained. The state and local governments can partner to bring these facilities to meet the modern uses – but it takes funding.

The Metro region has examined the facilities that ODOT currently owns and should maintain to determine which facilities should be prioritized for investment in preparation of transfer. Washington County participated in this process and within the Metro portion of Washington County, there are a number of these facilities that need significant investment. Washington County has been working with ODOT to effectuate the successful transition of many state transportation facilities to Washington County over time. The purpose of our work is to make these facilities safer and meet the needs of the community.

With or without transfer, state-owned urban arterials need additional funding to meet the changing needs of the community. By investing in these facilities to transfer their maintenance and operation over to the local government is an investment that will assist ODOT in the long run. Finding a long-term solution to accomplishing the improvements necessary for successful transfer of these facilities will best meet the needs of the community and our transportation system.

We support finding solutions for jurisdictional transfer. HB 2477, with the proposed amendments, would start the process of establishing a funding source for these projects.

Sincerely,

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