Senate DFL Majority

Transportation

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS | 2023-2026

Historic investments in roads and bridges

Over the last 4 years, Senate DFLers invested more than $2 billion in new funding for roads and bridges, including more than $152 million to match federal investment from the Biden administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This included more than $1 billion in new transportation aid to counties and cities, supporting the maintenance of local roads and providing substantial budget and property tax relief for local governments and taxpayers.

Historic investments in transit

Before the 2023 session, transit service across the state was facing a fiscal cliff due to long-term disinvestment in transit services that millions of Minnesotans rely on every day, including underfunded Metro Mobility service for Minnesotans with disabilities. The Senate DFL stabilized transit services in the Metro and in Greater Minnesota, invested in transit safety, and expanded Bus Rapid Transit services across the Twin Cities.

Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions caused by transportation

Senate DFLers passed nation-leading legislation requiring study and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions induced by transportation infrastructure decisions. As greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector continue to grow and remain the largest source of emissions in Minnesota, Senate DFLers are addressing climate change by looking upstream and to reduce emissions before investing taxpayers' dollars in ways that grow emissions and contribute to climate change.

Road safety initiatives (school buses, toward zero deaths, red light cameras)

Safety on our roads and in our communities is a top priority for Senate DFLers. Over the past term, we've improved roadway safety by expanding Minnesota's existing move over law and providing for the establishment of safe road zones, authorizing traffic safety camera pilot programs, updating Minnesota's school bus stop arm law to improve student safety, and passing HOPE's Law requiring MnDOT and MDH to identify bridges in Minnesota with a history of suicide-related deaths and to incorporate suicide reduction measures into bridges.

Tab fee reduction

In 2026, in recognition of the harms done by Trump's tariffs, cuts to critical safety net programs, and the rising cost of living nationwide, Senate DFLers passed a budget providing one-time reductions to vehicle registration fees for calendar year 2027 to give Minnesotans more money in their pockets.

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Blackout license plate popularity

In 2023, Senate DFLers authorized the issuance of "blackout" license plates, which allow drivers to pay extra for a black license plate with white letters, a popular choice for many drivers for the overall appearance of their cars. The blackout license plate has exploded in popularity beyond projections, with more than 110,000 plates currently issued to Minnesota drivers.

Cost participation (relief on local governments/ property tax relief)

For the first time since 1985, the Legislature updated the cost participation policy between the Minnesota Department of Transportation and local governments. Thanks to these reforms, communities will see their share of costs reduced by as much as 50%, saving $15-25 million per year in local government costs. This reform is a critical way to help local government budgets, reduce property tax pressure, and support communities across the state.

DL4all

Senate DFLers passed legislation to allow undocumented Minnesotans to obtain a driver's license or state ID card, allowing those individuals to reliably transport themselves and their families to their jobs, schools, errands, activities, and more. This step improves public safety by expanding access to driver training and insurance coverage, and was widely supported by law enforcement and the business community.

Transit safety initiatives

DFLers responded to rising safety issues on transit vehicles following COVID-era disruptions by establishing the TRIP program, which expanded fare enforcement, successfully used unarmed personnel to prevent and de-escalate situations, provide high-visibility interventions coordinated with social service entities, and more.