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# 2008 Legislative Session Summary

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# Transportation Finance Bill

- ◆ Allows one-quarter percent metro sales tax.
- ◆ \$30.8 M first year for Metro Transit operating assistance.
- ◆ Joint Powers Board.
- ◆ GEARS committee.



# Transportation Finance Bill

- ◆ Grants awarded after Metro Council review.
- ◆ Sales tax revenues only for transitway construction and operations.
- ◆ \$50 M – Trunk highway bonds for transit advantages.



# State Bonding

- ◆ \$70 M – Central Corridor
- ◆ \$16.7 M – UPA
- ◆ \$4 M – Cedar Ave. BRT
- ◆ \$10.5 M – Regional parks capital improvement funding
- ◆ 10% state cap on LRT projects



# Tax Bills

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- ◆ \$33.6 M in 2008 and \$30 M in 2009 in regional bonding authorization for transit.
- ◆ Sales tax exemptions for Central Corridor (construction) and Northstar (vehicles and parts).




# Supplemental Budget Bill

- ◆ GF appropriation for transit reduced \$136,000.
- ◆ GF appropriation for parks O&M reduced \$300,000 but replaced with lottery-in-lieu of sales tax funds.
- ◆ \$500,000 energy grant for algae research project with U of M.



# Environmental Trust Fund Allocation Bill


- ◆ Provides \$1.5 M in lottery proceeds for regional park land acquisitions.



# 2007 Transportation Policy Bill

- ◆ Changes transit performance audit to peer group review.
- ◆ Modifies Metro Mobility language to conform to current ADA eligibility requirements.





# 2007 Transportation Policy Bill

- ◆ LRT governance change to allow MnDOT or Metro Council to design, build and construct LRT.
- ◆ Gives Metro Transit police more flexibility in working with other police agencies and ability to receive forfeited property funds.



# Commuter Rail Governance

- ◆ Metro Council to operate and maintain commuter rail (in whole or part in the metro area).
- ◆ Stipulates transfer from MnDOT after construction.
- ◆ Metro Transit police authority for vehicles and stations.



# UPA Enabling Legislation

- ◆ Authority to MnDOT to charge user fees for shoulder and HOV lane use by single occupant vehicles.
- ◆ Stipulates revenue disbursement from fees collected.
- ◆ Annual report by MnDOT on mitigating congestion on I-35W.




# UPA Sidelight

- ◆ Negotiated with Lakeville to voluntarily join transit taxing district over interest in UPA project.



# Environmental Services Policy Bill

- ◆ Includes wastewater biomass in definitions of renewable energy sources.
- ◆ Extends Drinking Water Supply Advisory Committee through December 2010 (two years).



# 2008 Transportation Policy Bill

- ◆ Through annual transit evaluation, Met Council must assess progress in meeting transit goals for disabled.
- ◆ Council website must include LRT information.



# Other Legislation

- ◆ Constitutional amendment for environmental and arts programs (33% to clean water fund, 14.25% to state and regional parks).
- ◆ MnDOT to study impact of transit construction projects on small businesses (consult w/Council).



# Did Not Happen

- ◆ Dan Patch.
- ◆ Staggered terms for Council appointments.
- ◆ Use of fiscal disparities in MOA expansion.





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