

Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Member Day

Congressman Jim Hagedorn (MN-01)

Minnesota's First Congressional District

- Twenty-one county district which spans from South Dakota to Wisconsin along the Iowa border.
- A mostly rural district consisting of several major highway networks, international and municipal airports, and locks and dams along the Mississippi river
- Mayo Clinic, one of the top medical institutions in the United States, is located in the district in Rochester
- Safe and efficient transportation infrastructure is one of the top priorities that impacts all of southern Minnesota

Introduction

- As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I know firsthand that high-quality transportation infrastructure is a necessity for the daily operations of America's farmers, ranchers and producers
- The agriculture industry relies on a solid infrastructure network to get crops and livestock to market – safe roads and bridges, vast rail system, and modernized locks and dams
- Additionally, low cost fuel and electricity through abundant, reliable, and affordable U.S. energy fosters a stronger business climate and sustains our quality of life

Infrastructure Basics

- Roads, bridges, airports, locks and dams, and pipelines represent the core of America's infrastructure needs
- Additionally, investments need to be made to promote the expansion of biofuels infrastructure

- The Biden Infrastructure Plan spends more on EVs than it does on roads, bridges, and pipelines combined

Agriculture

- Daily operations of producers and farmers rely on functional and safe transportation infrastructure
 - Upgraded roads in the rural area to haul goods
 - Locks and Dams in Winona and Houston counties transport grain and other goods up the Mississippi River
 - Pipelines transport crude oil much safer, efficiently, and more environmentally friendly than other modes of transportation

Highway 14 work last Congress:

- Worked in bipartisan fashion with Gov Walz, MNDOT, State Legislature, and Trump Administration to procure federal grant money, paired with state funds, to expand the Highway 14 corridor across southern Minnesota from two to four lanes
 - Project was over 50 years in the making
 - Major Safety Improvement
 - Helped with economic vitality of the region
 - Easier and safer access for economic development
 - Demonstrated bipartisan cooperation to achieve results in infrastructure space
- These infrastructure developments have increased both the opportunities and confidence in regional development

Airport Improvements

- As the Subcommittee prepares its package for Fiscal Year '22, I encourage robust investment in the Airport Improvement Program at the Department of Transportation
- This program allows for public use airports to access grant money for capital and safety improvements

- Two airports in my district, New Ulm Municipal Airport and Jackson Municipal Airport, would benefit from increased AIP funding to help fund much needed improvements

Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) for Livestock Haulers

- Every day, nearly half a million cattle and 600,000 hogs are transported across the United States
- Current hours of service rules do not consider the impacts of stoppage time on livestock haulers
- Minnesota's First District is the second-highest pork producing district in the country by economic value
- Previous appropriations measures have included language to delay ELDs for livestock haulers by one year, and I encourage the subcommittee to include this language for FY22
- Requiring ELDs for livestock haulers will cause extensive logistical and financial harm to producers across southern Minnesota

Conclusion:

- Thank you for your time today and I look forward to continued conversations, cooperation, and work towards a bipartisan agreement that will help repair roads, bridges, and other means of transportation for the safety and economic opportunity for the American people