MAT Board Members,

Last week at the Capitol brought attention to the Presidential Primary, a House floor battle over Paid Family Leave and growing concerns over Coronavirus. Longer floor sessions are starting to happen, chief authors and organizations are starting to scramble to have their bills heard before committee deadlines (see below) and state prevention measures are getting more attention as Minnesotans begin to contract official, diagnosed cases of COVID-19.

As a reminder, the 2020 legislative session committee deadlines are as follows:

- **1st deadline** - March 20, 2020
- **2nd deadline** - March 27, 2020
- **3rd deadline** - April 3, 2020

Once a bill is introduced, it must be passed by all appropriate policy committees and/or all appropriate finance divisions.

**First deadline:** A bill has to be through all policy committees in ONE of the two bodies (House or Senate).

**Second deadline:** A bill has to be finished with policy committees in BOTH bodies.

**Third deadline:** Finance divisions must have passed their spending bills out by this deadline for committees to act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.

These deadlines do not apply to bills in Taxes, Senate Finance and House Ways & Means Committees; any of which can pass bills out at any point. But even when bills don’t meet deadlines, they can always be amended into other bills or simply be allowed by the Rules committees of either body (if needed). Another words, nothing is really ever “dead” until the end of the legislative session.

On Monday, the Senate is expected to break its previous record of bill introductions with more than 4200. Few of these bills eventually become signed into law but it creates a challenge to keep track. At this point, MAT lobbyists are tracking nearly 200 bills that have been introduced last year and this year.

As the Coronavirus spreads further into Minnesota, more attention to this emergency will distract legislators. There is even some speculation that, depending on how widespread and how intense COVID-19 is, the legislative session could finish early due to infected legislators and staff.

This past week, MAT staff and lobbyists were engaged in the following activities:

- Monitoring the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee hearing on **SF3624** (Weber), “Wake surfing on state waters regulation.”
  
  **MAT Position** – MAT has had conversations with stakeholders on this bill and is neutral.
• MAT Staff Attorney Karl-Christian Johannessen testified before the House Local Government Subcommittee on HF2296 (Tabke) Municipalities (including townships) street impact fee charging authorized. **MAT Position** – MAT, in coordinating with the LMC, supports this bill.

• Annexation – MAT staff and lobbyists are making progress on getting our annexation bill set for a hearing in the Senate and House. House Local Government Subcommittee Chair, Rep. Sandy Masin, has agreed to an informational hearing. However, MAT lobbyist are urging subcommittee members to convince Chair Masin to give the bill an actual hearing – with a vote -- before committee deadlines.

• Transportation
  o MAT lobbyists and staff are working with legislators to get additional legislation introduced (and moving) which allocate bond funds for towns to upgrade roads to 10 tons.
  o MAT is also working with Sen. Bigham and Rep. Huot who introduced legislation this past week to lower speed limits on town roads throughout the state.

• Local Government Aid – In coordination with the House Tax Committee Chair, Rep. Paul Marquart, Rep. Green introduced HF4105 which increases Local Government Aid (LGA) for townships.

• Local Government Services
  o MAT lobbyists convinced Rep. Freiberg to slow down his audio recording of meetings bill (HF3200) - which could push it out past committee deadlines - to determine the cost of recording to townships. In essence, that would kill the bill for this session!
  o At the request of the MAT Board, MAT lobbyists has had conversations with legislators (Sens. Frentz & Rarick, Reps. Miller & Stephenson) and state agency staff (Pollution Control Agency) about decommissioning challenges with solar gardens.
  o MAT lobbyists and staff continue to work with legislators in getting legislation introduced which has culvert replacements paid by private property owners and not townships.

In addition to these areas, MAT lobbyists either monitor certain bills for an opportunity to act and help townships or we jump into action and stop bills harmful to townships.

Meanwhile, here’s the updated MAT tracking list for this week. If you want to see the details and actual legislation, go to [https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis](https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis) and enter the House File and/or Senate File numbers.

**MAT 2020 Tracking List**
- (MAT Bill) SF1179/HF1139 (Anderson, B./Dehn) – Annexation Bill.
- (MAT Bill) HF1911/SF1279 (Wolgamott/Jasinski) – Transportation; local cost-share assistance account established, local roads and bridges funding provided.
- (MAT Supports) HF780/SF1081 (O'Driscoll/Howe) - Transportation; local cost-share assistance account established, local roads and bridges funding provided.
- (MAT Bill) HF1577/SF1671 (Wolgamott/Lang) - Town road and bridge assistance account created, and money transferred.
- (MAT Bill) HF2377/SF2324 (Wolgamott/Howe) - Protect the Viability of Volunteer Driver Programs in Minnesota.
(MAT Opposes) HF2499/SF144 (Lucero/B. Anderson) – Truck weight exemption for septic tank trucks.

(MAT Supports) HF2296/SF2442 (Tabke/Pratt) - Local government; authorizing municipalities to charge a street impact fee.

(MAT Supports) HF3526/SF2935 (Sundin/Rarick) - Requiring road authorities to notify the owner of a private road prior to conducting work on the road.

(MAT Supports) HF3029/SF3049 (Ecklund/Draheim) - Broadband development grant program annual $30 million statutory appropriation.

(MAT Monitoring) SF3207/HF3247 (Goggin/Drazkowski) - All-terrain vehicle may operate on public roads rules modified, with permission by local authorities.

(MAT Monitoring) SF3248 (Lang) - Overdimensional loads requiring pilot escort vehicles minimum width establishment.

(MAT Monitoring) SF3275 (Kiffmeyer) – Elections; Technology and cybersecurity account establishment; technology and cybersecurity maintenance authorization; election day registrants provisional ballot casting requirement; registering to vote in conjunction with submitting an absentee ballot process modification; appropriating money.

(MAT Bill) HF3131/SF3535 (B. Johnson/Jasinski) - $5 million in transportation; appropriating money to townships for roads and bridges.

(MAT Bill) HF3132 (B. Johnson) - Metro townships may adjust speed limits.

(MAT Monitor) HF3226 (Brand) - Appropriating money for Japanese knotweed remediation; imposing a temporary surcharge on nursery stock growers and dealers.

(MAT Monitor) HF3429/SF3494 (Dehn/Kiffmeyer) - Election policy bill.

(MAT Opposes) HF3200/SF3026 (Freiberg/Rest) Audio recordings of all open meetings requirement for local governments.

(MAT Neutral) HF3770/SF3624 (Koegel/Weber) - Wake surfing on state waters regulation.

(MAT Monitor) HF3804/SF3745 (Layman/Eichorn) - Permitting addition of unorganized territory in Itasca County to Harris Township, notwithstanding the petition requirement.

(MAT Supports) SF3776/HF4105 (Utke/Green) - Town aid appropriation increase authorization.

(MAT Supports) SFXXXX (Dahms) - Culvert bill paid by private property owners being drafted.

(MAT Bill) SFXXXX (Jasinski) - Bonding funds for towns to upgrade roads to 10 tons being drafted.

(MAT Supports) SF3856 (Tomassoni) - Providing an annual appropriation for the broadband development grant program.

(MAT Supports) HF4057/SF3780 (Huot/Bigham) - Town roads speed limits process development statewide.

(MATIT Monitors) HF4206/SF4130 (Sundin/Utke) Workers' Compensation Advisory Council recommendations adopted.

For this week, a number of activities will be happening at the Capitol which MAT lobbyists will keep tabs on:

- March 9 – MAT District 1 Lobby Day
- March 10/11 - Committee hearings in the House and Senate on the Workers’ Comp. Advisory Council recommendations.

If you have questions or want additional information on the bills listed above (or others), please let David Hann know and he will coordinate with me.