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Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

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Representative Mina
Alaska State Capitol
120 5th Street, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

As part of strengthening Alaska's cities and boroughs, the Alaska Municipal League expresses support for HB 26.

Alaska's municipalities are on the front lines of transportation service delivery and coordination, through local road networks, ports and harbors, demand-response, and fixed-route transit. In many communities, public and community transit is not optional: it is core infrastructure that connects residents to jobs, education, health care, and essential services. HB 26 strengthens Alaska's transportation planning framework in ways that will directly benefit municipal governments across the state.

HB 26 directs DOT&PF to include public, tribal, and community transit programs in its long-range, intermodal transportation planning and related studies. For municipalities, this improves alignment between state and local transportation priorities and elevates transit as a recognized component of Alaska's statewide system, which is especially important for communities where transit fills gaps that roads alone cannot.

We appreciate that this bill requires coordination with local governments and MPOs, improving project readiness and grant competitiveness through expanded coordination expectations. This coordination is a practical benefit for municipalities pursuing federal and state transportation funding: it supports shared data, consistent planning assumptions, and clearer integration of local capital and operating needs into statewide planning products – often prerequisites for competitive grant applications and efficient delivery.

AML supports strengthening statewide transportation planning, formalizes meaningful coordination with municipalities, and improves the odds that limited transportation dollars produce the greatest possible benefit for Alaskans, regardless of community size or geography.

For these reasons, AML supports HB 26, as drafted.

Sincerely,

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League