

**CITIZENS LEAGUE REPORT**

**No. 3**

**CL Position supporting  
Legislation for a non-partisan  
commission to recommend a system  
for financing highway construction**

**September 17, 1952**

CITIZENS LEAGUE OF GREATER MINNEAPOLIS

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

REPORT ON HIGHWAY STUDY COMMISSION

The Legislation Committee, having made a study of the methods used in Minnesota for the distribution of highway user tax receipts in connection with its analysis of constitutional amendment No. 5 proposed by the 1951 Legislature, and in the process of such analysis having discovered that there is general dissatisfaction with the present system of allocating such funds, as is evidenced by the fact that the voters of Minnesota have been asked to vote on a constitutional amendment changing the method of allocation in three successive biennia, and having carefully considered the Board's conclusions that cities, villages, townships and counties are entitled to share gas tax and auto license revenues with the state in proportions which should be determined on the basis of a thorough study of all of the pertinent factors involved, hereby recommends to the Board of Directors of the Citizens League that the League go on record as favoring legislation creating and adequately financing a non-partisan legislative commission to make a scientific study for presentation to the following legislature of the present and recommended systems for the financing of highway construction and maintenance by the state and its political subdivisions. The committee recommends this action for the following reasons:

- a) The continued submission of propositions to the voters, which propositions are not based on a careful study of all aspects of the problem, is an expensive, time-consuming and unscientific method of procedure.
- b) The dissatisfaction with the present system is sufficiently widespread to indicate that renewed efforts to amend the constitution will be made without the benefit of a study for public guidance.
- c) Studies similar to the one herein suggested have been conducted in California and Michigan with the result that a sound highway finance program has been formulated and put into operation.
- d) There is a lack of necessary factual information readily available to the legislature and the public on which to judge the present system of and possible alternative methods of allocation of the highway user taxes.

The committee further recommends that the League take a stand that no further constitutional amendments shall be submitted to the voters concerning the allocation of highway user taxes until such a study as is called for herein has been completed.

Respectfully submitted,

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
(see names attached)

The names of those present at the meeting of the Legislation committee on December 17, 1952, at which the foregoing report was approved, are as follows:

David Lewis, Chairman  
Mrs. T. O. Everson  
William Sykora  
Fred Putnam  
S. J. Hansen  
R. Crane Winton  
H. P. Bell  
Hamilton Ross

Mrs. Harold Taylor  
Mrs. Emily Kneubuhl  
Mrs. Elsbeth Parker  
Mrs. C. H. Luther  
Dr. Dorothea F. Radusch  
Mrs. E. C. Enbody  
James F. Hirsch  
Raymond D. Black (staff)