

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill requires the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to (1) allow “alternative bidding,” where contractors can submit bids for certain trunk highway contracts using either bituminous or asphalt as the paving material to be used in the contract; and (2) develop a uniform standard for comparing the total costs related to the two paving alternatives. It amends a current law provision on comparing the costs of paving alternatives, known as life-cycle costs analysis, and modifies a legislative report.

Section

- 1 **Alternative bidding; paving materials.**** Requires MnDOT to use alternative bidding starting with contracts after January 31, 2011, so that contractors can submit bids using either bituminous or asphalt as the paving material to be used in the contract. The provision applies to some trunk highway construction and maintenance contracts.
- 2 **Pavement life-cycle cost analysis.**** Modifies pavement life-cycle cost analysis provisions for trunk highway projects.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines an “applicable project” for the provisions on pavement life cycle cost analysis and alternative bidding. Under the definition, certain smaller scale trunk highway projects and overlays are excluded.

Subd. 1a. Uniform standard. Directs MnDOT to develop a uniform method for comparing the total cost of using either bituminous or asphalt as the paving material on a given project, following a Federal Highway Administration approach in which initial paving material costs as well as costs of maintenance over the life of the paving material are taken into account.

Subd. 2. Required analysis. Amends a provision requiring MnDOT to compare costs between using bituminous versus asphalt for upcoming projects, to (1) have the provision apply to the same set of trunk highway projects that fall under the new

alternative bidding measure (under section 1); and (2) amend the implementation dates to match the January 31, 2011, date for implementing alternative bidding.

Subd. 3. Report. Amends a legislative report, to have it due annually by January 15 starting in 2012 and have it include information on alternative bidding results.