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Overview

This bill makes various changes related to transparency and policies on MnDOT's highway project selection process, including modifying aspects of the Corridors of Commerce program and legislative reporting, requiring some additional fiscal tracking, mandating a process for addressing potential future capacity and major projects, and amending reporting on major highway projects.

Section

- 1 Project eligibility.** Requires at least three years as the project readiness length of time until construction that is set by MnDOT for projects to be eligible in the Corridors of Commerce program.
- 2 Project selection process; criteria.** Makes technical and clarifying changes on project selection for the Corridors of Commerce program, including to clarify that all candidate projects submitted by stakeholder groups must be evaluated if the project meets eligibility requirements.
- 3 Legislative report; evaluation.** Adds required information to be provided in the legislative report on the Corridors of Commerce program, including details on program decision-making, selection criteria measurement and weighting, and project evaluation results. Lengthens the cycle in some situations for when a program effectiveness evaluation must be included in the report. No longer requires report submission when no additional projects have been selected into the program in the past year and an effectiveness evaluation is not due.
- 4 Spending on trunk highway system.** Requires fiscal tracking on local government spending for trunk highway work.

Section

- 5** **Capacity and major highway projects; planning and programming.** Directs MnDOT to develop a project selection process for capacity expansion projects and major projects that the agency has not already committed to undertake. Specifies elements that the process must cover, including procedures for planning and project development, fiscal considerations, communication to stakeholders, and integration with specialty programs (like Corridors of Commerce).
- 6 - 7** Modifies requirements for a MnDOT legislative report that primarily addresses large-scale trunk highway projects, to include listings and summary information for likely upcoming projects and for removed or delayed projects, eliminate a section on environmental costs of two sample projects, and require an explanation of the project selection process. Shortens the timeframe for projects included in the report (which aligns with the 10-year Capital Highway Investment Plan). Makes clarifying changes and technical changes, including moving some provisions to a different subdivision.
- 8** **Availability of information.** Requires the information on major highway projects specified in section 6 to also be available on the department's website.