

Subject Transportation greenhouse gas emissions assessment

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Overview

This bill makes various changes to a 2023 law that sets requirements on assessment and mitigation activity for greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled impacts resulting from some trunk highway projects.

Article 1: Transportation Impact Assessment; Policy

This article makes various policy changes.

Section Description – Article 1: Transportation Impact Assessment; Policy

- 1 **Transportation greenhouse gas emissions impact assessment.**

Revises and broadens requirements on assessment of trunk highway projects for impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. Effective February 1, 2025.

 - Subd. 1. Definitions.** Makes conforming changes.
 - Subd. 2. Project or portfolio assessment.** Requires an assessment for an individual capacity expansion project, or after implementation as provided in subdivision 2a, at the level of a set of projects, for conformance with greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction goals.
 - Subd. 2a. Applicable projects.** Sets out a timeline to shift from assessment of individual capacity expansion projects (on a project-by-project basis) to a portfolio or program of projects (on the basis of the entirety of the projects) that are within various highway construction categories.
 - Subd. 3. Assessment requirements.** Clarifies that impact assessment includes road network impacts on both state and local roads.
 - Subd. 4. Impact mitigation; interlinking.** Revises requirements on interlinked offset actions, including to eliminate offsets from natural systems projects and

Section Description – Article 1: Transportation Impact Assessment; Policy

authorize MnDOT to add additional offset actions under specified conditions. Makes conforming and technical changes.

Subd. 5. Impact mitigation; localization. Makes conforming changes.

Subd. 6. Public information. Adds requirements for information to be provided on the Department of Transportation’s website.

Subd. 7. Safety and well-being. No changes made.

2 [Adds § 161.1782] Transportation impact assessment; technical advisory committee.

Establishes a technical advisory committee to assist in the transportation greenhouse gas emissions impact assessment process. Effective the day after enactment.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Directs MnDOT to create the advisory committee.

Subd. 3. Membership; appointments. Specifies advisory committee members and appointing authorities which are to be determined. Authorizes additional appointments in some circumstances.

Subd. 4. Membership; requirements. Sets qualifications for advisory committee members. Provides for appointment and vacancies.

Subd. 5. Duties. Identifies duties of the advisory committee, including to perform technical validation; review various aspects of the assessment and mitigation process and make recommendations; advise on determining the analysis catchment area of projects; and develop recommendations on mitigation activities.

Subd. 6. Administration. Sets various administrative requirements, including to direct MnDOT to provide support and to establish that advisory committee members serve without compensation.

Article 2: Transportation Impact Assessment; Finance

This article contains finance-related changes and appropriations.

Section Description – Article 2: Transportation Impact Assessment; Finance

1 Definitions.

Establishes that activities related to mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled impacts are included as a trunk highway purpose, which applies once the transportation impact assessment process shifts to a portfolio-based approach. Effective July 1, 2025.

2 Limitations on spending.

Eliminates restrictions on spending from the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund or Trunk Highway Fund for transit and passenger rail offices, which goes into effect once the transportation impact assessment process shifts to a portfolio-based approach. Effective July 1, 2025.

3 Appropriations; transportation impact assessment implementation.

Makes appropriations from the Trunk Highway Fund and the General Fund for various activities related to modeling, implementation, and mitigation under the transportation impact assessment.



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