

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Major transportation projects commission

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### Overview

This bill establishes a fifteen-member major transportation projects commission, consisting of legislators and gubernatorial appointees, to review major transportation projects submitted by the commissioner of transportation and make recommendations on them. The department would be required to submit an annual list of major transportation projects and would be prohibited from constructing them without legislative authorization.

**1 Commission created.** Creates a major transportation projects commission.

**Subd. 1. Purpose.** States the purpose of the commission as being the setting of priorities among major transportation projects.

**Subd. 2. Membership.** Provides that the commission consists of the governor, three appointees of the governor, five senators, and five representatives. Provides that two of the senators and two of the representatives must not be members of the majority party. Designates the commissioner of transportation as a nonvoting member. Provides for election of the chair by the commission.

**Subd. 3. Duties.** Directs the commission to (1) review reports submitted under subdivision 4, (2) recommend approval, approval with modification, or disapproval of projects in each report, (3) list approved projects in order of priority, (4) submit a major transportation projects program to the governor, legislature, and legislative transportation committees before each legislative session.

**Subd. 4. Report by department.** Requires the department of transportation to report to the commission by July 15 of each year. Requires the report to list projects that are candidates for major transportation projects, and projects that may potentially be major transportation projects except for the lack of an environmental impact statement.

**Subd. 5. Major transportation project defined.** Defines a major transportation project as one that (1) involves the department of transportation, (2) has a total cost of more than \$5 million, (3) is a critical element of the regional and state transportation system, and (4) has a completed

draft environmental impact statement.

**Subd. 6. Construction of projects; legislative approval.** Prohibits the department from constructing a major transportation project without first submitting it to the commission and receiving specific legislative approval. Prohibits the legislature from adding any projects not recommended by the commission.

Provides that transportation projects that consists of separate contiguous projects that don't qualify individually as major transportation projects, but which when aggregated over a six-year period would qualify, may not be constructed by the department without first being submitted to the commission for review. Provides that such aggregated projects do not require specific legislative approval.

**2 Effective date.** Makes the bill effective immediately. Repeals the bill on June 30, 2001.