

Subject Corridors of Commerce funding flexibility

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Overview

This bill modifies trunk highway bonding authorizations provided in 2017 and 2018 for the Corridors of Commerce program. The changes are to:

- allow funds from the 2017 bond authorization to be used on projects that are selected following the 2018 bond authorization;
- allow funds from the 2018 bond authorization to be used for any projects selected in the 2018 Corridors of Commerce project evaluation process (which was originally undertaken to select projects using funding from the 2017 bond authorization); and
- clarify that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) can use up to 17 percent of Corridors of Commerce program funding on program delivery.

Under current law, for the 2018 Corridors of Commerce funding specific project selection requirements must be met to determine which projects are undertaken. The bill has the effect of providing flexibility for MnDOT to switch the order in which projects are undertaken using the 2017 and 2018 funding, which allows for projects to be undertaken based on readiness.

Background. Following 2017 trunk highway bonding authorizations for the Corridors of Commerce program, MnDOT went through a project evaluation and selection process that concluded in the spring of 2018. The process yielded “first round” project selections in the spring of 2018.

Legislation was subsequently enacted to (1) authorize additional trunk highway bonding for Corridors of Commerce in later fiscal years, and (2) require the funds to be used for additional projects from the same 2018 evaluation results, selected in order based on score.

Instead of becoming available immediately following enactment, the 2018 trunk highway bonds for Corridors of Commerce are available starting in 2022. Recent appropriations are summarized below.

Auth. Year	Year Appropriated						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
2017	\$50 M	\$50 M	\$100 M	\$100 M			
2018					\$150 M	\$150 M	\$100 M



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