

Subject Corridors of commerce program
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Overview

This bill, as proposed to be amended by the H3474DE4 delete-all amendment, makes various modifications to the corridors of commerce program administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Summary

Section	Description
1	Definitions. Adds additional definitions of terms.
2	Program authority; funding. Broadens a provision that allows for a portion of available funds to go to program delivery, so that funds can also go to the administrative process for project scoring and selection.
3	Project eligibility. Modifies eligibility for funding under the program, to (1) broaden the allowed project locations, to any located on the National Highway System, (2) require commencement of project construction within four years (rather than three years or a longer length as determined by MnDOT), and (3) require that the cost estimate can be determined with reasonable accuracy.
4	Project funding; regional balance. Establishes three funding categories to distribute program funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ a Metro Projects category that receives 30 to 35 percent of funds, which is for projects within the area of the I-494/I-694 ring;▪ a Metro Connector Projects category that receives 30 to 35 percent of funds, for projects outside of the I-494/I-694 ring but either within the department's Metro District or within 40 miles of the ring; and

Section	Description
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- a Regional Center Projects category that receives at least 30 percent of funds, for projects located throughout the rest of the state.

5 Project selection process; criteria.

Revises the procedures for MnDOT to select projects for funding under the program, including to:

- create a series of selection process phases;
- establish a screening and recommendation phase that is performed by various screening entities, consisting of area transportation partnerships, the Metropolitan Council, and eight counties in the Twin Cities metropolitan area (for suggested projects within their respective regions);
- direct MnDOT to perform scoring on the eligible projects that are recommended by the screening entities;
- eliminate a scoring criterion for regional balance (which is replaced by the regional funding categories being established); and
- provide for scoring, ranking, and project selection based on ranks (and subject to the limits under the funding categories).

6 Corridors of commerce.

Amends the date by which MnDOT must commence the next corridors of commerce project selection process with funds made available in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, so that it must begin by February 1, 2023.



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