

S.F. No. 1859 – Selection Process for Corridors of Commerce Projects

Author: Senator John R. Jasinski

Prepared by: Tim Greenfield, Senate Counsel (651/296-3801)

Date: March 16, 2023

S.F. 1859 modifies the selection process for Corridors of Commerce projects.

Section 1 [Definitions] defines (1) “department” as the Minnesota Department of Transportation; and (2) “screening entity” as an area transportation partnership, the Metropolitan Council in consultation with the transportation advisory board, or a specified county. Effective the day following final enactment.

Section 2 [Program authority; funding] makes a technical change and authorizes MnDOT to use up to 17 percent of any Corridors of Commerce appropriation for project scoring, ranking, and selection in addition to program delivery. Effective the day following final enactment.

Section 3 [Project eligibility] amends eligibility requirements to include: (1) the location of the project on the national highway system for projects outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area; and (2) a determination of a total project cost estimate.

Section 4 [Project funding; regional balance] requires MnDOT to distribute Corridors of Commerce funds in a regionally balanced manner based on funding categories set forth in the statute.

Section 5 [Project selection process; criteria] amends the process to identify, select, and evaluate Corridors of Commerce projects to include phases as follows:

- **Phase 1** – MnDOT must undertake a public solicitation process on the Internet to select potential projects for consideration.
- **Phase 2** – MnDOT must present the projects for local screening and recommendation to a screening entity. Sets the number of projects a screening entity may recommend to MnDOT.
- **Phase 3** – MnDOT must confirm project eligibility and perform a scoring assessment on each project recommended by a screening agency.

- **Phase 4** – MnDOT must complete a ranked list of projects based on the scoring in Phase 3. MnDOT must select the projects in rank order to receive funding under the Corridors for Commerce program. Requires MnDOT to specify the amounts of known or anticipated sources of funding for each project.
- **Phase 5** – MnDOT must post information regarding the selection process for Corridors of Commerce projects on their website.