



Association of
Minnesota Counties

Senate Capital Investment Committee

March 11, 2025



A Voluntary Association of Minnesota's 87 Counties Since 1909

The Voice of County Government in Minnesota

An Education, Training, and Research Resource for Counties and County Officials



- The Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA) membership includes County Engineers from each of Minnesota's 87 counties
- County Engineers are appointed by each local County Board according to MN Statute 163.07, and must be registered Professional Engineers in the State of Minnesota.
- MCEA also includes associate members who are registered Professional Engineers working for a Minnesota county.
- MCEA is an affiliate of AMC



AMC supports a bonding bill that includes funding for transportation-related programs, including the Local Road Improvement Program, the Local Bridge Replacement Program, the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program, and the Busway Capital Improvement Program.

Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program



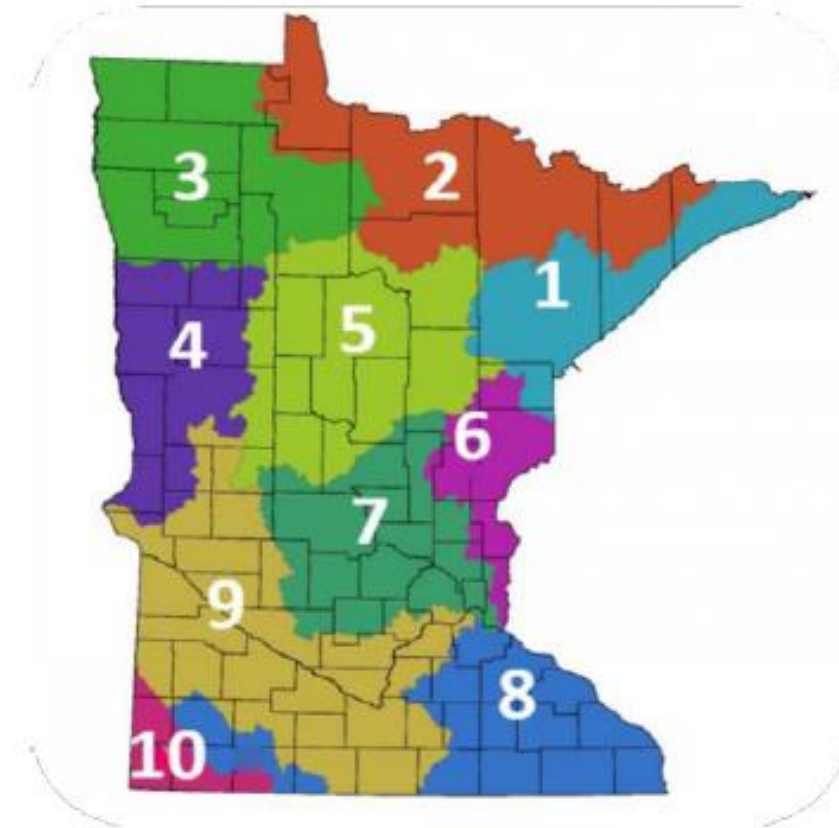
- The Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP) is a wetland and upland habitat restoration program that generates mitigation credits for local road authorities to satisfy their federal and state wetland regulatory requirements
- MN law requires BWSR to replace wetlands that are drained or filled by public transportation projects on existing roads.
- The program is utilized for qualifying road reconstruction, repair, and rehabilitation projects conducted by local road authorities.

Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program



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- The table to the right shows the wetland credit balances in each BSA as of Sept. 6, 2024.
- Two of the ten BSAs have a credit balance of just over one year of demand, and five have a balance of less than one year.
- To overcome the credit deficit requires an appropriation of **\$26 million**. Once whole, annual funding necessary to maintain and support the program is estimated at **\$9.5 million**.



Average Annual Statewide Demand: 171 Credits

Bank Service Area	# Available Credits as of 9/6/2024
1 - Great Lakes	23.3
2 - Rainy River	100.9
3 - Red River North	42.2
4 - Red River South	8.4
5 - Upper Mississippi North	35.9
6 - St. Croix River	0.1
7 - Upper Mississippi South	5.7
8 - Lower Mississippi	4.6
9 - Minnesota River	9.9
10 - Missouri River	0
	231

* Red indicates a less than a one-year credit balance

Local Road Improvement Program



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- Grant program administered by State Aid
- LRIP provides funding assistance to local agencies – counties, cities, towns, and tribes – for constructing or reconstructing local roads
 - Trunk Highway Corridor Account
 - Routes of Regional Significance Account
 - Rural Road Safety Account
- Projects are selected through a competitive solicitation process
- LRIP Advisory Committee provides recommendations as to which projects will be funded

Appropriation Year*	Competitive LRIP		Earmarked LRIP	
	LRIP Funds (millions)	No. of Projects Funded	LRIP Funds (millions)	No. of Projects Funded
2014	\$54.4	43	-	-
2015	\$4.3	9	\$9.3	3
2016	\$0.0	n/a	-	-
2017	\$25.3	45	\$90.6	11
2018	\$35.0	53	\$75.4	16
2019	\$0.0	n/a	-	-
2020	\$75.0	75	\$109.9	23
2021	\$5.5	8	\$30.9	10
2022	\$0.0	n/a	-	-
2023**	\$102.967	86	\$235.56	38
2024	-	-	\$1.0	1

*Federally Recognized Indian Tribes are eligible grant recipients in 2023

**Competitive LRIP account is still open, so number of projects funded is subject to change.

Local Bridge Replacement Program



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- 15,732 bridge structures on the local system
- 735 of these structures are eligible for replacement based on condition ratings
- The LBRP provides local agencies transportation funding for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and/or removal of bridges or structures on their local road system.
- Master Bridge Priority List: a compilation of all eligible local bridge projects identified by local bridge owners as priority for replacement or rehabilitation

Year	General LBRP - Appropriations		General LBRP – Motor Vehicle Lease Sales Tax ⁺		Earmarked LBRP	
	LBRP Funds (millions)	No. of Projects Funded	LBRP Funds (millions)	No. Projects Funded	LBRP Funds (millions)	No. of Projects Funded
2013	\$0.0	0			-	-
2014	\$21.3	48			\$11.8	1
2015	\$7.4	23			-	-
2016	\$0.0	0			-	-
2017*	\$16.5	79			\$32.7	2
2018*	\$5.0	26	\$12.6	29	-	-
2019	\$0.0	0	\$12.7	43	-	-
2020*	\$30.0	109	\$11.2	36	\$56.2	3
2021*	\$14.0	48	\$10.2	15	-	-
2022	\$0.0	0	\$8.9	30	-	-
2023*	\$85.0	119	\$7.4	13	\$39.25	6

* LBRP account(s) still open so number of non-earmark projects funded is subject to change.

+ 2017 amendment to 297A.815 dedicated 13 percent of MVLST to local bridges

Counties are grateful for the investment in these programs in the 2023 capital investment package, but significant needs still exist:

- Local bridges: Over the next five years, local agencies have identified **948 priority bridge replacement projects, requesting \$282 million in state bridge funds**, with approximately \$740 million in total construction costs
- Local roads: During the 2023 LRIP competitive solicitation process, MnDOT State Aid received **378 applications requesting a total of \$417 million in LRIP funding** for the \$103 million available.



- **SF1535** (Hawj) LGRWRP funding: \$15 million GO bonds, \$11.5 million GF cash, \$9.5 million annual base budget funding to BWSR
- **SF1281** (Kreun) LGRWRP funding: \$15 million GO bonds, \$11.5 million GF cash, \$15 million in FY27 base budget funding to BWSR
- **SF1170** (Kreun) \$15 million in GO bonds for LGRWRP
- **SF289** (Abeler) \$250 million GO bonds for LRIP, \$150 million GO bonds for LBRP
- **SF2185** (Johnson Stewart) \$250 million GO bonds for LRIP, \$150 million GO bonds for LBRP



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THANK YOU!

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