

Agency Purpose

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) was created by the state legislature in 1976. Its role is to develop and implement transportation policies, plans, and programs that enhance the quality of life for Minnesota citizens.

Meeting Minnesota's transportation needs, now and in the future, is one of the top policy goals of the Pawlenty-Molnau administration. Mn/DOT's work will be guided by the administration's governing principles of commitment to mission, focus on customers, simplify government, manage for results, and improvement by innovation.

Mn/DOT's vision affirms what citizens want for Minnesota: a coordinated transportation network that meets the needs of Minnesota citizens and businesses for safe, timely, and predictable travel.

Mn/DOT's mission is to improve access to markets, jobs, goods and services, and improve mobility by focusing on priority transportation improvements and investments that help Minnesotans travel safer, smarter, and more efficiently.

Mn/DOT's strategic directions are to:

- ◆ safeguard what exists,
- ◆ make the transportation network operate better, and
- ◆ make Mn/DOT work better.

Mn/DOT's investment objectives are:

- ⇒ Building More – addressing congestion, supporting cost-effective investments, and pursuing long-range funding.
- ⇒ Building Faster – accelerate construction and shorten construction time for highway and bridge projects, and accelerate funding for transit advantages.
- ⇒ Moving Better – focus on cost-effective investments that improve safety, reduce congestion, and improve mobility.

Core Functions

State Roads – includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of the state's approximately 12,000-mile trunk highway system.

Local Roads – includes the local financial resources for county and municipal roads generated by the constitutional funding sources.

Multimodal Systems – includes supporting the use and development of cost-effective transportation modes – transit, air, railroads, and waterways – owned and operated by local governments and private operators. This includes financial investments, technical assistance, and operational reviews.

General Support – includes general department-wide administrative functions (accounting, personnel, information resources), the commissioner's office, and the policy functions of the department. It also includes the construction and centrally directed maintenance of all the department's buildings.

At A Glance

FY 2006-07 Budget (000s)(preliminary)

◆ Operating budget	\$1,092,159
◆ Capital expenditure	1,396,778
◆ Grants	<u>1,543,801</u>
◆ Total	\$4,032,738

Mn/DOT's primary source of financing is the Trunk Highway Fund, which is supported by motor fuel taxes, motor vehicle registration fees, and motor vehicle sales taxes. Other sources include federal funds and state airport funds. Less than 1% of the operating budget is from the General Fund.

Operations

Highways

Mn/DOT constructs, operates, and maintains the state trunk highway system that includes nearly 12,000 miles of roads and 4,767 bridges. This system carries about 61% of all travel for the entire 130,000-mile system of state and local roads.

Freight

Mn/DOT promotes the safe and efficient movement of freight by railroads, waterways, and motor carriers by managing investment programs, administering construction projects, ensuring compliance with statutes, and developing freight policies.

Aeronautics

Mn/DOT promotes general and commercial aviation throughout the state, and provides services including aircraft registration, airport development, aviation system planning, aviation education, and government aircraft services.

Transit

Mn/DOT provides statewide leadership in the development and implementation of transit systems, including management of state and federal funds for greater Minnesota public transit, planning activities associated with bicycle and pedestrian systems, planning and construction of commuter rail, and the construction of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (LRT) line.

Budget

Mn/DOT's investment objectives focus on building more, building faster, and moving better. Mn/DOT has used budget reallocation and innovative financing techniques totaling \$825 million to advance critical road and bridge expansion, transit improvement, and safety projects by more than a total of 65 years. The 2003 Pawlenty-Molnau transportation package authorized Mn/DOT to issue \$400 million in highway bonds by accessing \$425 million in advance federal funds for 2004-07. Long-term financing options can be considered to continue to make transportation improvements. Mn/DOT prepared an activity-based budget for FY 2006-07 that reflects the actual products and services the agency delivers to customers, and incorporates a comprehensive business planning process to support investment decisions and performance measurement.

Contact

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