



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard

Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 28, 2013

Dear Key Stakeholder:

I am pleased to announce the pilot of MnDOT's new Corridor Investment Management Strategy (CIMS) solicitation. MnDOT anticipates having \$30 million for this competitive solicitation to fund trunk highway projects that improve quality of life, environmental health or economic competitiveness consistent with the Minnesota GO vision. Full details on the program, the solicitation schedule, and the downloadable application are now available on the CIMS webpage: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cims/solicitation.html>

Through CIMS, MnDOT places a strong emphasis on building and maintaining a sustainable transportation system through the use of solutions that ensure a high return-on-investment and complement the unique social, natural and economic features of Minnesota. The CIMS solicitation is intentionally casting a wide net for types of projects, as the funding is provided to address issues for which MnDOT has no system performance target and is therefore unlikely to address through the normal programming process.

Funding for the solicitation will come from the state trunk highway fund and is included in MnDOT's 2014-2015 biennial budget request to the Legislature. Selection of projects will be contingent on the inclusion of requested funding in the final authorized budget. As the solicitation will be funded through MnDOT's biennial budget, all funding for the program must be encumbered by June 30, 2015. Therefore, selected projects must be let for construction by early June 2015. Projects unable to meet this timeline will not be considered for funding in this pilot round of the solicitation.

In order to award funds to multiple projects and to fund projects of varying sizes and scales, the maximum award provided to any one project in this solicitation will be \$10 million. The minimum award will be \$200,000. Applicants are required to identify other public and/or private funding sources that will be leveraged to contribute to the project. Under this program, MnDOT will provide up to 90% of the total project costs or the trunk highway share as determined by MnDOT's Cost Participation Policy, whichever is less. Project proposals that request less than 90% of total project costs will receive additional consideration in the project scoring. No more than 60% of funding will go to either metro area projects or projects in Greater Minnesota.

MnDOT projects and projects initiated and led by cities, counties and tribes on any state trunk highway are eligible to apply for funding through this program. Applications for this program are due April 30, 2013.

To provide potential applicants more information about the solicitation and an opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance on completing the application, MnDOT has scheduled several information sessions throughout the state. For those unable to attend in person, the March 11 session will be available online through Adobe Connect and will be recorded.

- March 6 – 1:00 – 3:00 pm, MnDOT District Office, 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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- March 8 – 10:00 am – noon, Brooklyn Park City Hall, 5200 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
- March 11 – 10:00 am – noon, MnDOT District Office, 2151 Bassett Drive, Mankato, MN 56001
- March 21 – 10:00 am – noon, MnDOT District Office, 7694 Industrial Park Road, Baxter, MN 56425
- March 21 – 2:00 – 4:00 pm, MnDOT District Office, 3920 Highway 2 West, Bemidji, MN 56601
- March 22 – 10:00 am – noon, MnDOT District Office, 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811
- March 25 – 1:00 – 3:00 pm, MnDOT District Office, 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901
- March 26 – 10:00 am – noon, MnDOT District Office, 2505 Transportation Road, Willmar, MN 56201

Information about the MnDOT/DEED Transportation Economic Development program will also be presented at the sessions. Registration for the information sessions is requested for planning purposes, but not required. To RSVP for a session, email cims.dot@state.mn.us

Thank you for your interest.



Charles A. Zelle
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation

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