



Transportation Is Key to Economic Success in Greater Minnesota

The economic vitality of Greater Minnesota relies on a safe and reliable transportation system, both within our communities and in the highways that connect them. This session, the CGMC is advocating for funding for two priorities that are crucial to improving transportation in Minnesota: **Corridors of Commerce** and **City Streets**.

Corridors of Commerce



The Corridors of Commerce program was created in 2013 to provide additional highway capacity on interregional corridors, reduce bottlenecks, improve the movement of freight and reduce barriers to commerce. MnDOT chooses Corridors of Commerce projects across the state, balancing the need between Greater Minnesota and the metro area.

CGMC Proposal

The CGMC supports long-term funding for Corridors of Commerce. In 2017, we are supporting legislation that provides up to \$50 million in cash for land acquisition, engineering and environmental studies from surplus money in the years the state's General Fund has a surplus. We are also seeking \$300 million in trunk highway bonds.

How the surplus funding works

The Minnesota Management and Budget office delivers a revenue and spending forecast every February. If revenues exceed spending, one-third of that excess is paid into the state's reserve fund. Under our bill, the next \$50 million of that excess would be paid into Corridors of Commerce. The remaining excess would be considered the General Fund surplus.

Using numbers from the FY 2018-19 General Fund February Forecast as an example:

MN General Fund	(\$ in millions)
Beginning Balance	\$2,712
Revenues	\$45,663
Spending	\$44,741
Cash & Budget Reserves	\$1,953
Stadium Reserve	\$40
Forecast Balance	\$1,650
Up to \$50M to Corridors of Commerce	\$50
Budgetary Balance ("Surplus")	\$1,600

City Streets

Cities of all sizes have expressed serious concerns about their ability to keep up with repairs and maintenance of their streets. The CGMC supports funding for city streets outside the constitutionally dedicated transportation formula.



CGMC Proposal

The CGMC is seeking at least \$25 million per year for streets in cities under 5,000 in population and at least \$25 million per year for cities over 5,000. While we prefer a bill that provides new, dedicated funding for city streets, we also support the use of general fund money for city streets.

