

# Corridors of Commerce

The Corridors of Commerce program was created in 2013 to address critical corridors in the state for commerce and freight movement while also recognizing the safety issues in many of the most heavily traveled corridors in the state. The program focuses on filling two-lane gaps in four-lane corridors and making strategic investments that provide a high benefit and facilitate the movement of freight to benefit the agricultural, manufacturing, tourism, retail and other industries in the state.

Projects are chosen based on these criteria:

- Commerce and economic impacts
- Return on investment
- Efficiency in freight movement
- Traffic safety improvements
- Regional balance throughout the state
- Transportation system connections
- Addresses transportation policy objectives
- Community support

To date, funding provided to through the Corridors of Commerce program has provided needed dollars to complete projects on:

- I-94 between Rogers and Albertville
- Highway 14 from I-35 to Rochester
- Highway 23 between Willmar and I-90
- TH610 completion to I-94
- Highway 371 from Nisswa to Jenkins
- I-694 in Arden Hills and Little Canada

Table 2: Corridors of Commerce Funding Overview

Year*	Previous Year Funding	Trunk Highway Bonds	Trunk Highway Funds	Total Funding	No. of Projects
2013	\$0	\$300,000,000	\$0	\$300,000,000	11
2014	\$0	\$0	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	4
2015	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	12
2017	\$0	\$300,000,000	\$125,000,000	\$425,000,000	4
2018	\$0	\$400,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$425,000,000	3
2021**	\$0	\$200,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$250,000,000	0
2023**	\$250,000,000	\$153,000,000	\$0	\$403,000,000	8***
2024	\$0	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$15,000,000	NA****
2025	\$0	\$0	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000	NA****
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,368,000,000</b>	<b>\$271,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,889,500,000</b>	<b>42</b>

\*There were no funding opportunities in 2016, 2019, 2020, and 2022

\*\*Combined funding from two years

\*\*\*Only Construction Projects, \$22M reserved for Readiness Advancement Activities solicitation currently in Phase 3

- I-35W MnPASS expansion
- Hwy 169 in Elk River
- I-494 between France Ave and I-35W
- Highway 34 Detroit Lakes to Nevis

Analysis from MnDOT shows clear safety improvements in key corridors (crash rate per million vehicle miles):

<b>TH 14 (North Mankato to Nicollet)</b>	<b>Before: 4.400</b>	<b>After: 0.611</b>
TH23 (I-90 to Willmar)	Before: 0.413	After: 0.396
TH371 (Nisswa to Jenkins)	Before: 0.727	After: 0.390
I694 (Arden Hills/Shoreview)	Before: 0.897	After: 0.684

**The Corridors of Commerce Program provides a transparent process for directing state funds to the most critical projects in major corridors**, projects that will enhance freight movement while often improving safety and mobility and supporting major industries all across the state.

**We urge you to support the authorization of \$400 million in trunk highway bonds for this program to allow critical projects that are waiting for additional funding to advance.** These investments will create well-paying jobs and will lead to a positive return on investment for our state's economy.

