

## **Attachment: Corridors of Commerce (COC) Eligibility and Scoring Criteria**

*Source: MnDOT COC Program Scoring ([www.dot.state.mn.us/corridorsofcommerce/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/corridorsofcommerce/index.html))*

### **Project Eligibility**

MN Statute 161.088 identified the following program eligibility guidelines:

1. Projects must either be classified as a Capacity Improvement or Freight Improvement Project.
  - a. Capacity Improvement Projects must meet one of the following;
    - Currently is not a divided highway, and that highway is an expressway or freeway beyond the project limits.
    - Contains a highway terminus that lacks an intersection or interchange with another trunk highway.
    - Contains fewer lanes of travel compared to that highway beyond the project limits.
    - Contain a location that is proposed as a new interchange or to be reconstructed from an intersection to an interchange.
  - b. Freight Improvement Projects must meet one of the following;
    - Remove or reduce an existing barrier to commerce.
    - Preserve existing freight movement.
    - Support an emerging industry.
    - Provide connections between the trunk highway system and other transportation modes for the movement of freight.
2. Projects must be consistent with MnDOT's Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan.
3. Projects must be able to begin construction within four years of award of the funding, but the actual construction start may be delayed beyond 4-years to avoid impacts to the travelling public by having parallel routes in the same region under construction at the same time.
4. Projects must be on the Interregional Corridor Network of state highways, including the supplemental freight routes, in Greater Minnesota or any state highway in the eight-county MnDOT Metropolitan District.
5. The amount of corridors of commerce funding needed to construct the project (including construction cost, right-of-way, & engineering) cannot exceed the amount of funding available.
6. A project that is listed in MnDOT's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is not eligible for funding, unless the project was listed in the STIP because it previously received Corridors of Commerce funding.

### **Scoring and Ranking**

The Corridors of Commerce law includes nine criteria which MnDOT must use to score projects.

- Return on Investment
- Economic Competitiveness
- Freight Efficiency
- Safety
- Regional Connections
- Policy Objectives
- Community Consensus
- Project Deliverability
- Regional Balance