

Mn/DOT's Approach to the Economic Recovery Program – Transit

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The US Congress is developing an Economic Recovery Program that could provide several hundred million dollars to Minnesota. Details of this funding remain fluid and it is not clear if transit and rail funding will be distributed through Mn/DOT.

To be prepared, however, the Office of Transit has prepared a list of transit, bicycle, pedestrian and passenger rail projects that could be funded through the Economic Recovery Program. Rough cost estimates are included in the list, as well as the approximate time frame to have the project under contract.

Program Development Criteria:

- **Transit:** Projects were chosen which would improve transit service or operations without adding to operating costs. Transit operating funds are limited. As such, it does not make sense to include projects in the Economic Recovery Program that would add new operating costs.
- **Bicycle:** Projects were selected that will close gaps between existing bicycle facilities, improve safety or rehabilitate facilities of regional or statewide significance.
- **Pedestrian:** Projects were chosen that improve safety or reduce the risk of legal action by bringing infrastructure into compliance as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- **Passenger Rail:** Projects here set the stage for future passenger rail corridors while improving the safety for existing freight lines. Short term projects include grade crossing improvements while longer term projects include alternative analysis, environmental documentation, design and engineering of improvements to accommodate new or improved passenger rail service. (The short term projects are also in the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations list of Economic Recovery projects because of their benefit to freight rail lines.)