

State Aid Variances

Program Overview

Since 1957, State Aid Operations Rules Chapter 8820¹ has evolved to define operating procedures and standards under which state aid funds are allocated and spent. A variance is when a public agency is granted an exception from a rule specified in Chapter 8820. State aid funds are administered by MnDOT's State Aid for Local Transportation Division.



Program Guidance

Per Minnesota Statutes 162.02² and 162.09³, a public agency may request a variance from Chapter 8820 rules by resolution. The most typical requests have to do with providing less than minimum roadway design standards, typically justified by financial, physical, environmental, or social impacts.

Variance requests are reviewed by a five-member Variance Committee made up of city councilpersons, county board members, city engineers, and county engineers. The Committee meets quarterly to consider requests and recommend to the Commissioner either approval or denial. On average, 20 variance requests are received per year.

Funding

There is no specific allocation or loss of funding connected to variance requests.

For More Information

Contact Angela Murphy, Federal Aid Plans Engineer, at angela.murphy@state.mn.us or 651-366-3826.

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¹ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=8820>

² <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=162.02>

³ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=162.09>