

County State Aid Highway Needs

Program Overview

The County State Aid Highway system is a network of key highways under the jurisdiction of Minnesota's counties. It covers more than 30,700 miles of roadway throughout the 87 counties, and comprises more than two-thirds of all county highway miles. CSAH funds can be used towards assisting in road construction, improvements, and maintenance of highways on the state aid system (Minnesota Statutes 162.02¹).

State aid funding is established by the Minnesota Constitution and administered by MnDOT's State Aid for Local Transportation Division.



Program Criteria

Roadways that meet the following criteria may be defined or selected as a CSAH route:

- Is projected to carry a relatively heavier traffic volume or is functionally classified as a collector or arterial as identified on the county's functional classification plans as approved by the county board
- Connects towns, communities, shipping points and markets within a county or in adjacent counties; provides access to rural churches, schools, community meeting halls, industrial areas, state institutions, and recreational areas; or serves as a principal rural mail route and school bus route
- Provides an integrated and coordinated highway system affording, with practical limits, a state-aid highway network consistent with projected traffic demands

Funding

Allocation of funds to the counties is distributed in accordance with the Minnesota Constitution Article XIV, Section 5². In 2008, the legislature revised how funding was allocated to the counties by establishing the apportionment sum and the excess sum. The apportionment sum revenue consists of 68 percent of the distribution amount.

The funds are distributed to counties following a statutory formula, so that:

- 10 percent of the apportionment sum is divided equally among all counties.
- 10 percent is proportional based on motor vehicle registration in each county.
- 30 percent is proportional based on a county's lane-miles in the system.
- 50 percent is proportional based on county construction needs to bring their system up to state aid standards, provided that the minimum county adjustment is adhered to.

¹ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=162.02>

² https://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/#article_14

The excess sum is calculated as 32 percent of the distribution amount.

- 40 percent is proportional based on motor vehicle registration in each county.
- 60 percent is proportional based on county construction needs to bring their system up to state aid standards.

The table below shows the amount distributed to the counties along with the number of projects that have been approved over the last five years.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Amount Distributed	\$555.5 M	\$611.9 M	\$615.6 M	\$674.6 M	\$ 617.8 M
Number of Projects	548	485	501	568	451

Data source: Commissioner's Order and Project Tracking

For More Information

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