

CHAPTER 205—H.F.No. 2915

An act relating to bridges; providing for ongoing prioritization of bridge projects; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 165.14, subdivision 4, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 165.14, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Prioritization of bridge projects.** (a) The commissioner shall classify all bridges in the program into tier 1, 2, or 3 bridges, where tier 1 is the highest tier. Unless the commissioner identifies a reason for proceeding otherwise, before commencing bridge projects in a lower tier, all bridge projects within a higher tier must to the extent feasible be selected and funded in the approved state transportation improvement program, at any stage in the project development process, solicited for bids, in contract negotiation, under construction, or completed.

(b) The classification of each tier is as follows:

(1) tier 1 consists of any bridge in the program that (i) has an average daily traffic count that is above 1,000 and has a sufficiency rating that is at or below 50, or (ii) is identified by the commissioner as a priority project;

(2) tier 2 consists of any bridge that is not a tier 1 bridge, and (i) is classified as fracture-critical, or (ii) has a sufficiency rating that is at or below 80; and

(3) tier 3 consists of any other bridge in the program that is not a tier 1 or tier 2 bridge.

(c) By June 30, 2018, all tier 1 and tier 2 bridges originally included in the program must be under contract for repair or replacement with a new bridge that contains a load-path-redundant design, except that a specific bridge may remain in continued service if the reasons are documented in the report required under subdivision 5. Bridges that are not originally included in the program and additional bridges identified for contract after the trunk highway bridge improvement program concludes on June 30, 2018, must be prioritized according to subdivision 7.

(d) The commissioner shall establish criteria for determining the priority of bridge projects within each tier, and must include safety considerations as a criterion.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 165.14, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 7. **Prioritization of subsequent trunk highway bridge projects.** The trunk highway bridge improvement program described in subdivisions 1 through 6 concludes on June 30, 2018, and applies to bridge projects identified at the inception of the program. Additional bridges that did not qualify for the initial trunk highway bridge improvement program under the tiered classification system that may subsequently need repair or replacement must be prioritized as follows:

(1) the commissioner shall develop a prioritization method for scheduling bridge repairs and replacements that will include consideration of the risk of service interruption resulting in temporary road closures or restrictions of existing bridges;

(2) the prioritization system must consider factors including but not limited to bridge condition, age, load capacity, type of bridge, susceptibility to flood damage, fracture-critical design features, traffic volume, detour length, and functional classification of highway route;

(3) the prioritization system must be utilized in conjunction with department knowledge of the bridge infrastructure to establish the repair and replacement program; and

(4) the commissioner shall establish a risk-based prioritization system no later than February 1, 2011.

Presented to the governor March 29, 2010

Signed by the governor April 1, 2010, 9:56 a.m.