



Engineering Minnesota's Future

Investing Wisely in Minnesota's Infrastructure

The Minnesota Government Engineering Council believes the Governor and Legislature need to adequately ensure funding and staffing for the design, construction, inspection and maintenance of Minnesota's infrastructure.

The public expects the infrastructure to be safe, reliable and efficient.

For every dollar invested in infrastructure, many more are returned in jobs and quality of life.

Transportation is critical to a healthy state economy. Traffic delays cost businesses money. The average Twin Cities driver wastes 45 hours and over \$900 / year in traffic jams, according to the Texas Transportation Institute's 2011 Urban Mobility Reportⁱ. Minnesota has over 3 million licensed drivers. Assuming half of them live in the Twin cities, the cost to Twin Cities commuters is nearly \$1.4 billion / year.

It is better and safer to inspect and maintain the infrastructure than to pay the higher costs of replacing it. At the current level of funding for our highway system, the system continues to deteriorate. No one expects a bridge to fall down, a dam to fail, traffic jams caused by road conditions, air we breathe to cause asthma. Yet the level of funding afforded our infrastructure or natural resources are insufficient to adequately inspect and/or maintain our existing bridges, dams and buildings.

Provide funding **in a way that allows agencies to get the most for every dollar spent.** Hiring a consultant uses funds allocated for a construction project. There are times they provide expertise or needed staff resources. More often, the same outcome could be achieved for less with adequate numbers of state engineers, surveyors and technical specialists if there was greater agency discretion with project funding.

Contacts

Mohammad Dehdashti, PE
President

Dana A. Wheeler
Executive Director

ⁱ <http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/>