

FACT SHEET | Investing in Infrastructure, Creating Jobs

2017 Budget for a Better Minnesota

Communities across the state of Minnesota have unmet critical infrastructure needs ranging from roads and bridges to public safety and higher education. Thanks to Governor Mark Dayton's sound fiscal management, Minnesota enjoys a triple-A credit rating that lowers the cost of bonding. The state also has more than \$3 billion in available bonding capacity for 2017-2018. This year, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$1.5 billion bonding bill that makes commonsense investments in the public infrastructure, education, health, and safety initiatives necessary to support an economy that works for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota. The Dayton-Smith proposal protects Minnesota's long-term financial standing, while making critical investments in our future.

Investing in Main Street Minnesota

- **Lewis & Clark Regional Water System** – Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's Jobs Bill would invest \$11.5 million in the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System to deliver clean, reliable water to the City of Worthington to meet the growing needs of businesses and residents. This funding would complete the project and deliver water to more than 20,000 Minnesotans.
- **Duluth Energy Efficiency Upgrades** – The City of Duluth's current downtown steam heating system is more than 80 years old, runs on coal, and needs significant upgrades to remain functional. The City will install a modern, efficient, closed-loop hot water system to reduce water, energy, and chemical consumption and allow for future integration of renewable energy. The Governor and Lt. Governor's Jobs Bill includes a \$21 million investment to help with construction of the new energy efficient system.
- **Red Wing River Town Renaissance** – Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith's Jobs Bill would invest \$4.5 million to help complete the River Town Renaissance projects. This funding would help replace a deteriorating harbor retaining wall, renovate the T.B. Sheldon Theater, install new docks at Levee Park, and make other improvements to the park promenade.
- **Madelia Public Infrastructure** – In February 2016, a devastating fire ripped through downtown Madelia in southeast Minnesota severely damaging businesses and much of the public infrastructure. The Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$98,000 investment to help the city rebuild essential infrastructure. In their tax bill, they also have proposed assistance to help the community recover.
- **Melrose Public Infrastructure** – In September 2016, the city of Melrose in central Minnesota suffered its second major fire in six months with a blaze that damaged eight apartments and six businesses along Main Street. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$3.85 million investment for public infrastructure to help the city rebuild as well as funding to help the city expand their municipal electric substation loop. The expanded electrical substation loop will improve reliability to the region to support the expansion of Jennie-O Turkey, the community's largest employer.

Investing in Engines of Commerce

- **International Falls-Koochiching County Airport** – The Governor and Lt. Governor's Jobs Bill would provide \$3 million in Falls International Airport to finish construction of a new terminal building that would include necessary security and customs improvements and better public spaces for travelers. Completion of the terminal project will allow the City of International Falls and Koochiching County to retain their position as a critical hub for international commerce.
- **Investing in Minnesota Ports** – Minnesota's commercial ports located on Lake Superior and the Mississippi River connect our businesses to markets across the country and around the world. The state's Lake Superior ports alone generate \$1.3 billion for the state's economy and support over 6,200 jobs. To ensure our ports can continue to support Minnesota's growing economy, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$10 million investment to upgrade facilities, essential infrastructure, and expand port capacity in Duluth, Red Wing, Winona and St. Paul.

- **Duluth Airport Runway Reconstruction** – The primary runway at Duluth International Airport is more than 60 years old, leaving it unable to handle the demands of commercial air travel and the 148th F-16 Fighter Wing based in Duluth. To begin making the necessary improvements at the airport, the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$6.6 million investment. This funding is expected to help leverage an additional \$39 million in Federal Aviation Administration funding.
- **Local Road Improvement Fund** – Unsafe roads result in deaths, injuries, and damaged property throughout Minnesota every year. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$70 million investment to help cities, counties or townships with local road projects that will reduce traffic crashes, deaths, injuries, and property damage. The funding also could be used to help pay the local share of improving state highways.
- **Local Bridge Replacement Program** – Approximately one in ten locally maintained bridges longer than ten feet are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete in Minnesota. It would cost cities and counties approximately \$460 million over the next five years to replace most of them. To help local communities shoulder the cost, the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$70 million investment in the Local Bridge Replacement Program to fund the rehabilitation or replacement of local bridges across the state.

Supporting Minnesota Farmers

- **Financial Assistance for Farmers** – Minnesota’s Rural Finance Authority helps eligible farmers restructure existing debt, recover from disasters, expand their operations, and provides assistance to beginning farmers. After several years of low commodity prices, many Minnesota farmers will likely face a credit crunch in the spring, making it difficult for them to plant new crops and pay their day-to-day bills. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$35 million investment in their Jobs Bill to fund the Rural Finance Authority, and ensure Minnesota Ag producers receive the assistance they need.
- **Agricultural Utilization Research Institute Expansion** – Scientists at Minnesota’s Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) play a critical role in developing new uses and opportunities for the agriculture products grown by Minnesota farmers. This year, the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$690,000 investment to help build a developmental kitchen for food entrepreneurs at AURI’s facility in Crookston and add new equipment and technology upgrades at AURI’s Waseca and Marshall Facilities that will be used to develop new products from otherwise unusable Ag waste.

Critical Investments in Minnesota Students

- **Maintaining World-Class Higher Education Facilities** – To ensure that Minnesotans have access to high-quality education facilities, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would invest \$135 million in basic infrastructure maintenance at the Minnesota State and University of Minnesota campuses statewide. The type of projects that would be funded include roof repairs, heating and cooling system repair and replacement, and electrical equipment repairs.
- **Expanding Facilities for our Littlest Learners** – School districts across Minnesota lack the space to house classrooms for preschool and kindergarten students. However, school levies can place a heavy burden on local property tax payers. In response, the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$15 million investment in their Jobs Bill to help schools expand their facilities without burdening local property owners.
- **Health Education and Research** – To strengthen the University of Minnesota Medical School and Health Sciences, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would invest \$67 million in a health science education facility at the school. The renovated facility will include additional classrooms, new simulation centers, small group rooms, and an advanced technology-rich biomedical library to better prepare students for careers as doctors and other health professions.
- **St. Cloud State University Eastman Hall Renovation Project** – The Governor and Lt. Governor’s Jobs Bill would invest \$18.6 million to transform the largely vacant, 85-year-old Eastman Hall building into a modern health services facility. The new facility will consolidate the student health services office and

create a learning environment for students in health related fields to be trained in multiple disciplines – meeting the demand of the professional communities and better preparing students for careers after college.

- **University of Minnesota Duluth Advanced Sciences Building** – The University of Minnesota Duluth’s current chemistry building was originally constructed in 1948 and lacks adequate ventilation, chemical storage space, safety infrastructure, and working gas lines and valves. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would invest \$28.3 million to help the University of Minnesota Duluth construct a new Chemistry and Advanced Materials Science Building to prepare students for careers in chemistry, engineering, and material sciences.
- **Improvements at North Mankato’s South Central College** – Healthcare, STEM, agribusiness, and manufacturing are among the fastest growing sectors of the economy in southeast Minnesota. To help South Central College in North Mankato better prepare students, the Governor and Lt. Governor would provide \$6.4 million to renovate classroom and lab space for health care, manufacturing, and agribusiness. These improvements will help to better prepare students for careers in growing fields.
- **Winona State University Education Village** – Winona State University has more than 2,000 education majors, comprising 20 percent of the student body. The Education Village project would complete the renovation of existing space into modern, integrated classrooms for students pursuing careers in teaching. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would invest \$16.9 million to help Winona State University complete the project, and ensure its graduates are ready for careers teaching Minnesota students.
- **Fergus Falls Community College** – Minnesota State Fergus Falls prepares students for careers in fields from accounting and business to healthcare and equine science. The Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$652,000 investment in their Jobs Bill to renovate the library and underutilized classroom spaces, which haven’t been improved since the early 1970s. The funding also would allow the school to create a new Center for Student and Workforce Success that integrates the Regional Workforce Center to help students and community members find good jobs. The rest of the project cost would be covered by \$750,000 in donations from community members.
- **Bemidji State University Classroom Space** – Hagg-Sauer Hall, the current main classroom building at Bemidji State, has not been renovated in over 40 years. It lacks modern classroom spaces and has limited student gathering spaces. It also lacks modern research facilities, requiring students to use facilities built in the 1960s and 1970s. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$12.6 million investment to help renovate the facility and ensure that students finish school ready for careers.
- **Hibbing Community College** – Hibbing Community College trains students on the Iron Range for a wide-variety of careers, including in law enforcement, diesel mechanics, heating and cooling system maintenance, health care, information technology, and business. The Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed \$7.5 million in their Jobs Bill to remove unused buildings and renovate other facilities to reduce long-term maintenance costs and provide students access to modern classrooms and technology.

Rail and Pipeline Safety

- **Moorhead Rail Grade Separation** – An average of 85 trains pass through the City of Moorhead each day, many of them carrying crude oil from North Dakota. However, the current layout of the streets and train tracks makes it impossible to install railroad gates at the current intersection. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would provide \$42.3 million to separate motor vehicle and rail traffic, which will improve public safety and alleviate frequent traffic delays caused by passing trains.
- **Prairie Island Rail Grade Separation** – Approximately 40 trains per day traveling at up to 79 miles per hour pass through the area. A derailment or crash blocking Sturgeon Lake Road could have serious consequences because the road is Prairie Island’s only public roadway and evacuation route. The need is heightened by the presence of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant and Lock and Dam Number 3. The Governor and Lt. Governor’s Jobs Bill would invest \$14.8 million to separate Sturgeon Lake Road and the Canadian Pacific rail track, which will improve access to the island in the event of an emergency.

- **Coon Rapids Rail Grade Separation** – The Hanson Boulevard rail crossing in Coon Rapids is regularly blocked by trains awaiting clearance to enter the nearby Northtown Rail Yard. The blockage can cut the city in half – making it difficult for emergency vehicles to travel across town without detours. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would provide \$12.6 million to improve public safety and help commuters who travel through the intersection daily.
- **Rail and Pipeline Safety Training** – Currently, Minnesota has 4,444 rail route miles used by twenty different railroads, which annually move more than one trillion tons of freight through the state. By 2030, rail traffic in Minnesota is projected to grow 25 percent to 40 percent. To better ensure first responders are prepared for emergencies, the Governor and Lt. Governor’s Jobs Bill would invest \$3.5 million in an oil train derailment and pipeline safety training center at Camp Ripley.
- **New State Emergency Operations Center** – Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would invest \$33.3 million in a new State Emergency Operations Center, to help coordinate during disasters and emergencies and serve as a training center for emergency operations.

National Guard and Veterans

- **Brainerd Readiness Center Renovation** – Decreased federal funding has left the Brainerd Readiness Center behind on basic maintenance and repairs. To help ensure the facility is ready to meet the needs of the National Guard and Minnesotans during emergencies, the Governor and Lt. Governor’s Jobs Bill would invest \$3.5 million.
- **St. Cloud National Guard Readiness Center** – More than 230 Minnesota National Guard soldiers are assigned to the St. Cloud Readiness Center. An additional 156 are expected to be assigned there as the facility transitions to become a battalion headquarters. However, the aging facility is inadequate for the National Guard’s needs, having received a “poor” facility ranking in 2014. In response, Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would provide \$4.5 million to renovate and expand the St. Cloud Readiness Center. These resources also would fund basic maintenance, including updates to the heating and cooling system, interior painting, and sewer connection improvements.
- **Minneapolis Veterans Home Truss Bridge Project** – The bridge that carries Soldiers’ Home Road over Minnehaha Creek was built in 1908 to connect the Minneapolis Veterans Home to Minnehaha Park. However, the bridge now lacks the strength to safely support vehicle traffic, which limits access to the Veterans Home to a single entrance. The Governor and Lt. Governor have included a \$7.9 million investment in their Jobs Bill to repair the historic bridge and improve access to the home.

Protecting Our Water and Natural Resources

- **Water Infrastructure** – Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would invest \$167 million to fund water infrastructure to help communities rehabilitate wastewater and drinking water infrastructure systems, expand capacity, and meet water quality requirements.
- **Buffer Reimbursements** – The Governor and Lt. Governor’s Jobs Bill would provide \$30 million in the Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve program, which compensates private landowners for granting permanent conservation easements and establishing wetlands or riparian areas on their lands. The funds will help Minnesotans implement the new buffer strip law passed last session.
- **Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** – Spring flooding can have significant consequences for affected communities by deterring further economic development in the flood plain and putting existing structures at-risk. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$6.5 million investment to complete flood risk reduction projects in Halstad, Montevideo, the Cedar River, and the Redpath Impoundment.
- **Lake Mille Lacs Walleye Population** – To address the declining walleye population of Lake Mille Lacs, the Governor and Lt. Governor’s Jobs Bill would invest \$3.5 million to develop a fisheries management station on the lake, including a Department of Natural Resources’ office, laboratory, and hatchery.

- **Supporting Minnesota’s Pheasant Population** – As recommended at the Pheasant Summit convened by Governor Dayton in 2014, the Governor and Lt. Governor’s Jobs Bill would provide \$9.5 million to acquire, develop, and improve lands for wildlife and aquatic management areas.
- **Statewide Fish Population Support** – Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would provide \$1 million to improve fish hatcheries statewide to control invasive species, enhance production capacities, and upgrade water systems.

Investing in Health and Safety

- **Minnesota Security Hospital Improvements** – The Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter is facing staffing shortages and increasingly challenging patients. The Governor and Lt. Governor have included a \$70.3 million investment in their Jobs Bill to renovate and expand the facility, so that it is better able to serve patients with the most serious conditions. The renovated facility also would improve safety by eliminating blind spots and challenging sightlines that make it difficult for staff to account for all patients. The renovation would further improve safety by separating vulnerable adults from predatory populations.
- **Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center** – Few security features were incorporated into the design of the Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center when it was built two decades ago. This limitation has been compounded by a changing patient population, with increasingly complex psychiatric conditions and histories of violent behavior. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed a \$2.3 million investment to install additional security cameras, upgrade the facility’s alarm safety and electronic key card system, and improve safety at nursing stations.
- **St. Cloud Correctional Facility** – To help protect public and employee safety, the Governor and Lt. Governor’s Jobs Bill would invest \$19 million to complete a new intake and loading dock at the St. Cloud Correctional Facility. Their proposal also includes \$4.4 million to repair the aging perimeter wall that poses a security concern and make other essential improvements at the prison.

Supporting Minnesotans in Need

- **Second Harvest Heartland** – Second Harvest Heartland plays a critical role in alleviating hunger in Minnesota. In 2015, they delivered more than 77 million meals to nearly 1,000 food shelves, pantries, and other partner programs across Minnesota. This assistance benefited over 530,000 people who suffered a job loss, unexpected medical bills, or simply couldn’t afford to feed themselves and their families. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith have proposed an \$18 million investment in their Jobs Bill to help Second Harvest build a new distribution center, allowing them to better serve people across Minnesota.
- **Dyslexia Institute of Minnesota** – Dyslexia affects approximately one in five people, however, few people with the condition receive the care needed to help them achieve their full potential. To help ensure that more Minnesotans with Dyslexia receive needed assistance, the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$1.5 million investment to help construct a treatment facility in Olmstead County. The facility would include a space for Reading Readiness classes for children aged four to six, four practicum spaces for small group training, and two smaller classrooms for school-aged classes.
- **North Country Food Bank** – The North Country Food Bank in Crookston provides the equivalent of 5.8 million meals to people in northwest and west central Minnesota. However, the current facility has inadequate food storage space, especially for foods that require freezing or refrigeration. The food bank also struggles with logistical problems and parking due to limited space. Governor Dayton and Lt. Governor Smith’s Jobs Bill would invest \$3 million to help expand the facility.
- **Willmar Mental Health Hospital** – The Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services program provides psychiatric healthcare to Minnesota youth who need crisis care and intensive treatment. Many patients at the facility are physically aggressive and have needs that exceed the capacity of other providers. The current facility at the former Willmar Regional Treatment Center makes it difficult to protect patient and staff safety. To improve safety and care, the Governor and Lt. Governor have proposed a \$7.5 million investment to build a new 16-bed psychiatric hospital facility in Willmar to better treat these Minnesota children.