

FACT SHEET | Building Strong Communities

2018 Public Works Bill for a Better Minnesota

Governor Dayton's public works proposal invests in projects that expand opportunity, and protect Minnesota's natural and historic landmarks. The Governor's proposal includes investments for education, road, bridge, and transit infrastructure, regional assets, and historic preservation. Governor Dayton's public works proposal makes strategic investments in assets that will be treasured by our communities for decades into the future. These projects will support the prosperity and quality of life enjoyed by communities in every corner of Minnesota.

Ensuring Safe, Affordable Housing for All Minnesotans

- **Safe, Affordable Housing** – More than 554,000 Minnesota households spend at least 30 percent of their income on rent or mortgage payments. In fact, one out of every four families in Minnesota is paying more than they can afford for housing, and more than 9,300 Minnesotans faced homelessness in 2015, including nearly 3,500 children. Building on more than \$5 billion in investment since 2011, Governor Dayton's public works proposal would invest \$100 million in housing projects across the state to help expand access to safe, affordable housing for Minnesotans. These investments will build upon the work the Dayton Administration has done since 2011 to expand access to affordable housing, and support the work of the new [Governor's Task Force on Housing](#).
- **Public Housing Rehabilitation** – Public housing provides some of the lowest income Minnesotans a lifeline to an affordable place to live. Nearly 75 percent of public housing residents have incomes under \$15,000 per year. Located in all 87 counties, local governments operate more than 21,000 public housing units for Minnesotans. Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$15 million to ensure existing public housing remains safe and healthy for its residents.

Supporting World Class Education Statewide

- **Red Lake Elementary School** – Red Lake Elementary School and Early Education Center serves more than 700 children on the Red Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota. The school is currently over capacity with art, science, and music classrooms being used for general instruction. To help ensure all Minnesota students get a great education, Governor Dayton has proposed a \$14.5 million investment in his public works bill to add six additional classrooms, renovate music and art rooms, renovate the computer labs, and update mechanical systems.
- **Library Construction Grants Program** – The Library Construction Grant Program is a competitive dollar-for-dollar matching grant program. It provides public libraries with funding for renovation and construction projects that improve accessibility for Minnesotans with disabilities. The Governor's public works proposal includes a \$2.5 million investment, which will help more libraries across the state remove architectural barriers, remediate hazardous conditions, renovate existing buildings, or construct new ones.

Investing in Local Economic Growth and Jobs

- **Investing in Transportation Projects that Support Economic Growth** – The Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure Program (TEDI) is a competitive grant program available to communities for road and public infrastructure projects that create jobs and support economic development. Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$5 million to allow the Department of Employment and Economic Development to continue awarding grants to communities across Minnesota.
- **Building 21st Century Transit Systems** – In 2016, Metro Transit, along with suburban transit providers, provided 96 million rides, helping people to get to school, jobs, and other important destinations. Research shows that 80 percent of weekday transit trips are to work or school. By 2040, the Twin Cities metropolitan area will add 824,000 new residents, and highway congestion is only forecasted to get worse. This year, Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$50 million to design and construct a bus rapid transit network that would link nearly 500,000 jobs and residents to improved transit. These

investments will help keep the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the State of Minnesota economically competitive with peer regions around the nation and world. The Governor's proposal also includes \$50 million to construct a bus maintenance and storage facility that will house at least 185 buses. An additional \$69.6 million in funding for the project will come from federal grants.

- **Ensuring Access to Credit for Minnesota Farmers** – Many Minnesota farmers face the perfect storm of low commodity prices and rising expenses, which can create a cash flow problems as they review their finances and restructure debt ahead of the growing season. Governor Dayton's public works bill includes \$20 million for Minnesota's Rural Finance Authority to ensure it can continue offering eligible Minnesota farmers affordable financing and terms and conditions not offered by other traditional lenders. In addition to helping farmers secure financing, the Rural Finance Authority also offers a variety other programs to strengthen Minnesota farm families and communities. These programs are designed to help new farmers purchase land, restructure debt, invest in farm improvements, and finance livestock production facilities.

Cleaning Up Waste and Polluted Sites

- **Burnsville-Savage Landfill Clean Up** – The Freeway Landfill in Burnsville has been listed on the federal Superfund National Priorities List since the mid-1980s. When the adjacent Kraemer Quarry stops pumping out 8.5 million gallons of water per day, groundwater modeling indicates that the waste from the Freeway Landfill will be under water, jeopardizing the Minnesota River and the drinking water source for the Cities of Burnsville and Savage. This year, Governor Dayton has proposed a \$52.8 million investment to protect the water supply by covering or relocating waste from the site.
- **Andover Waste Pit Clean Up** – The Grow Township Dump (now part of Andover) began accepting hazardous waste in 1971. The hazardous waste pit was about a third of an acre in size and lined with 18 inches of clay topped off with 6 inches of asphalt. Management of the hazardous waste pit was generally poor. When the pit was closed in 1974, an estimated 6,600 barrels of hazardous waste had been disposed of in it. In 2011, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency discovered dangerous chemicals were leaking from the pit. This year, Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$6 million to continue remediation efforts necessary to protect nearby homes and businesses.
- **Composting Facility Grant Program** – As more communities implement organics composting programs for their residents, the amount of compost to be disposed has more than tripled since 2010. To help accommodate the growing demand for compost facilities, Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$5 million to help build or expand compost facilities across the state.

Expanding and Preserving Minnesota Landmarks

- **National Eagle Center Expansion** – The National Eagle Center in Wabasha educates more than 80,000 visitors each year about the ecology, biology, and natural history of eagles. It also teaches visitors about the significance of eagles in American history and in cultures around the world. The Governor's public works bill includes \$10.2 million to expand exhibit space and increase educational program capacity.
- **Duluth Glensheen Mansion Renovation** – The Glensheen Mansion, located on the shores of Lake Superior, is one of the most visited historic homes in the state. Operated by the University of Minnesota Duluth, visitors can learn about the home's original owners, the development of Minnesota's mining industry, and partake in community events. This year, Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$4 million to renovate and restore the aging structure.
- **Maintaining the Minnesota Zoo** – The Minnesota Zoo annually hosts nearly 1.3 million visits and is the state's largest environmental educator with 444,000 participants last year, including almost 90,000 school program participants. This year, Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$34.8 million to upgrade the Tropics Trail exhibit, restructure the moose exhibit, replace aging mechanical systems, replace bridges and railings, and complete other deferred maintenance projects.
- **National Sports Center Expansion** – The National Sports Center in Blaine annually hosts more than 4 million visitors, generating over \$50 million in economic impact. The center annually hosts some of the

largest amateur sporting events in the country, including the Schwan's USA Cup. Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$2.5 million to help relocate a maintenance facility necessary for the construction of additional playing fields. The Governor's proposal also include \$1.5 million for the maintenance of stadium and ice rink infrastructure, parking lot repair, and door replacements.

- **Fort Snelling Visitor Center** – Built in 1819, Fort Snelling played an important role in Minnesota's early history as a center for trade and settlement. Today, the fort and surrounding state park are a destination for Minnesotans interested in learning about our state's past, annually attracting more than 400,000 visitors to the park alone. Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$30 million to demolish the fort's aging visitor center and renovate the adjacent Cavalry Barracks and Ordnance buildings into a new visitor center. These historic structures would feature classrooms, restrooms, museum exhibits and other visitor amenities. This public investment would be matched by \$12 million in private funding.

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For a full list of all projects included in Governor Dayton's public works proposal, [CLICK HERE](#).