



STATE OF MINNESOTA
L'Étoile du Nord

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Better Infrastructure for a Strong and Growing Economy

Budget for a Better Minnesota

Since 2011, Governor Dayton has invested over \$4 billion to repair and rebuild our state's aging, under-funded infrastructure – creating tens of thousands of jobs. But we have much more to do to build the infrastructure that Minnesota's economy needs to grow and compete.

Governor Dayton's \$1.5 billion Public Works proposal, which was [released in January](#), would make urgently-needed infrastructure investments to support a strong and growing economy. The Governor's Public Works bill would build world-class colleges and universities for Minnesotans, and improve and repair state buildings and other critical infrastructure across the state. Given the significant need for investments in higher education institutions statewide, the Governor's proposal would invest \$542 million at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State campuses. An additional \$998 million would be directed to improving state buildings, building affordable housing, repairing clean water infrastructure, and other infrastructure projects across Minnesota.

In addition to his Public Works proposal, Governor Dayton's Budget for a Better Minnesota would make additional investments in transportation, clean water, and other infrastructure improvements. Read below to learn more about how the Governor's public works proposals would invest in world class colleges and universities, and improve state buildings and other critical infrastructure.

| Policy | Description |
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| Investing in World-Class Colleges and Universities | <p>Minnesota's public colleges and universities are training the next generation of Minnesota workers for good jobs and bright futures, while supporting economic opportunity for communities all across our state. This year, Governor Dayton's Public Works proposal would invest \$542 million in public higher education classrooms and facilities statewide. These investments would help ensure that all Minnesotans can access a world-class education no matter where they live.</p> <p>To learn more about how Governor Dayton's Public Works proposal invests in world-class colleges and universities, CLICK HERE.</p> |
| Improving and Repairing State Buildings and Other Critical Infrastructure | <p>Delaying needed maintenance projects can have damaging impacts on the state's long-term finances. Costs only increase as older buildings deteriorate further, while new items are added to the growing list of repair and improvement projects. Governor Dayton's</p> |

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| | <p>Public Works proposal would begin to reverse the underinvestment in basic state infrastructure. The Governor’s proposal would invest \$998 million to improve and repair state buildings and other critical infrastructure, helping to reduce needed deferred maintenance at aging facilities across the state. To learn more about how the Governor’s Public Works proposal would improve and repair state buildings and other infrastructure, CLICK HERE.</p> |
| <p>Investing in Clean, Affordable Water for Minnesotans</p> | <p>In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, Minnesotans expect clean, affordable water, no matter where they live. But over 40 percent of Minnesota’s waters are listed as impaired or polluted. Experts estimate that our communities will need \$11 billion in water infrastructure upgrades over the next 20 years to replace and upgrade old treatment facilities and expand systems to accommodate new growth and demand.</p> <p>Governor Dayton’s Public Works proposal would invest \$167 million in our water treatment infrastructure and \$30 million in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This investment will protect our water resources, protecting them for future generations of Minnesotans. To learn more about how Governor Dayton’s Public Works proposal would invest in clean, affordable water for Minnesotans, CLICK HERE. To see a list of clean water infrastructure projects that could be funded as a result of the Governor’s Public Works proposal, CLICK HERE.</p> <p>In addition to the clean water investments included in the Public Works proposal, the Governor’s Budget for a Better Minnesota also includes \$25.7 million in needed investment through the Clean Water Fund. These clean water projects were recommended by the state’s Clean Water Council and include grants to: protect and improve our drinking water; support locally led management of our state’s watersheds; fund needed clean water research; and conserve our working forest lands to meet the state’s future needs.</p> |
| <p>Building Strong Communities Through Investments in Housing, Education, and Economic Opportunity</p> | <p>Governor Dayton’s Public Works proposal invests in projects that expand opportunity, improve access to affordable housing, and protect Minnesota’s natural and historic landmarks. The Governor’s plan includes investments for education, transportation, regional assets, historic preservation, cleaning up waste and polluted sites, and more. Governor Dayton’s Public Works proposal invests 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.</p> <p>To learn more about how the Governor’s Public Works bill would support the prosperity and quality of life enjoyed by communities in every corner of Minnesota, CLICK HERE.</p> |
| <p>Connecting the Northstar Commuter Rail Line to Saint Cloud</p> | <p>Northstar Commuter Rail, which began service in 2009, connects Minneapolis to Big Lake, stopping 28 miles short of St. Cloud. The decision to cut the line short has hampered the success of Northstar. This year, Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota</p> |

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| | includes \$850,000 to study the engineering costs and projected ridership for a possible Northstar extension to St. Cloud. |
| <p>Investing in Other Critical Infrastructure Projects</p> | <p>Some important infrastructure projects cannot be financed through a bonding or Public Works bill. That is why Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota would provide needed funding for these critical infrastructure projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Security at the Minnesota State Capitol – Over 120,000 people visit or work at the State Capitol each year. Ensuring the safety and security of every person who visits or works at the Capitol is a high priority for Governor Dayton. That is why his budget includes \$33 million to improve physical security at the State Capitol, including projectile resistant glass, additional emergency call stations, and secure air intakes. These improvements are based on the recommendations of law enforcement and the Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security. • More Efficient and Sustainable State Buildings – Past efforts to make state buildings on the Capitol Complex more efficient – reducing energy and water use and waste across state government – are resulting in \$2 million per year in avoided costs, a savings to taxpayers. The Governor’s budget would provide \$3 million to establish a building efficiency loan fund that would help finance efficiency improvements at all state government buildings. These efficiency and sustainability efforts will further reduce energy use and waste and save Minnesota taxpayers more money. |

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To learn more about other proposals included in Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota, [CLICK HERE](#).