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Dedicated ADA Funding Overview

Background

Beginning in FY 2010 MnDOT has dedicated a portion of its budget to providing standalone ADA improvements. In 2010 the budget was \$4.5 million and consisted of both ARRA and state funds and the following years the budget has been \$2.5 million in state funds. For the first two years of the program funds were allocated through a competitive solicitation process, but are now distributed by formula.

Prioritizing Investment

Working with the citizen based MnDOT ADA Accessibility Advisory Committee (MAAAC) MnDOT has developed a series of prioritizing criteria to assist in determining the best use for the funding. A list of the criteria is below:

- Locations with documented access complaints should receive first consideration.
- Pedestrian bridges were excluded do to their expense.
- Though the money needs to be distributed equitability around the state higher population areas should receive a higher priority.
- Communities with concentrations of pedestrian traffic, identified elderly housing, and public attractions should receive a higher priority.
- APS installation needs to look at the design of the entire intersection not just the installation of APS.
- While making all intersections along a corridor accessible is highly desirable, if a choice must be made between minimal accommodations at all intersections or complete accommodation at key intersections then spot improvements are preferred. (This applies only to stand alone investments not improvements that should be scoped as part of a project.)

Progress

Since the program's inception \$12 million in improvements have been constructed with another \$5 million planned. Projects that have been completed include APS upgrades, sidewalk improvements, curb ramp replacement separate from another transportation project, and pedestrian bridge upgrades. A detailed list of improvements, by district, for fiscal years 2012 – 2015 can be found at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/ada/docs/ADAinSTIP.docx>

For More
Information

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