



## Latest road corridor fix-up list has 13 projects

Associated Press  
October 7, 2014 - 11:55 AM

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Thirteen stretches of clogged or deteriorated highways in Minnesota were selected Tuesday for quicker upgrades under a state transportation program designed to advance road work.

Gov. Mark Dayton and Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle announced the new projects, some of which were sped up by a couple of years. They include expanding Highway 371 between Nisswa and Jenkins from two lanes to four, acquiring property for eventual work on Highway 14 around Owatonna, designing passing lanes on Highway 11 near Warroad, and planning for pavement work on Interstate 94 between the Twin Cities.

About \$25 million will be used to purchase right-of-way, conduct engineering studies and otherwise advancing projects that have long lingered in the conception stage. This is the third round of project selection in the \$331 million Corridors of Commerce initiative since 2013.

Even so, the state faces a multi-billion dollar construction backlog for repairs to existing roads and new projects deemed critical.

Dayton said he is open to new gasoline taxes, increased borrowing and other revenue-generating proposals. He planned to press state business leaders in a speech later Tuesday to be more active in pushing for passage of a plan in the Legislature.

"The time of reckoning is upon us, there is no easy way out," Dayton said.

Dayton, who is seeking re-election in next month's election, denied that Tuesday's announcement was influenced by the campaign and said the project selections were made by transportation department professionals.

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