

A bill for an act

relating to transportation; requiring a study and report on feasibility of use of light rail or commuter rail transit near the Interstate Highway 394 Corridor and the feasibility of integrating the corridor with other region transit ways; appropriating money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION FOR STUDY.**

Subdivision 1. **Appropriation.** \$500,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Metropolitan Council to work in partnership with the Center for Transportation Studies and the Center for Changing Landscapes for the purpose of conducting a study and preparing a report, and is available through December 15, 2007.

Subd. 2. **Rail transit feasibility study.** The Center for Changing Landscapes shall conduct a study of the feasibility of the use of light rail or commuter rail transit in a corridor to be designated within an area between a line two miles to the south of marked Interstate Highway 394 and marked Trunk Highway 55 extending from downtown Minneapolis to Ridgedale Drive in Minnetonka, with the alternative of extending to Wayzata. The study must include consideration of the feasibility of integrating the proposed rail transit corridor with other existing and proposed transit ways in the region.

Subd. 3. **Elements of feasibility study.** The rail transit feasibility study must include, without limitation:

(1) an identification of major operational characteristics of light rail and commuter rail transit in the corridor;

(2) a quantification of capital and operating costs;

(3) an evaluation of the interface of a rail transit system with other transportation systems in the corridor;

(4) an evaluation of the impact of a rail transit system on land use and urban development;

(5) an estimate of the cost and impact of necessary associated exercise of eminent domain;

(6) an evaluation of the impact of a rail transit system on energy and the environment;

(7) an estimate of ridership potential;

(8) a cost-benefit analysis that compares the total cost of the project with the benefits of a rail transit line, to its users, other users of the highway, and adjacent property owners;

(9) an identification of potential sources of federal, state, local, private, and other funds;

(10) an identification of the conditions necessary for rail transit to be feasible in the Interstate Highway 394 Corridor; and

(11) an evaluation of the feasibility of integrating the proposed rail transit corridor with other existing and proposed transit ways in the region.

Subd. 4. **Report.** The Center for Changing Landscapes and the Center for Transportation Studies, in partnership with the Metropolitan Council, shall prepare a written report of this study and submit it no later than December 15, 2007, to the legislature, in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, sections 3.195 and 3.197, and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over transportation.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This act is effective the day following final enactment.