

CHAPTER 620—H.F.No.1478

[Coded in Part]

An act relating to highways; the establishment of recreational vehicle lanes on state, county and town road rights of way, including bridges and underpasses; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 1971, Sections 161.20, Subdivision 2; 161.21, Subdivision 1; 165.02; and 167.50, Subdivision 1.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. **[160.262] HIGHWAYS; RECREATIONAL VEHICLE LANES.** Subdivision 1. The legislature determines that it is in the interests of the public health, safety and welfare, to provide for the addition of bicycle and recreational vehicle lanes to proposed and existing public highways. The state planning agency shall conduct a study:

(1) to propose model standards for the establishment of bicycle and recreational vehicle lanes on and along proposed and existing public highways, and

(2) to determine methods, other than the use of bonds, for financing the bicycle and recreational vehicle lanes. The results of the study shall be forwarded to the commissioner of highways no later than July 1, 1974.

No later than January 1, 1975, the commissioner of highways shall promulgate, in the manner provided in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 15, model standards for the establishment of recreational vehicle lanes on and along proposed and existing public highways. In the study undertaken by the state planning agency and in the promulgation of the model standards by the commissioner, the model standards shall include but not be limited to the following: (a) criteria for desirability of such a lane in any given location, (b) provision for maintenance of such lanes, and (c) the placement of such lanes in relation to roads. The model standards shall govern state trunk highways.

Subd. 2. Each county and municipality including towns having village powers may adopt the model standards to govern highways under its jurisdiction and may adapt them to local circumstances. Such local regulations shall be submitted to the commissioner of highways who shall approve them within 60 days after receipt if he finds that they meet the minimum standards established pursuant to this section. Approved local regulations shall qualify the submitting unit of government for state or state approved funding of recreational vehicle lane projects undertaken pursuant to such regulations.

Changes or additions indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

Subd. 3. The following departments and agencies shall cooperate in providing the information and advice for the study by the state planning agency and the promulgation of model standards and amendments thereto by the commissioner of highways: the departments of agriculture, highways, economic development, natural resources, public service, the state planning agency, and the state soil and water conservation commission. The commissioner may cooperate with and enter into agreements with the United States government, any department of the state of Minnesota, any unit of local government and any public or private corporation in order to effect the purposes of this section.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 161.20, Subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY; BUILDINGS; RELOCATION OF CORNERS; AGREEMENTS WITH RAILROADS; CONTRACTS. He is authorized to acquire by purchase, gift, or by eminent domain proceedings as provided by law, in fee or such lesser estate as he deems necessary, all lands and properties necessary in laying out, constructing, maintaining, and improving the trunk highway system including recreational vehicle lanes; to locate, construct, reconstruct, improve, and maintain the trunk highway system; to purchase all road material, machinery, tools, and supplies necessary for the construction, maintenance, and improvement thereof; to construct necessary buildings, or rent or acquire by purchase, gift, or condemnation, grounds, and buildings necessary for the storing and housing of such material, machinery, tools, and supplies or necessary for office space for employees or for providing for driver license examinations; to maintain, repair, or remodel such buildings as may be necessary; to make agreements with any county for the relocation or re-establishment, by the county, of section, quarter section, or meander corners originally established by the United States, when such relocation or re-establishment is necessary in order to write land acquisition descriptions or by reason of the construction, reconstruction, improvement, or maintenance of a trunk highway; to contract on an equitable basis with railroad companies for the installation and reinstallation of safety devices at trunk highway-railroad grade crossings, and for the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of bridges and approaches existing or necessary for the separation of grades at railroad and trunk highway intersections; and in carrying out his duties, to let all necessary contracts in the manner prescribed by law. The commissioner may make agreements with and cooperate with any governmental authority for the purpose of effectuating the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 161.21, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

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161.21 **STUDIES.** Subdivision 1. The commissioner may make or cause to be made such studies and investigations as he deems necessary for the purpose of determining the most advantageous location and design of trunk highways from the standpoint of both present and future traffic needs, and in making such determinations he may take into consideration the probable future development of both urban and rural areas and the effect of such development on future traffic needs as indicated by such studies and investigations and the location and design with respect to recreational vehicle lane establishment.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 165.02, is amended to read:

165.02 **POWERS OF ROAD AUTHORITIES.** The road authorities may construct, reconstruct, improve, and maintain bridges whenever they deem bridges to be necessary. Any new or reconstructed bridge may have a separate lane in at least one direction, and may have a lane in both directions, eight feet in width for recreational use. The same may be true for each underpass.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 167.50, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

167.50 **MINNESOTA TRUNK HIGHWAY BONDS.** Subdivision 1. For the purpose of providing money for trunk highway purposes, when authorized by law and requested by the commissioner of highways, the state auditor shall issue and sell bonds of the state of Minnesota, for the prompt payment of which, with the interest thereon, the full faith, credit, and taxing powers of the state are hereby irrevocably pledged. "Trunk highway purposes" shall include recreational vehicle usage and lanes. Such bonds shall be known as Minnesota trunk highway bonds. The proceeds thereof shall be credited to the trunk highway fund, except that accrued interest and any premium received upon sale of such bonds shall be credited to the state bond fund.

Sec. 6. [164.151] **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE LANES.** In addition to any other authority granted by law, any town board may establish recreational vehicle lanes on the outer rods of townroads which are deemed dedicated to a width of four rods pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 160.05, Subdivision 1.

Sec. 7. **APPROPRIATION.** The sum of \$25,000 is appropriated to the state planning agency from the general fund for the purposes of conducting a study of bicycle and recreational vehicle lanes along proposed and existing public highways.

Approved May 23, 1973.

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