



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Transportation System Management

Research Services and Library

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August 27, 2015

Mr. Kris Riesenber
FHWA Minnesota Division
380 Jackson St., Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Subject: Request for use of 100% SP & R Funds

Dear Mr. Reisenberg:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation requests approval to use 100% SP & R Funds for the following Minnesota Lead project/solicitation.

**New Project Solicitation # 1412
Regional Roadside Turfgrass Performance Testing Program**

Survival of turf along roadsides is a challenge in many states in the northern U.S. Grasses growing along roadsides experience a number of stresses including high levels of salt from deicing operations, drought stress from a lack of irrigation, and heat stress. State departments of transportation recommend mixtures for various roadside environments; however, many of these mixture recommendations are either outdated or are developed without supporting research data collected by an unbiased source. Failed grass installation projects have economic (labor and materials), environmental (soil erosion, invasive weed establishment, etc.), and aesthetic impacts.

We propose to develop a new regional testing system for roadside grasses that would provide critical information on tolerance of cultivars to this unique environment. This program would build off the success of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program while utilizing the relationships that exist between several DOTs and University research programs.

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the complete proposal. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to your favorable concurrence.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Fick at (651) 366-3759 or deb.fick@dot.state.mn.us

Sincerely,

Linda K Taylor, PE
Director, Mn/DOT Research Services and Library

Cc: Lynn Clarkowski, Dwayne Stenlund, Eric Watkins

Enc.

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