

# Mowing & Haying State Right of Way Stakeholder Group 2017– 2018

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## ***Purpose***

The 2017 Minnesota Legislature established a moratorium on enforcing permits to mow or bale hay in the right-of-way of a trunk highway. Additionally the Legislature required the commissioner of transportation to recommend to the legislature the establishment of a permit or notification system to mow or hay in trunk highway right-of-way.

## ***Scope***

The legislature outlined specific elements in the recommendation. They include:

- Ease of permit application or notification
- Frequency of permits or notification
- Priority given to the owner or occupant of private land adjacent to a trunk highway right-of-way
- Determination of authority to mow or hay trunk highway right-of-way in which adjacent land is under the jurisdiction of the state or a political subdivision
- Recognition of differences in the abundance of wildlife habitat based on geographic distribution throughout the state.

The legislation requires the recommendations be developed from input from agriculture and environmental groups. To that end, the Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has created a stakeholder group to discuss and provide input to the department's commissioner on the permit or notification system to mow or hay in trunk highway right-of-way.

## ***Commissioner's Recommendation***

The commissioner's recommendation is due to the Legislature on March 1, 2018. Therefore, the stakeholder group must have their final input comments to the commissioner by February 1, 2018.

## ***Roles and Responsibilities***

**MnDOT:** Convene stakeholder group; coordinate meetings; provide technical assistance; compile research; deliver the recommendation to the Legislature on behalf of the commissioner.

**Other Stakeholder Group members:** Provide expertise, resources, input, and information to the stakeholder group.

**Management Analysis & Development (MAD):** Facilitate meetings; assist in developing meeting process and agendas; document meetings; provide research support; write stakeholder input comments.

## ***Duration***

August 2017 – February 2018.