

Minnesota Rail Service Improvement Program

Fall 2023 Solicitation

Summary of Questions and Answers

The Driver Qualification Rules set the minimum physical qualification standards for a person who drives a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). Minnesota Statutes adopt most of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) for Driver Qualifications found in 49 CFR, Part 391. A person who is not physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle due to certain physical conditions but who meets the other physical qualifications may drive a CMV if that person is granted a Medical Waiver. This fact sheet discusses information pertaining to medical waivers for intrastate drivers only*.

- For the project to be eligible for MRSI grant funds, the proposed project must be fully funded to the point where rail service can begin once the project funded by MnDOT's grant is completed. If the project depends on a future phase of construction to provide rail service that will not be part of the proposed project, then the project is not eligible. However, if future project phases are anticipated that expand or extend the facility, the project may be eligible for MRSI funding if the phase being funded by the grant can provide rail service independently regardless of whether future phases are completed.

Will financial records from non-public entities (that must be provided if awarded a grant) will be part of the public record?

- Financial records are not required unless the applicant is awarded a grant and should not be submitted with the grant application. Sensitive financial information submitted as part of MnDOT's pre-award audit process are non-public data under Minnesota Data Practices Act, however anything submitted outside that process may be considered public data at some point.

How much of the application would be part of the public record?

- All applications submitted under this program become public data under the Minnesota Data Practices Act once all successful projects from this solicitation are awarded and all grant agreements have been fully executed. In the event application information is requested under the Data Practices Act, MnDOT would redact any non-public data from public release.

Would data deemed to be proprietary / confidential be able to be redacted?

- In the event application information is requested under the Data Practices Act, MnDOT would redact any non-public data from public release. Non-public data could include trade secret data under the Data Practices Act, however the statute is very prescriptive and generally requires a high threshold for data to be considered trade-secret.